

ENERGY media calls

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Hi all,

No agency media calls to report today.

We did issue a statement following Peter Tabuns' presser on Hydro One bill redesign, which I've included below.

OPG also did an interview with the Toronto Star regarding the safety **standdown** at Darlington refurb last month. The conversation focused on the importance of safety prioritization, and all the planning and mechanisms at play to ensure a project of that size is safe at all times. Jeff Lyash was able to provide some personal perspective on the importance of safety, and illustrate what a big part Darlington refurb plays in his day. OPG expects a longer story to run on Saturday, and for it to be primarily positive. We will provide any additional updates as they come in.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Colin

Statement on Tabuns' presser

The NDP are trying to distract from the fact that they voted against families, small businesses and farms saving an average of 25 per cent on their hydro bills, and that they have no realistic plan of their own. We continue to hear from people across the province who want to understand the Fair Hydro Plan, and how it affects their monthly hydro bill. The fact is that hydro bills are now 25 per cent lower, on average, across the province. We have a responsibility to communicate this and other accurate information about customer bills, including any important changes.

With Ontarians wanting clearer bills that are easier to understand, Hydro One's bill redesign project is a necessary improvement that will help customers. The Ontario Energy Board is our independent energy regulator, and reviews proposed costs added to electricity bills. Their mandate is to protect ratepayer interests, and have a history of reducing rate applications. Utilities rarely get all they ask for – in the last eight years, the Board has reviewed over 100 major rate applications, including proposals from Hydro One, and reduced requested rate increases by an average of about 40 per cent.

Reductions from the Fair Hydro Plan are important information for both households and businesses, and it's our job to provide clear, helpful answers whenever possible. We intend to continue doing exactly that.

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