Fw: Media Call Summary: March 31, 2017

From: "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>
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Date: Fri, 31 Mar 2017 18:36:19 -0400

Hi all,

The Ministry call summary is below. In addition, we had the question from QPB that we ran by you. Fergie asked the same question.

We also just reached out to Bliss to clarify his reporting on the hydro one rate allocation to th OEB with the following statement:

Our government is lowering bills by 25% on average for households and as many as half a million small businesses and farms starting this summer. It's the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, with rates also held to inflation for the next four years. We will achieve this reduction no matter the outcome of this application.

This is an application only. The Ontario Energy Board will review it and determine if the increase is essential for Hydro One to maintain service. The OEB has a strong record of denying and reducing utility applications that are not in the best interests of consumers.
This is a distribution application, not transmission. This means that it will only affect customers who receive their electricity directly from Hydro One, and not all customers in the province. As an increase to distribution charges, this impacts only one part of a customer's bill. A 2.8 per cent increase to distribution charges would impact a bill's bottom line by a much smaller amount.

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Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Renwick, Meredith (ENERGY) <Meredith.Renwick@ontario.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 5:24 PM
To: Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY); Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY); Whittington, Matt (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY); McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Berry, James (ENERGY)
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Kovesfalvi; John Bozzo (OEB); Chuck Farmer; Martin, Eric (ENERGY); Berg, Denna (ENERGY); Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY); Pagel, Alexa (ENERGY); Maguire, Lauren (ENERGY); Lars Hansen; Garand, Joseph (MAG)
Subject: Media Call Summary: March 31, 2017

Media Call Summary

Minister's Office: 1 inquiry

Topic: Fair Hydro Plan

Reporter & Outlet: Sarah Efron, Globe and Mail

Response Type: Minister's spokesperson

Reporter's Question:

I'm the Globe small business editor. Quick question – when exactly is the discounted electricity rate coming into effect for small businesses?

Response:

On March 2, the Ontario government announced the Fair Hydro Plan, which will lower electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all households and as many as half a million small businesses and farms. It's the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, with rates also held to inflation for the next four years. Any small business eligible for Time Of Use billing will be receiving a rate reduction through the Fair Hydro Plan.

We are committed to bringing electricity rates down, and keeping them down, and will be introducing legislation this session, in time for public hearings and debate, so rate cuts can take effect this summer.

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Ministry : 0 inquiries

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Agencies: 0 inquiries