RE: Afternoon Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction Plan - March 7, 2017

From: "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>
To: "Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)" <jennifer.beaudry2@ontario.ca>, "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 07 Mar 2017 18:02:27 -0500

If I'm not mistaken this is a repost from this morning's story. He chose not to update the story with our statement. I think any extra work here might inflate things. What do you think?

Colin Nekolaichuk | Press Secretary
Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | Minister of Energy
T: 416-325-2690 C: 647-504-4928
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From: Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)
Sent: March-07-17 4:37 PM
To: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); McPhail, Blane (OPO); Berry, James (ENERGY)
Cc: Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Killorn, Bill (OPO)
Subject: Re: Afternoon Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction Plan - March 7, 2017

Colin, you should push harder please. These stories are straight up incorrect.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 4:33 PM
To: McPhail, Blane (OPO); Berry, James (ENERGY)
Cc: Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Killorn, Bill (OPO); Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)
Subject: RE: Afternoon Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction Plan - March 7, 2017

Yes, Jeff Turl got the statement. He decided not to use it.

Colin Nekolaichuk | Press Secretary
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From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: March-07-17 4:23 PM
To: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Berry, James (ENERGY)
Cc: Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Killorn, Bill (OPO); Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)
Subject: FW: Afternoon Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction Plan - March 7, 2017

Hey – did BayToday / Sudbury.com get the OPG statement? Don't see it reflected in their online stories

From: Law, Sally (CAB)
Sent: March-07-17 4:00 PM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Bevan, Andrew (OPO); McEachern, Gillian (OPO); Donelson, Philip (OPO); Bossin, Bryan (OPO); Tomney, Genevieve (OPO); @CAB-Trans CO; Baker, Carys (ENERGY); Berry, James (ENERGY); Bodrug, Andrew (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY); Coker,

Meaghan (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY); DeWolfe, Julie (ENERGY); Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY); Festeryga, Katherine (ENERGY); Foster, David (ENERGY); Iqbal, Muhammad (ENERGY); McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY); Moseley-Williams, Kate (ENERGY); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Olsheski, Mark (ENERGY); Ramasra, Raynier (ENERGY); Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY); Singh, Alysha (ENERGY); Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY); Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY); Tresise, Landon (ENERGY); Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY); Walman, Evan (ENERGY)
Cc: Sumi, Craig (CAB); Di Giovanni, Robert (CAB); Law, Sally (CAB); Stinson, Jeffrey (CAB); Nutter, George (ENERGY); Halford, Gavin (ENERGY); Electronic Media
Subject: Afternoon Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction Plan - March 7, 2017

Afternoon Media Scan: March 7, 2017

Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction Pla

March 7, 2017

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Online Coverage

Globe and Mail: Infrastructure investor looks to build power plants ... prices; New venture Forum Vostro Energy Service expects to have between ... $400-million in funds by 2019
theglobeandmail.com
Tue Mar 7 2017, 3:10pm ET
Section: Business
Byline: Jacqueline Nelson

A new Canadian venture plans to build small, on-site power facilities for businesses as high energy costs and investor demand for infrastructure converge.

Forum Equity Partners, a Toronto-based alternative investment manager with $1.3-billion under management, is backing an initiative that will seek to put individual, natural gas-fired power plants within Ontario hotels, manufacturing facilities and other businesses. In time, the business plans to expand in Canada and internationally.

The venture, called Forum Vostro Energy Services Inc. (FVES), is expected to have $300-million and $400-million in committed funds by 2019, said Richard Abboud, CEO of Forum. To get FVES up and running, Forum will use capital from its own balance sheet, but it will look to institutional investors for capital in the future. Mr. Abboud said that the power facilities would have contracted cash flows and clear operating costs that would give these investments at a lower risk profile than many other infrastructure assets.

FVES is being rolled out amid government plans to increase infrastructure development, as well as mounting frustrations among business owners over climbing energy prices in some provinces. As Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne targets lower residential electricity rates to reduce the burden on families, businesses haven't been promised much relief from soaring power costs in the province.

"Part of the reason why it makes sense is because out costs have gone up," said Atul Mahajan, who helped to found FVES after leaving the role of CEO at Oshawa Power and Utilities Corp., an Ontario public utility, last year. "And natural gas [costs], thanks to fracking technology, are at an all time low."

FVES's first idea is to put individual cogeneration energy plants, sometimes called combined heat and power (CHP) plants, into businesses, giving them efficient localized power and the heat for less than the cost of being a part of the normal energy grid. FVES would install units up to 40-feet-long that run on natural gas into businesses and manufacturing sites. This saves on transmission costs and waste, as well as promising more reliable power not susceptible to extreme weather and pumping out usable steam, FVES says.

The technology isn't new, and already some companies have already sought this solution. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. put a CHP facility in their Cambridge, Ont. plant a couple of years ago as part of an initiative to cut costs, for example.

Mr. Mahajan sees a $3-billion market opportunity in Ontario. Other provinces such as Alberta could also be ripe for expansion due to their high energy costs, he said, and eventually he'd hope to expand the business into the U.S. and beyond. But Quebec and BC would likely be uneconomic for the businesses.

There are other vulnerabilities. If the government were to artificially reduce electricity costs, this could have an impact on the business plan, Mr. Mahajan said. To counter that, Mr. Mahajan intends to expand the FVES into other renewable offerings such as solar power and storage in time. That also help address the concern that these plants still run on fossil fuels. "It's a bridge to the future," Mr. said Mahajan, adding that FVES is "technology agnostic."

Still, cogeneration isn't right for all businesses. These kinds of power units are also most efficient for businesses such as hospitals or hotels that use power 24/7. For office buildings and other businesses with sleepy hours, there's less potential to save money. Some companies in Ontario such as Redpath Sugar and General Motors Canada Ltd. have met resistance with plans to install cogeneration facilities. But these projects are much larger than what FVES has planned, which is primarily units that generate less than 10 megawatts.

Mr. Mahajan says that he's already sourced customers for Forum Vostro and is working through detailed engineering studies. "We are currently in the process of completing these for several clients and hope to start construction in late summer and be up and running early to mid-next year," he said.

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: (www.theglobeandmail.com») The viewing of this article is only available to Globe Unlimited subscribers.

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Sudbury.com North Bay mayor: Wynne meddled with OPG announc wave

Al McDonald says announcement of OPG job cuts in the Gateway City was delayed so the premier could get positive coverage for cuts to hydro bills

By: Jeff Turl

https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/mayor-says-premiers-office-interferred-in-opg-announcement-554481

North Bay's Mayor Al McDonald dropped a political bombshell this week.

He says the Office of Premier Kathleen Wynne applied political pressure to OPG not to announce the closing of the North Bay operation until after her announcement of cuts to provincial hydro bills.

"They moved the date to March 6th because the Ontario government asked them not to make their announcement until they (government) came out with their announcement last Thursday (March 2nd) about reducing hydro rates."

McDonald says when he contacted Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault 10 days ago, he told the mayor that he was unaware of anything.

"I believe him that he didn't know anything," explained McDonald. "If it wasn't his office, the only other office it could have come out of that would have the power to tell OPG not to tell their employees would be the Premier's office.

"So OPG was going to notify their employees February 22nd. They were told by the Ontario government not to make their announcement until after they made their political announcement. They were told not to inform their employees until after the announcement. Now you have political interference at OPG and they put more importance on their political announcement than they did on telling their employees...the women and men who work there.

"Especially with all the rumours were going on because you (BayToday) broke the story. The employees were asking a thousand questions wondering if they have to move, if they could sell their house or buy a car or take their kids out of school, and the Ontario government asked OPG not to tell their employees till after they made their political announcement."

McDonald says he was "shocked" when he found out but vows to fight to keep the jobs in North Bay.

Meanwhile, Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli says Premier Wynne knew all along about the political interference, but wouldn't face the music in the legislature.

"When I asked my question in the legislative ... to the premier she shuffled it off to the Minister of Economic Development who had a prepared statement so I would say this was staged. The premier wouldn't want to comment on job losses in Ontario so she leaves it to her minister. They were definitely well prepared with a printed answer ready to go. This was no surprise to them."

He says he was told by OPG it was "scheduling difficulties", that caused the announcement to be delayed.

"I told OPG that they have completely bungled their announcement and absolutely betrayed the community. They told me 'we wanted to tell our employees first' back on February 22nd but some 'scheduling issue' came up'.

Fedeli says he responded that they were not fair to their employees and the municipality for their failure to consult. Had they given some notice there would have been an opportunity to start analyzing operational issues and safety issues of having one less office, so at least it would have been an opportunity to talk. They took that opportunity away from the community because they're reducing their staff by stealth.

"It left the community in a terrible situation wondering what was happening and that's the worst possible scenario when you've got questions and no answers. These are people's families, people's lives they are affecting."

BayToday has reached out to OPG COO Al Reid, and the Premier's office for comment, but have yet to receive a reply.

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Sudbury.com Will hydro rate cut revive Liberal fortunes?

Similar moves have worked in the past, but will it save them in 2018?

By: Darren MacDonald

https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/will-hydro-rate-cut-revive-liberal-fortunes-554008

When the provincial Liberals were facing electoral defeat in 2011, the last election before Dalton McGuinty stepped down, they infamously cancelled two unpopular gas plant contracts.

The move helped the Grits hang on to two Southern Ontario ridings – and a minority government -- but the move cost taxpayers more than $1 billion.

One of McGuinty's last moves was in 2012, when the Liberals launched a modernization program at the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. The plan involved an ambitious casino-building program aimed to raise government revenues and help the province balance the books.

It also meant an end to provincial subsidies for horse racing, which had hosted slots facilities since the 1990s in exchange for a slice of the revenue.

The move hurt Liberal popularity in some rural ridings, however. And when Kathleen Wynne succeeded McGuinty in 2013, she announced a $500 million fund for the tracks, saving the industry (although not in Sudbury) and the Liberals went on to win a majority in the June 2014 election.

Today, the party is struggling badly in the polls, with the Progressive Conservatives and Leader Patrick Brown in super majority territory.

The Liberals have pinpointed skyrocketing hydro prices as the source of much of the anger, and last week Sudbury MPP and Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault announced a 17 per cent cut in rates, effective this summer. Combined with a cut that came into effect Jan. 1, the Grits are touting it as a 25 per cent cut.

Nickel Belt MPP France Gélinas said Friday she voters have had enough.

"People can see through things," Gélinas, when asked if the Liberals could pull another electoral rabbit out of the hat. "I will leave the rest up to Ontarians. Ontarians are smart people and they can (judge) for themselves the decisions that are being done."

While claiming to be acting for residents, she said the government has, time and again, used taxpayer money for their own benefit. Even the hydro cut could cost as much as $40 billion in added payments over the long run, she said, depending on interest rates.

"They use taxpayer's money as their own, and that's not great," Gélinas said.

The timing of the rate cut – this summer -- is aimed at vote rich Southern Ontario, she said, where residents electricity bills spike in the summer heat.

Northerners need help now, she said, in winter when our hydro bills are highest.

"They say they are going to do an immediate change – but really, the change will happen when Toronto will be paying for their air conditioning," she said. "For all the Northern people who need relief now, they don't care.

"There are some serious structural problems in our hydro system that explains why our bills are so high. The only thing they have worked on is refinancing of our hydro debts. They have re-mortgaged our hydro debt so we pay less money right now, and we pay for it for a longer period of time and we pay way more for it because of the remortgaging costs."

But Thibeault denies charges that the rate cut is politically motivated. He said the government has done a poor job of explaining why rates were going up. And

Wynne has said failing to understand the hardship hydro rates were having on voters is her biggest mistake as premier.

Thibeault said it's easy to dismiss the mess the power system was in when the Liberals took power.

"People forget 2003 when we had a blackout," he said. "People forget we haven't had a smog day since 2014. People forget we used to have to send out a notice telling people not to go outside and breathe. We don't have to do that anymore. That's because our government took leadership in reinvesting in a system that was falling apart."

Before the province spent billions on contracts to generate power, Thibeault said Ontario had to rely on other states or provinces to supply energy when the province fell short.

"And if they couldn't, there was a blackout," he said. "I think people understand the system that we built, but we didn't do a good enough job explaining why rates went up. Now we're talking about why rates when up, and what we can do to help them reduce their rates."

He said the New Democrats can be as cynical as they want, but at least the Liberal plan helps people now. The NDP's proposals are more aspirational than practical, he said.

"It's about ideas and renegotiating some contracts, which would come with penalties and billions and billions in other fees," Thibeault said. "That would actually cost us more."

And the NDP's proposal relies on ideas like convincing the federal government to take the HST off hydro bills.

"It doesn't take a single cent off the bills right now."

According to the website threehundredeight.com, the PCs are leading the Liberals 41.3 per cent to 27.1 per cent. The NDP was third at 25.9 per cent. The next provincial election is scheduled for June 2018.

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Sudbury Star Sudbury letter: Minister the one 'playing games'

By: Letters To The Editor
Tuesday, March 7, 2017 1:36:13 EST AM

http://www.thesudburystar.com/2017/03/07/sudbury-letter-minister-the-one-playing-games

Re: "Thibeault goes on the attack over hydro rates," Feb. 18.

Energy Minister and Liberal MPP for Sudbury, Glenn Thibeault, accuses other MPPs of dealing in "alternative facts and misinformation". Frankly, Thibeault is trying to suck and blow at the same time. There are a few facts Thibeault neglected to share.

He insists that Bill 27 (the Burden Reduction Act) should be passed because it would "empower the Ontario Energy Board to take away the right of electricity providers to cut service to customers for non-payment during the winter months." However, Bill 27 is actually a 158-page omnibus bill that includes changes to 49 separate legislative acts.

The section of Bill 27 that Thibeault is talking about is Schedule 10. If the Liberals had been serious, they could have accepted the recommendation of NDP House Leader Gilles Bisson, who proposed that Schedule 10 be severed from the omnibus bill and introduced as a separate bill immediately.

On Sept. 12, 2016, Premier Kathleen Wynne announced the province would give electricity ratepayers an 8-per-cent tax cut on their hydro bills. The main drawbacks of this announcement are: The cut started in January; the cut is meaningless when total hydro bills are predicted to go up 11.5 per cent in 2017; the Liberals spent $11.7 million of the $11.9 million budget on consultants, publications, media and advertising for their hydro rebate plan; and only Ontario families living below the poverty line will qualify for the maximum rebate of 8 per cent.

On the cost of hydro, Thibeault argues the issue has been blown out of proportion. He said claims that Ontario has the highest electricity prices in North America are false. I Googled "Ontario has the highest electricity prices in North America", and found Hydro Quebec's "Comparison of Electricity Prices in Major North American Cities."

Thibeault is correct that we do not have the highest electricity prices in North America - just the fifth highest rates. He also neglected to mention Ontario has the highest electricity prices in Canada - about 25 per cent higher than any other province and more than double the price of our two closest provinces.

Most importantly, none of us would be in this situation if the Liberals did not sell off Hydro One in the first place. This was a privatization scheme they did not campaign on and did not ask Ontarians about.

Glenn Thibeault isn't the only one tired of politicians "playing games instead of dealing with a serious issue." I just wish he'd take his own advice.

Jamie West

President, Sudbury District Labour Council

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The Nugget*: *Energy minister issues statement on OPG job transfers

Tuesday, March 7, 2017 12:02:53 EST PM

http://www.nugget.ca/2017/03/07/energy-minister-issues-statement-on-opg-job-transfers

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault has issued the following statement in response to the story OPG announcement political – Mayor, which appeared in The Nugget and online Monday:

“Personnel decisions are a serious matter that affect employees, their families, and communities. As such, we asked OPG to make senior officials available in North Bay, and to prioritize briefing public officials. We regret that leaked information led to a perceived delay in the announcement and any confusion or apprehension this may have caused the community and staff.”

Ontario Power Generation informed its 66 North Bay employees Monday that 20 will be transferred to Timmins and 20 more to other OPG operations in the province by the end of the year, leaving 26 in North Bay.

OPG's five regional operations will be reduced to four with the elimination of North Bay.

When contacted, North Bay Mayor Al McDonald claimed OPG had originally scheduled a meeting for Feb. 22 to inform employees, but postponed it to Monday.

“I heard the Ontario government had called OPG and asked them not to make their news public until the province made their announcement about hydro rates,” he said.

McDonald said he previously contacted Thibeault about the rumours at OPG in North Bay.

“He told me he wasn't aware of this news, but would get back to me,” McDonald said.

“I believe the minister didn't know and the call to OPG to delay the announcement could have only come from the premier's office.”

McDonald said the province put more importance on its political announcement than its employees.

“This was strictly a political decision. OPG isn't laying off or reducing staff, they're moving people out of our community.”

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AM900 CHML*: *Wynne continues to ‘over pay’ for power

By: Scott Thompson
Last Updated: March 07, 2017 10:21 AM

http://www.900chml.com/2017/03/07/wynne-continues-to-over-pay-for-power/

Premier Kathleen Wynne recently announced she would refinance the Green Energy Act.

That means spreading the cost of the Act over many years instead of actually fixing her ‘mistake’.

That along with the 8% rebate on the provincial portion of the HST equals a 25% discount in electricity rates.

PC leader Patrick Brown sent a letter to the financial accountability officer asking them to study how much her scheme will cost us.

They answered, they are already looking into it.

This at the same time the NDP is asking why the Iroquois Falls power plant was told to stop producing power even though it is still being paid to produce.

Why is the government moving ahead with these deals and signing up new ones when we are paying generators to shut down?

The idea was to have power when we need it, however there was never any due diligence with this plan.

So paying a plant to produce no power, to save us money, simply proves we paid way too much for these deals in the first place.

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Remi Network: Ontario offers unequal electricity cost cuts

Commercial customers excluded from expanded perk for industrial sector

By: Barbara Carss
Tuesday, March 7, 2017

https://www.reminetwork.com/articles/ontario-offers-unequal-electricity-cost-cuts/

The Ontario government is unsure how many small manufacturers are newly eligible for the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) since the minimum threshold for their participation was lowered last week. “Unfortunately, we don’t have these numbers,” acknowledges Natasha Demetriades, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Energy.

However, it is clear how many commercial customers have been included in the program expansion. None.

Ontario’s promised electricity cost cuts do come with some unknowns for commercial customers. Premier Kathleen Wynne’s message was directed almost entirely at residential ratepayers last week as she outlined a plan to refinance some elements factoring into the Global Adjustment — which, in recent years, has accounted for as much as 80 per cent of the commodity cost of electricity — but the expanded perk for the industrial sector will also shift a greater share of those costs onto commercial customers, particularly those with monthly electricity loads less than 1 megawatt (MW).

Industrial customers with an average peak energy demand of at least 500 kilowatts (kW) per month will now be eligible for the program, while the minimum requirement for commercial customers remains at 1 MW. Conservation and demand management (CDM) specialists are surprised after the provincial government’s September 2016 move to open up the program more evenly.

“This will just add a layer of confusion,” suggests Scott Rouse, an engineer and managing partner of the consulting firm, Energy@Work. “After everything the commercial sector has done to help the province in contributions to the goals of the Long Term Energy Plan, and energy and water benchmarking and reporting, why not include commercial?”

The ICI program is a scheme for allocating the Global Adjustment prorated to participants’ consumption during the five hours of a designated 12-month period, from May 1 to April 30, with the highest system-wide demand for electricity. The Ontario government does not forego any revenue through the program, but, rather, simply realigns how it is collected.

Customers who can anticipate and curb demand during these five peak hours will have a favourable mathematical factor for calculating their electricity bills, locked in for one year. Customers who don’t qualify for the program pay the Global Adjustment as a straightforward add-on per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of usage.

“Lowering the threshold for program participation will allow more energy-aware customers to reduce use and cost,” says Andrew Pride, a consultant specializing in energy management and strategic conservation planning. “The balance of the Global Adjustment costs will have to be absorbed by those who don’t qualify or participate in the ICI program so, again, this reinforces the need for energy consumers to conserve as much as is practical.”

New regulation in development

A one-line “quick fact” in the Ontario government’s March 2 overview of its electricity relief plans states:

“Ontario is expanding the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) program by reducing the threshold from 1 MW to 500 kW and targeting more small manufacturing and industrial consumers.” A follow-up statement from the Ministry of Energy, issued March 6, explains that the target is exclusively focused on industrial customers.

“We are working to develop proposed amendments to O.Reg. 429/04 that — if accepted by Cabinet — would enable eligible electricity consumers in the manufacturing sectors (i.e. NAICS codes commencing 31, 32 and 33) with average peak demand greater than 500 kW and less than 1 MW to benefit from ICI participation,” it confirms.

Many of Ontario’s 70+ local distribution companies will need to prepare as well. “Utility rate structures aren’t set up to differentiate small industry from small commercial so an extra layer of administration will be required from the utility sector,” Pride notes.

Both the newly designated small manufacturers and the 700+ commercial and industrial operations that gained entry when the threshold for participation was dropped to 1 MW last fall have until June 15, 2017 to officially opt into the program. (Although the base period begins May 1, the peak hours typically occur in the summer or, occasionally, winter months.) Given that large commercial office towers and retail malls typically have monthly energy loads in excess of 1 MW, many building owners/managers have about three months to make a decision, but an influx of industrial newcomers could further burden non-participants, who are, perhaps fittingly, categorized as Class B customers.

“If you’re Class B, I would be concerned,” Rouse says.

Some of the existing participants have reaped hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars in annual savings since the program was first introduced in 2010 for customers with a monthly electricity load of at least 5 MW, but it’s not expected be so easy for commercial enterprises. Industrial customers have much more flexibility to pull back or shut down production during periods of peak electricity demand, whereas demand on office towers’ HVAC systems tends to be in sync with peak periods.

This reality arguably makes commercial customers more aligned with the objectives of Ontario’s Conservation First Framework and associated goal to reduce province-wide electricity consumption by 7 million megawatt-hours (MWh) by 2020 since ingrained energy efficiency will have to be a key component of their strategies to reduce peak demand. It’s unlikely to be accomplished through five hours of strategic shutdowns.

Global Adjustment contents remain vague

The panoply of costs buried in the Global Adjustment make it difficult to parse out where Ontario’s promised electricity cost cuts will come from. In pledging a 25 per cent hydro bill reduction to residential customers, Premier Wynne pointed to a $50-billion investment in generation, transmission and distribution assets between 2005 and 2015 and reported that these costs would be amortized over a longer period rather than wholly flowing through to current ratepayers.

“Over time, it will cost more and it will take longer to pay off, but it is fairer because it doesn’t ask this generation of hydro customers alone to pay the freight for everyone before and after,” she said.

Other Global Adjustment components will be moved to different funding envelopes. “A number of important programs such as the Ontario Electricity Support Program and the Rural or Remote Rate Protection program would now be funded from provincial revenues instead of by electricity consumers. This will provide savings to industrial (and commercial) customers, who currently fund a portion of these programs,” the Ministry of Energy statement reiterates.

Still, many non-residential customers expect the Global Adjustment will continue to represent a significant chunk of their electricity costs. Antithetically to the Ontario government’s conservation goals, building owners/managers might be prompted to run energy-intensive systems longer than necessary to boost their monthly energy loads over the required threshold for ICI participation.

Entry into the program does not guarantee a Global Adjustment reduction, however. Customers with energy-efficient operations, and the expertise to accurately predict the five peak hours and respond accordingly, will be the main beneficiaries.

“It is going to open up for a lot more participation, but participants should be careful,” Rouse advises. “I strongly urge commercial customers to start looking at this issue well before June 15.”

Barbara Carss is editor-in-chief of Canadian Property Management.

TV Transcripts (Noon)

None