

RE: ECO Report | Reactive Statement

From: "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>
To: "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "Whittington, Margot (MOECC)" <margot.whittington@ontario.ca>
Cc: "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)" <kevin.denheijer@ontario.ca>, "Milner, Anna (MOECC)" <anna.milner@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 15:46:06 -0400

FYI – we've also sent this to Shawn Jeffords.

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From: Forgione, Andrew (OPO)
Sent: April-10-18 2:14 PM
To: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Whittington, Margot (MOECC)
Cc: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Berry, James (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY); Milner, Anna (MOECC)
Subject: Re: ECO Report | Reactive Statement

Thibeault approved.

Sent with BlackBerry Work (www.blackberry.com)

From: ["Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <Andrew.Forgione@ontario.ca>]
Sent: Apr 10, 2018 2:05 PM
To: ["Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <Colin.Nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Whittington, Margot (MOECC)" <Margot.Whittington@ontario.ca>]
Subject: [RE: ECO Report | Reactive Statement]
Cc: ["@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <OPO-MediaRelationsandIssuesMgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <James.Berry5@ontario.ca>, "Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)" <Kevin.DenHeijer@ontario.ca>, "Milner, Anna (MOECC)" <Anna.Milner@ontario.ca>]

Colin can you send this statement to Benzie

ECO Commissioner's Report – Reactive Statement

"I would like to thank the Environmental Commissioner for her report.

I'm pleased the Commissioner recognizes a number of areas we have progressed in as a government, including the fact that Ontario's electricity system went from 74% low-carbon electricity generation in 2005 to 96% low-carbon electricity generation in 2017.

The Commissioner also confirmed that Ontario's electricity system is in much better shape than it was in 2005 – it is self-sufficient, with reliable power for peak demand with no brownouts or emergency supply situations. It also points out that families and small businesses pay less on average here than in many other jurisdictions due to the Fair Hydro

Plan.

We're pleased the report also recognizes that "replacing coal-fired electricity with renewable energy, nuclear, conservation, and natural gas has cleaned the air, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and increased electrical grid capacity and resilience." This has "dramatically reduced Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions, and has improved air quality and public health", according to the Commissioner.

This confirms that Ontario is taking a leading role in the global fight against climate change, while maintaining a robust, reliable electricity system. But as always, we know we have more work to do.

In the development of the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan, the Ministry of Energy worked closely with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to ensure the continued consideration of Ontario's emissions reduction targets. In that spirit, Ontario remains committed to an electricity system that includes renewable energy generation and conservation, and supports the goals of the Province's Climate Change Action Plan.

We're pleased that the Commissioner's report recognizes that through our cap on pollution and our investments in green solutions, we're driving Ontario towards meeting our emission reduction targets.

Every dollar raised from Ontario's carbon market is being reinvested in green projects that help Ontarians save money and fight climate change. These investments include hundreds of thousands of dollars into transit, and energy efficient upgrades for homes, schools, hospitals, social housing, universities and colleges – and we will ensure we continue making positive changes to meet and beat our emission reduction targets."

From: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Sent: April 10, 2018 9:03 AM
To: Whittington, Margot (MOECC); Forgione, Andrew (OPO)
Cc: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Berry, James (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY); Milner, Anna (MOECC)
Subject: RE: ECO Report | Reactive Statement

Thanks Margot, that's great.

Forge, here's a revision including the notes from MOECC. If you're good with this we'll run it by our Minister before QP:

ECO Commissioner's Report – Reactive Statement

I would like to thank the Environmental Commissioner for her report. As with any report from an independent office of the legislature, we will carefully review the comments and recommendations.

The Commissioner points out in her report that "replacing coal-fired electricity with renewable energy, nuclear, conservation, and natural gas has cleaned the air, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and increased electrical grid capacity and resilience." This has "dramatically reduced Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions, and has improved air quality and public health", according to the Commissioner.

This confirms that Ontario is taking a leading role in the global fight against climate change, while maintaining a robust, reliable electricity system. In 2017, our electricity system was over 95 per cent free of emissions that cause climate change.

This didn't happen overnight – nearly \$70 billion has been invested to modernize the system since 2003, which the report acknowledges. While Ontarians now benefit from a clean and reliable system, the report re-confirms that Ontario's families and small businesses also pay less on average here than in many other jurisdictions thanks to our Fair Hydro Plan. Families in cities like New York, Boston, and San Francisco pay more than double the average Ontario bill, and consumers in Charlottetown, Regina, Halifax

and Moncton are paying more than the Ontario average.

The report also highlights the success of Ontario's energy conservation programs. As we plan for Ontario's energy needs for the next 20 years, conservation will be the first resource considered, as it continues to be one of the most effective tools in electricity planning, generally saving two dollars for every dollar spent.

In the development of the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan the Ministry of Energy worked closely with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to ensure the continued consideration of Ontario's emissions reduction targets. In that spirit, Ontario remains committed to an electricity system that includes renewable energy generation and conservation, and supports the goals of the Province's Climate Change Action Plan.

We're pleased that the Commissioner's report recognizes that through our cap on pollution and our investments in green solutions, we're driving Ontario towards meeting our emission reduction targets. Every dollar raised from Ontario's carbon market, totaling \$2.4 billion to date, is being reinvested in green projects that help Ontarians save money and fight climate change. These investments include hundreds of thousands of dollars into transit, and energy efficient upgrades for homes, schools, hospitals, social housing, universities and colleges.

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From: Whittington, Margot (MOECC)
Sent: April-09-18 5:59 PM
To: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Forgione, Andrew (OPO)
Cc: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Berry, James (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY); Milner, Anna (MOECC)
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Might want to include something similar to the paragraph below. Talks about our energy-efficiency investments from cap and trade. Could also mention that these investments are all at risk of being cut by the PC's.

We're pleased the report recognizes that through our cap on pollution, combined with our investments in green solutions, we're driving Ontario towards meeting our emission reduction targets. Every dollar raised from Ontario's carbon market, totaling \$2.4B to date, is being reinvested in green projects that help Ontarians fight climate change and save money. These investments include hundreds of thousands of dollars into transit, and energy efficient upgrades for homes, schools, hospitals, social housing, universities and colleges.

From: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Sent: April-09-18 5:17 PM
To: Forgione, Andrew (OPO)
Cc: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Berry, James (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY); Milner, Anna (MOECC); Whittington, Margot (MOECC)
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Hi Forge,

We've crafted a reactive statement to use following the Environmental Commissioner's report tomorrow, which you can see below. Including MOECC to see if there's anything they would like to add. We're happy to take the lead on this.

I've also attached a response from our officials and policy division which can be posted to the Commissioner's website along with the report. We're suggesting that MOECC have a look to see if they want to add anything, and wrap that into an official government response.

Let us know if you have any questions. Happy to chat.

Colin

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