

RE: OEB statement re Vic Fedeli

From: "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>
To: "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Cc: "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>
Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2017 10:21:57 -0400

Thanks Colin, this is a good start. Couple thoughts though:

- 1) Can we be stronger off the top calling them out for not having a plan / voting against ours?
(Instead of saying we appreciate their participation)
- 2) At 451 words it's pretty long. Can we trim it down a bit?

Thx

Blane

From: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Sent: June-28-17 9:04 AM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: Berry, James (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Subject: RE: OEB statement re Vic Fedeli

Hi all,

Just wanted to follow up on the statement below, as we'll need to get the Minister's approval today.

Thanks,
Colin

Colin Nekolaichuk | Press Secretary
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From: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Sent: June-27-17 11:58 AM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: Berry, James (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Subject: OEB statement re Vic Fedeli

Hi all,

As you know, Vic Fedeli will be in Sudbury to attend the Hydro One rate hearing tomorrow evening. We've drafted a statement for local media, which we plan to share as appropriate. Please let us know if you have any feedback:

"I appreciate Progressive Conservative MPP Vic Fedeli visiting Sudbury to participate in the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) public meeting, but his priorities seem misplaced. If Mr. Fedeli truly cared about electricity consumers, perhaps he wouldn't have voted against our Fair Hydro Plan – a plan that will reduce electricity bills for all residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses by 25 per cent on average, starting July 1. He could also drive a couple of hours south to

Simcoe—North to meet with his party leader and come up with a plan for Ontario's electricity system. But instead, MPP Fedeli chose to drive to Sudbury to distract and willfully misinform the public about the OEB's rate application process.

It's hard to take that kind of grandstanding seriously, while the OEB, the energy sector's independent regulator, does its job to protect consumers and ensure appropriate investments are made to maintain long-term reliability in our electricity system. The OEB works hard to keep rates as low as possible – utilities rarely get all they ask for. In the last eight years, the OEB has reviewed over 100 major rate applications and reduced requested rate increases by an average of about 40 per cent.

This week's public meeting in Sudbury is an example of the Board going directly to Ontarians to gather feedback to inform the rate application process. Maintaining this role for the OEB was a key part of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan.

At the same time, the Fair Hydro Plan will have an immediate impact – across the province, rates will be 25 per cent lower on average beginning on July 1st for all Ontario households. This is a result of Premier Wynne's commitment to address electricity prices in our province. Our plan also holds any increases in electricity bills to the rate of inflation for four years. Ontario's 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan, to be released later this summer, will focus on taking additional costs out of the system, and address long-term affordability.

For many Hydro One customers, the Fair Hydro Plan is delivering even more relief. Starting on Canada Day, distribution rates for 800,000 households in expensive-to-serve parts of our province will be coming down further – as much as 40 to 50 per cent. This includes eligible rural and Northern Hydro One customers in communities like Wanup and Mikkola. With distribution rates capped for these customers, they will no longer be directly impacted by Hydro One's rate applications, even if approved by the OEB.

The Progressive Conservatives continue to make a lot of noise, but present no actual plan for the Ontario's energy sector – clearly, this is a party that cares more about politics than it does about real governing.”

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