

Re: ENERGY Media calls

From: "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>
To: "@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: Tue, 02 May 2017 18:21:36 -0400

We also have the following response to The Globe freelancer's request yesterday, answered by Ministry with MO input:

Ministry: 1 inquiry

Topic : Fair Hydro Plan/small business eligibility

Reporter & Outlet : Showwei Chu (freelance journalist), for Globe and Mail

Response Type : Ministry spokesperson (email)

Reporter's Questions:

I'm working on a story for the Globe and Mail and wondering if you could clarify something for me about the Fair Hydro Plan.

Starting May 1, households will pay lower time-of-use rates. And this will apply to farms and small businesses.

How do small businesses determine if they qualify for the discount?

Would it be similar to the qualifications outlined under the rebate program? Is there any written material that explains this? I haven't come across it.

Response:

Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan will lower electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all households and as many as half a million small businesses and farms starting this summer. These are electricity customers that are on the Regulated Price Plan (RPP). The Fair Hydro Plan is the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, with rates also held to inflation for four years. The plan includes the 8 per cent rebate introduced in January 2017 and builds on previously announced initiatives to deliver broad-based rate relief on all electricity bills.

In order to be RPP-eligible, a consumer's annual consumption must be below 250,000 kWh/year or peak demand must be below 50 kW. These consumers are on Time of Use billing, which can be verified on a business's monthly electricity bill. A small business owner can also call their Local Distribution Company if they have questions about eligibility.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) typically sets Regulated Price Plan (RPP) rates every 6 months based on projected supply cost, so Ontarians know what to expect.

Effective May 1, 2017, RPP prices have decreased from the rates set on November 1, 2016.

At the current rates, the total bill for a typical consumer using 750 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month is \$153.

Starting May 1, the total bill for that same typical customer will be \$127, a reduction of \$26 per month, or about 17 per cent. This includes the eight per cent rebate equal to the provincial portion of the HST that took effect on January 1, 2017.

For your reference, the OEB announcement includes a portion of the Fair Hydro Plan reduction, meaning residential households and as many as half a million small businesses and farms will see real savings sooner, starting yesterday (May 1). This is an important first step to deliver on our government's commitment to lower rates by 25 per cent on average by this summer.

We intend to introduce legislation that would, if passed, provide real relief for Ontarians and greater fairness in our electricity system. With the anticipated implementation of our government's proposed legislation, the OEB would be required to lower rates again this summer to fulfill our pledge to cut electricity bills for all residential consumers by 25 per cent on average and reduce rates for families in rural or remote areas of the province up to 40 to 50 per cent.

The OEB announcement can be viewed here for your reference:

<https://www.oeb.ca/newsroom/2017/important-changes-electricity-consumers-starting-may-1>

The Fair Hydro Plan also expanded the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI), which allows large consumers to reduce their electricity bills by up to one-third by reducing their consumption during peak hours. The expansion will allow manufacturers and greenhouses between 500 kW and 1 MW to participate, in addition to the consumers over 1 MW that are already eligible.

The Fair Hydro Plan also is also committed to reducing system costs by improving sector efficiency and modernizing Ontario's electricity market, working in collaboration with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

Colin Nikolaichuk | Press Secretary
Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | Minister of Energy
T: 416-325-2690 C: 647-504-4928
colin.nikolaichuk@ontario.ca

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2017 6:09 PM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: Berry, James (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Subject: ENERGY Media calls

Hi all,

We have one agency media request to share today. We will get some info from OEB and assess how the story is being put together. Will flag any issues.

Agency: OEB

Topic : Disconnections/disconnection notices

Reporter & Outlet : Brian Hill, Global TV

Response Type : Email

Reporter's Questions:

Brian Hill with Global is working on a story regarding disconnections - specifically,

disconnection notices.

He has been working on this since March and it involves FOI requests made on the subject to every LDC in Ontario.

The story is still a week away or more from going to air.

Response:

TBD

Colin Nikolaichuk | Press Secretary
Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | Minister of Energy
T: 416-325-2690 C: 647-504-4928
colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.