Toronto Sun request

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>
Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2017 15:17:35 -0500

Hi all,

We've gotten a request from Antonella at the Sun. She is asking about the potential impact of Hydro One's rate application. We've worked up the statement below. Let us know if you have any edits/concern. Thanks.

It's important to remember that this is an application before the Ontario Energy Board. The OEB is an independent regulator with a mandate to protect the interests of ratepayers and to set just and reasonable rates. It also has a strong record of reviewing rate applications with the consumer in mind. For example, in 2010 Hydro One asked for a rate increase for distribution and actually received a 9% reduction on its distribution rates. And in 2012 Hydro One asked for a rate increase for transmission, and received a 3% reduction below its existing rates.

Depending on Hydro One's Draft Rate Order for transmission costs, it's estimated that the bill impact for 2017 would be an increase of 0.1%, and 0.2% for 2018. This means that bills would not be impacted beyond the rate of inflation, as per the Fair Hydro Plan.

As you know, the Fair Hydro Plan has lowered bills by 25% on average for households and as many as half a million small businesses and farms this summer. Hydro One distribution customers are seeing even greater reductions – the latest figures have the average at 31 per cent.

The Fair Hydro Plan is the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, with rates also held to inflation for the next four years.

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