

**Estimates Committee 2016 – FRIENDLY
Ministry of Energy
Proposed Questions and Answers**

CRED:

1. What role do energy efficiency codes and standards play in our conservation efforts? Where does Ontario stand compared to other North American jurisdictions?
2. What is social benchmarking? How can it help Ontario homeowners?
3. What are the requirements of O.Reg. 397/11 and the proposed Energy and Water Reporting and Benchmarking for large buildings initiative? What is Green Button? How do these types of initiatives help the broader public sector and private sector?
4. Ontario is putting conservation first because it is the cleanest and most cost-effective energy resource and offers consumers a way to manage their energy bills. What conservation programs are available to support Ontarians improve the energy efficiency of their homes and businesses?
5. The *Green Energy Act* has made Ontario a North American leader in clean energy. How has Ontario benefited from integrating renewable energy into our system? Are other jurisdictions following the path laid by Ontario and embracing renewable energy?
6. As the FIT and microFIT programs wind down, Ontario is preparing to update the net metering program. How successful were the FIT and microFIT programs? What is net metering?

SNAP:

Indigenous Issues

1. What is Ontario doing to encourage Indigenous participation in the energy sector?

Remote Community Grid Connection:

1. What steps is Ontario taking to help remote First Nations communities?

Low Income

Commented [DK(1)]: Moved to below

Commented [DK(2)]: Would include these topics in the answer to 1.

2. What is the government doing to help low-income families with the cost of electricity in Ontario?

Storage and Innovation

1. Minister, I know the government made a commitment to exploring energy storage technologies in the last Long-Term Energy Plan. Can you update us on your progress to date?
2. How else is the government supporting the adoption of innovative smart grid technologies? Are any of these solutions “made-in-Ontario?”
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Long Term Energy Plan (LTEP)

6. Could the Minister explain how the government has enhanced the energy planning framework to ensure future long term energy plans are consistent with the principles of cost-effectiveness, reliability, clean energy, community and Indigenous engagement, and conservation and demand management?
7. How has the government facilitated the sharing of data around changing supply and demand conditions, and progress on LTEP 2013?
8. Could the Minister describe what the government is doing to support promote the participation of the public and stakeholders in the long term energy plan's engagement activities?
9. Could the Minister inform us as to how the government is supporting the Open Government directive through the long term energy plan and the associated technical reports?
10. What steps has the government taken to broaden the focus of the next LTEP to more holistically consider electricity and fuels in a more integrated fashion?

- 1.

Regional Planning:

2. Can you tell us about what the Government is doing to support regional electricity planning in Ontario?

Transmission General:

3. What investments are being made to maintain the reliability of Ontario's transmission system?

Smart Meters

1. Minister, could you please explain what a smart meter does, what the smart grid is, and how these can have an impact on our electricity system in Ontario?

Climate Change Adaptation

1. How has the government worked with the agencies to ensure the electricity system is resilient to climate change and associated severe weather events?
2. How does the government improve the reliability of the grid while ensuring low-cost electricity?

Cyber Security in the Energy Industry

What is the government doing to protect against cyber security?

Debt Retirement Charge

1. Could you please discuss why the Debt Retirement Charge was created and what the removal of the Debt Retirement Charge from electricity bills means for Ontario families?

ESP:

Electricity

1. What is the government doing to help residential consumers and businesses with the cost of electricity in Ontario?
2. What are the next steps with regards to the potential of importing additional electricity from Quebec? **[Is this too contentious?]**
3. How has the electricity sector contributed to Ontario's progress in meeting its climate change targets?

Commented [EM3]: I wouldn't call it contentious. Depending on when Estimates is, I'm unsure about what we can say in response. Can we generalize the question a little more and say what are we doing to pursue importing electricity from other jurisdictions such as Quebec? Check the last Estimates QAs for better wording.

Nuclear Refurbishment

4. Could you provide the rationale behind the Government's decision to proceed with nuclear refurbishment? How is nuclear energy helping Ontario meet its climate change targets?

5. What is the status of the refurbishment projects at Darlington and Bruce? What kind of processes are you putting in place to ensure the refurbishments are completed on time and on budget?
6. Why did you decide to approve OPG's plan for ongoing operation of the Pickering station?

Natural Gas Access Loan Program

7. What is the government doing to expand natural gas access to rural and remote communities?

Suggested to combine with Number 7

Commented [EM4]: ?

Canadian Energy Strategy

8. What progress is being made on the Canadian Energy Strategy? How are Ontarians benefitting from our participation in this initiative?

Energy East

9. What is the government doing to protect Ontario's interests in the National Energy Board hearings on the Energy East oil pipeline?
 10. What principles will Ontario apply when it reviews TransCanada's Energy East application? How has the government engaged Ontarians on this important issue?
- DMO: Suggested to combine 9 and 10.

Commented [EM5]: I think these should be separate questions. Maybe see what the team thinks when they draft responses.

Commented [DK(6)]: Duplicative to SNAP questions above and best asked as part of a large question on energy policies related to indigenous policies