Afternoon Energy Media Summary - November 28, 2017

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Date: Tue, 28 Nov 2017 15:02:55 -0500

G ood afternoon,

Here is a roundup of the day's news:

- Kathleen Wynne calls Tories' claim of $12B in savings 'ridiculous' – *Hamilton Spectator*
- Convergent Energy + Power Announces Completion of an 8.5 MWh Energy Storage Project for Industrial Customer in Ontario – *News Release (Convergent Energy + Power)*
- Energy Storage Projects Selected to Provide Essential Grid-Balancing Service – *News Release (IESO)*
- Ontario government still failing to address out of control electricity bills at hospitals – *Canada Free Press*
- NDP trying to introduce uniform gas pumps – *My North Bay Now*
- Financial Assistance to Heat Homes on the Rise – *Bayshore Broadcasting News Centre*

Please see below **Today in Twitter** for news articles.

Nov. 28, 2017
Today in Twitter

@IESO_Tweets - Two new energy storage facilities totalling 55 MW will help support the reliability, flexibility & efficiency of ON's electricity grid. Thanks to those who submitted to this RFP. Congrats Hecate Energy Ontario Storage and @SaturnPowerinc http://ieso.ca/en/corporate-ieso/media/news-releases/2017/11/energy-storage-projects-selected-to-provide-essential-grid-balancing-service …

@csimonwrite - #Barrie , #Orillia , #SimcoeCounty hospitals get cash to improve energy efficiency: https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/7968225-barrie-orillia-simcoe-county-hospitals-get-cash-to-improve-energy-efficiency/#.Wh2NbVR2HTc.twitter … @TeamRVH @AnnHoggarthMPP @DrEricHoskins @CollingwoodHosp @StevensonFdn #onpoli #health #environment

@KarenPtbo - Why is Wynne's ON addicted to wind power? Wind power isn't reliable or affordable. Despite spending $ billions $ on wind turbine subsidies, wind accounts for only 2% of all renewable energy and next to nothing of Canada's total energy use: 0.4%

@Fizbandu - CEO of @opg says 96% of money spent on nuclear refurbishment will be invested here in Ontario. #onpoli

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Kathleen Wynne calls Tories' claim of $12B in savings 'ridiculous'
The Canadian Press
Nov. 28, 2017

TORONTO - Premier Kathleen Wynne says the Progressive Conservatives' suggestion that $12 billion could be cut from Ontario's budget is ridiculous.

The Tories' newly unveiled election platform plans for $6 billion in savings from cancelling Ontario's cap-and-trade program and another $6 billion that they say could be found from a value-for-money audit.

Those savings, particularly the audit, are what Liberal attacks have been focusing on since the platform's release, rather than specific policy planks such as tax cuts for the middle class, a refund for childcare expenses and a further 12 per cent cut to hydro bills.

Speaking to The Canadian Press from China, where she is on a trade mission, Wynne says in her experience, whenever Conservatives talk about finding efficiencies, that means cuts to services.

Wynne's Liberal government has touted its own form of a value-for-money audit — a program spending review — as one of the reasons it was able to eliminate the deficit, but the premier says the fact that has already been done makes the suggestion that billions more could be cut "even more ridiculous."

PC Leader Patrick Brown says perhaps the Liberals didn't expect him to release the platform this weekend, more than six months before the election, so they are struggling to find something in it to attack.

Convergent Energy + Power Announces Completion of an 8.5 MWh Energy Storage Project for Industrial Customer in Ontario
News Release (Convergent Energy + Power)
Nov. 28, 2017

BOLTON, ON, Nov. 28, 2017 /CNW/ - Convergent Energy + Power, a developer of energy storage projects throughout North America, announced today that it had finished construction on a first-of-its-kind energy storage system. The project is designed to reduce Global Adjustment demand charges, which account for up to 70% of electricity bills for some customers in Ontario. The project is anticipated to reduce electricity cost on the load it addresses by 15-30% per year starting in 2018.

"We deploy energy storage to reduce electricity costs for our customers under a shared savings agreement," said Johannes Rittershausen, CEO of Convergent. "That means we handle all the cost and risks of building and managing the project, and the customer shares in the savings created. If we do not deliver, our customers do not pay."

Convergent installed the energy storage system at Husky Injection Molding Systems Ltd., a Canadian-based company specializing in injection molding equipment and services to the plastics industry. The system is specially designed to reduce demand charges and resulting electricity costs at the Husky plant. The constructed asset will be operational as soon as Hydro One is finished with its interconnection work.

"We look forward to realizing significant savings from this system to help us remain competitive over the long-term" said Robert Meek, Director, Global Facilities. "This battery system is a crucial part of our innovative, forward-looking strategy to decrease both operating costs and our overall environmental impact."

Convergent worked with Lockheed Martin Energy to install their GridStar™ Lithium battery systems, selected for their robust, reliable, and space-saving design. Convergent also used local Mississauga-based vendors for the balance of plant equipment, Ontario-based S&T Electric for construction management, and SNC Lavalin for the design work.

"We are pleased to supply Convergent Energy + Power with our turnkey GridStar™ energy storage system," said Roger Flanagan, managing director for Lockheed Martin Energy. "Due to our unique and market-leading system design, the required storage capacity was able to fit in a small footprint and be built at a lower cost."

Together with its other energy storage projects across Ontario – from Sault Ste. Marie to the GTA – this project makes Convergent the largest owner/operator of constructed energy storage projects in Canada. Rittershausen added, "Convergent is excited to help large users of electricity in Ontario save significant money on their hydro bills. We are just at the beginning of using our energy storage assets to make electricity more reliable and cost-effective for customers all over Ontario."

About Convergent Energy + Power
Convergent Energy + Power is a technology-neutral energy storage asset developer with experience across a wide range of projects, from commercial and industrial applications to grid-connected utility systems, including over 70 MWs and 230 MWhs of projects in operation, construction, or under contract to be built. The company manages all aspects of the energy storage asset development cycle, including

project-specific opportunity identification and economic evaluation, contract and financial structuring, engineering-procurement-construction, as well as operations and maintenance.

For more information, visit www.convergentep.com or contact info@convergentep.com

SOURCE Convergent Energy + Power

[Energy Storage Projects Selected to Provide Essential Grid-Balancing Service]
News Release (IESO)
Nov. 28, 2017

TORONTO, Nov. 28, 2017 /CNW/ - Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) announced today that two new energy storage facilities have been selected through a competitive process to help support the reliability, flexibility and efficiency of the province's electricity grid.

The successful parties, Hecate Energy Ontario Storage VII, LP and Saturn Power Inc., will provide a combined 55 megawatts (MW) of regulation service, an important grid-balancing function that corrects for short-term changes in electricity use that might affect the reliability of the power system. These successful projects also represent one of the largest reductions in per-unit regulation costs since Ontario's electricity market opened.

Regulation service helps compensate for real-time supply and demand imbalances. It is a requirement under North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) standards. The 55 MW procured through this process will complement the 100 MW of regulation service that is typically scheduled every hour to help ensure the reliable operation of the power system.

When regulation is required, the IESO sends an automated signal to the regulation provider, instructing them to adjust the production (or consumption) of their facility within a designated timeframe, often measured in seconds. Learn more here.

Under the 2017 regulation request for proposals (RFP), the IESO received 42 submissions representing approximately 350 MW of regulation capacity from a variety of existing and new build facilities, including energy storage and waterpower facilities. The RFP process was administered by the IESO and overseen by an external fairness advisor. The final contract offer list can be found here.

"Our energy system continues to evolve with new players, technologies and changing demand patterns, and as Ontario's reliability coordinator, we are always looking at new ways to manage the changing conditions on the power system," said Leonard Kula, Vice-President of Planning, Acquisition and Operations, and the IESO's Chief Operating Officer. "The important grid-balancing function of regulation service has historically been provided by generators. Today, we are seeing the increasing participation of emerging technologies like storage to cost-effectively help meet our operational needs," said Kula.

The IESO's 2016 Operability Assessment identified a need to increase the amount of regulation service scheduled each hour to assist with real-time system operation needs. Following this RFP, the IESO may seek additional regulation suppliers based on updated assessments. More information on the results of the 2017 Regulation RFP can be found here, and click here to read about the evolution of Ontario's regulation service market.

About the IESO

The IESO manages the province's power system so that Ontarians receive power when and where they need it. It plans and prepares for future electricity needs and works with its partners to guide conservation efforts. The IESO is also leading a Market Renewal Program, which will enhance the way electricity is priced, scheduled and procured to meet Ontario's current and future energy needs reliably, transparently, efficiently and at lowest cost.

For more information, please visit www.ieso.ca.

SOURCE Independent Electricity System Operator

[Ontario government still failing to address out of control electricity bills at hospitals]
Canada Free Press
Nov. 28, 2017

TORONTO, ON: The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) is disappointed with the Ontario government's response to our ongoing campaign to show how high electricity bills are hurting hospitals.

Documents obtained by the CTF through Freedom of Information requests and released over the course of several months have revealed steep increases to the cost of electricity at Ontario hospitals, despite declining electricity usage.

For example, electricity bills at William Osler Health in Brampton are up $4.3 million, nearly 126 per cent, over the past five years. North Bay Regional Health has seen an increase of 19 per cent since 2012, even though consumption has fallen, and similarly, Brockville General saw a 48 per cent increase over five years, even though their consumption also fell.

On Monday November 27, the government announced that it would be spending $64 million this year to improve energy efficiency in hospitals.

"It's obvious from today's announcement that the Wynne government has been paying attention to our campaign, which has highlighted how their failed electricity policies have added a new burden of spiraling electricity bills to hospitals across Ontario. Unfortunately, today's announcement misses the point," said CTF Ontario Director, Christine Van Geyn.

"Hospitals across the province already have energy efficiency programs in place. We have seen that hospitals are reducing their energy consumption, but their bills are still going up. They're in the same situation that families across the province are in. Encouraging hospitals to save electricity is important, but we already know it won't solve the problem. We need structural change," concluded Van Geyn.

The "Stop High Energy Bills" campaign is part a more than year-long campaign by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, and has included the release of documents showing electricity cost increases for hospitals. More information on those releases can be found HERE.

NDP TRYING TO INTRODUCE UNIFORM GAS PUMPS

Rocco Frangione
My North Bay Now
Nov. 28, 2017

North Bay and area residents might see some uniformity at the pumps if Timmins-James Bay MPP Gilles Bisson has his way. The New Democrat has introduced a Private Member`s Bill where the Ontario Energy Board would regulate gas prices weekly across Ontario.  Bisson says consumers get hit with huge price gas differentials even within the same region and there`s no reason for this. He says an example of this is someone gassing up in Barrie for $1.15 a litre can easily run into prices of $1.30 a litre once he hits Trout Creek. Bisson says these two areas are within the same market region. He says another example of huge price differential involves Hagersville and Thunder Bay where the difference in price is as much as 40 cents a litre. He says there`s no way there`s a 40 cent-a-litre difference in transportation costs between both communities.

Bisson says if there`s a way to sell alcohol for the same price across Ontario, than there`s a way to apply the same thinking on gas. Bisson says right now prices fluctuate even though the price of a barrel of oil is fairly constant. He says it`s frustrating when you`re driving home from work and see gas going at $1.15 a litre but decide you`ll gas up the next day because you`re too tired only to find gas jumped 10 to 15 cents a litre. Bisson wants to know what happened over night for that kind of a jump because it "sure wasn`t the price of a barrel of oil that went up".   Bisson introduced his gas regulation proposal in a Private Member`s Bill on Monday.

Financial Assistance to Heat Homes on the Rise

Matt Hermiz
Bayshore Broadcasting News Centre
Nov. 28, 2017

The United Way of Bruce Grey reports an increase in the number of households requesting financial support for non-electrical or non-natural gas heat sources.
Executive Director Francesca Dobbyn says there's been nearly 50% more households requiring assistance to pay for wood, oil or propane. The Ontario Energy Board recently moved to ban electricity distributors from cutting power to delinquent accounts during winter months, ensuring those who fall behind on payments still have heat.
"But those traditional rural types of heat, wood, oil and propane, there's no funding stream to assist low

income people in purchasing," Dobbyn explains. "It becomes a problem because they're cash on delivery. You need $300-$500 all at once in order for a truck to even deliver, and that's a really challenge for low income households."
Dobbyn says United Way of Bruce Grey has doled out about $120,000 to date in 2017 to provide wood, oil and propane for struggling households. She says there's been 240 residences that have received support for those heating fuel sources -- with another 10-20 forecast for December.
The United Way draws from funding received through the Homelessness Prevention Strategy, but Dobbyn says that fund is low and won't be replenished until spring after recent changes to the national housing strategy.

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