

Fw: Evening Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction - July 23, 2017

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Sent: Sunday, July 23, 2017 9:00 PM
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Subject: Evening Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction - July 23, 2017

Sunday (Evening) Media Scan: July 23, 2017

MEDIA SCAN: HYDRO RATE REDUCTION PLAN

July 23, 2017

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Online Coverage

London Free Press: Energy minister hits area after hard week

By: Free Press Staff
Sunday, July 23, 2017 7:07:25 EDT PM

<http://www.lfpress.com/2017/07/23/energy-minister-hits-area-after-hard-week>

Sitting on one of the hottest hot seats at Queen's Park, Ontario's energy minister is making a two-stop swing through the London region in the fallout of an especially rough week on the energy file.

Glenn Thibeault is expected in Chatham for an event with two civic-owned electricity distributors, serving Chatham-Kent and St. Thomas, which plan to merge, and later will tour an ethanol plant in Aylmer that plans a \$120-million expansion.

The visits come after a tumultuous week on energy for the ruling Ontario Liberals, already under the spotlight for electricity prices that doubled in a decade until the province moved to cut rates by 25 per cent July 1.

Last Tuesday, one of four firms that set up green energy manufacturing plants in Ontario under a multibillion-dollar deal between the province and Korean industrial giant Samsung, announced it's closing its Tillsonburg plant. Siemens, which partnered with Samsung, said it's laying off more than 200 workers immediately, and the rest of the 340 will be gone by January when the wind turbine blade plant closes.

Then, Vancouver-based think-tank the Fraser Institute reported Ontario electricity price hikes have run more than double the national average over the last decade, heaping new fuel on the fire for opposition critics as the province heads into an election year.

In Chatham, Thibeault is expected to discuss a proposed merger — already approved by the two companies, and the two civic councils, but still needing Ontario Energy Board approval — to combine St. Thomas Energy Inc., and Entegrus Powerlines Inc., into what would be the province's 11th-largest power distributor, with 58,000 customers.

A wave of sell-offs and mergers in the electrical business in Ontario, including takeovers by giant Hydro One, has reduced the number of municipal utilities in the province from hundreds a generation ago to dozens now, including in the Southwest where London Hydro remains the largest such player without a dance partner.

In Aylmer, Thibeault is to tour IGPC Ethanol Inc., which makes ethanol from corn and is doubling production in a move the company has said will create 25 jobs.

Not a decade old, the \$160-million plant is owned by the Integrated Grain Processors Co-operative that has more than 800 shareholders in Southwestern Ontario.

After Siemens announced the Tillsonburg plant closing, Thibeault said he's confident green energy will remain a key part of Ontario's economy and energy supply.

The company cited dried-up orders and industry demand for larger blades than it can produce as factors in the closing.

The Samsung deal also brought green energy plants to Windsor, where CS Wind makes turbine towers, London and Toronto, where Canadian Solar and SMA, respectively, make solar energy components.

Thibeault also will be in Kitchener-Waterloo Monday, a spokesperson for the minister said by e-mail Sunday.

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Bay Today OPINION Liberal government buys and supports coal p

Why would Ontario's environment minister Glenn Murray stay quiet on this deal? 26

By: Ross Ayotte
About 6 hours ago

<https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/opinion-liberal-government-buys-and-supports-coal-power-plants-in->

A look back in the past in 2005 Premier McGuinty and his environment minister Laurel Broten stated that up to 90% of the air pollution in Ontario was caused by American coal plants from the American Midwest - Ohio Valley and if you're wondering, our now Premier Katherine Wynne has been in cabinet since 2003.

Broten sent a letter to the US environmental agency stating this including where air pollution was the highest - Sarnia and Windsor up to 90%. Then David Miller former mayor of Toronto sent Broten a letter stating up to 90% of Toronto's air pollution came from the same source. Our now Premier would have supported Broten and McGuinty at the time

The Sierra club protested to the American EPA stating that by operating 150 of the oldest and dirtiest coal plants in the American Midwest it was affecting Ontario's air quality.

Fast forward while the Liberals keep adding onto our provincial debt by running ad's saying burning coal was an environmental and health issue and that by shutting down our five coal plants Ontarian's breathe cleaner air. Now, Glen Thibeault and Premier Wynne and Hydro One have just purchased Avista power in the U.S.A for the people of Ontario at a cost of 6.7 billion dollars cash and Avista power produces some of its power from coal power plants and what do these two have to say?

The Americans have different regulations than Ontario so what happened to the Liberals environmental and health issue policies and what happened to the badly needed cash for infrastructure in Ontario and why would Ontario's environment minister Glenn Murray stay quiet on this deal?

The Ontario Liberals have 100% misled the people of Ontario about how the liberals cleaned up Ontario's air quality. A report by the Fraser Institute states by closing down Ontario coal plants there was little improvement to our air Quality in Ontario. The cleaner air came from the closure of the American coal Plants.

Ontario may never recover from this Liberal scam where liberal insiders got contracts and the liberal party itself benefited from huge donations.

But the Liberal's keep toeing the party line that it was the closing of our five coal plants, and coal is disastrous and an environmental health hazard. So why are the people of Ontario paying a carbon tax while this Liberal government buys and supports coal power plants in the U.S.A and the Americans do not pay a carbon tax? I would also like to note since Hydro One purchased Avista Power, here is a direct quote from the spokesman Review News U.S.A.

Hydro One plans to nearly double Avista's community contributions to \$4 million annually. In addition, Hydro One will make a \$2 million annual contribution to the Avista Foundation.

Here in Ontario, nurses are getting laid off, so how can the liberals justify the 60% share and fire sale of Hydro One while buying Avista Power which produces power by coal and the Americans will be paying a lot less for their power than the people in Ontario? So in reality, the people of Ontario will be subsidizing hydro costs to the Americans. So one has to wonder how the people of Ontario will benefit from this Wynnedoogle.

TV Transcripts

None.