

****Check Against Delivery**

Press Conference Remarks

LRP Suspension

September 27, 2016

Good morning, thank you all for joining me here for this important announcement. On September 1st Ontario's electricity sector experts at the Independent Electricity System Operator published the Ontario Planning Outlook, which my staff has provided each of you a copy.

This report highlights that Ontario has one of the cleanest and most reliable electricity grids in North America, and provides modelling that shows we will have a strong and steady supply of power for the next ten years. In short, it is clear to me that there is no urgent need to pursue additional electricity supply at this time. Given this strong energy position, it only makes sense that as a government and as a new Minister of Energy, we take a careful look at our procurements and make common-sense adjustments. We have therefore decided to suspend the IESO's Large Renewable Procurement, which was intended to procure up to 980 MW of renewable energy projects and 75 MW of energy-from-waste projects. Instead, we will review the role of continued procurements as part of the next Long-Term Energy Plan consultations set to begin later this fall. Through that process, we will consult across the province to help clarify our electricity needs.

Through this process, I do want to be very clear about one thing: Ontario will honour the renewable contracts that have been signed, including those signed earlier this year under the first LRP process. Based on evidence from our electricity experts, we are confident that we will continue to maintain among the cleanest, most reliable electricity systems in North America.

When our experts tell us we can do this without procuring additional generation, it's up to us to heed that prudent and responsible advice and ensure savings for electricity consumers. In 2013, our Government made the decision to defer any new build of nuclear power that had previously been contemplated. That action alone helped us avoid over \$15 billion in costs for Ontario ratepayers. We've taken other actions, including renegotiating our renewable energy agreement with Samsung for contract savings of \$3.7 billion.

Today's decision to suspend the LRP II is expected to save up to \$3.8 billion in electricity system costs relative to the LTEP 2013 forecast, saving the typical residential electricity consumer an average of approximately \$2.45 per month on their electricity bill. This decision, which I will speak to this evening at the Ontario Energy Association's annual conference, is not one we take lightly – but it is one we know is responsible, evidence-based, and will deliver savings to Ontario electricity consumers.

That's what Ontarians expect of us, and that's why I'm proud to serve as Ontario's Minister of Energy. Ontario's government has been and will continue to be a leader in the global shift to clean energy – and the introduction of renewable generation. Back in 2003, Ontario relied on dirty coal-fired power plants for more than 25% of our electricity and in 2005 we had FIFTY-THREE smog days.

Today, coal generation has become a thing of the past. Just like smog days. We can proudly say Ontario's electricity sector is over 90 per cent emissions-free. With about 18,000 MW of renewable generation contracted or online, Ontario remains committed to a clean energy system. And our next Long-Term Energy Plan will consider the complete picture of Ontario's needs and how best to deliver clean, reliable and affordable power for the years ahead.

Thank you very much; I'll be pleased to take your questions.