

Afternoon Energy Media Summary - May 15, 2017

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Date: Mon, 15 May 2017 15:02:34 -0400

Good Afternoon,

Here is a roundup of the day's news:

- NDP to vote against bill that paves the way for 25% hydro rate cut- The Star
- Legislation For Lower Hydro Bills Introduced- The Square
- Energy Minister claims figures in a leaked document obtained by the conservatives are nothing more than projections- North Bay Now
- NDP to vote against bill that paves the way for 25% hydro rate cut- Our Windsor
- NRStor wins approval for 7 MWh compressed air storage project in Ontario- Peter Maloney
- Municipalities 'need tools to do their job': PC Patrick Brown- North Bay Nipissing

Please see below Today in Twitter for news articles.

May 15, 2017 Today in Twitter

- [@Ontario411](#) - Free the renewable energy market in Ontario [http:// ruq.us/Yz5HVcm](http://ruq.us/Yz5HVcm) [#ON](#)
- [@360_energy](#) - NRStor wins approval for 7 MWh compressed air storage project in Ontario
- [@OntarioNDP](#) - Instead of a costly borrowing scheme, we can lower bills & bring Hydro One back to into public hands. Add Your Name: <http://act.ontariondp.ca/hydroplan>
- [@natnewswatch](#) - Ontario NDP to vote against bill that paves the way for 25% hydro rate cut <https://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2017/05/15/ndp-to-vote-against-bill-that-paves-the-way-for-25-hydro-rate-cut.html> ... via [@torontostar](#)
- [@ParrySoundNS](#) - Ontario NDP leader says they will vote down liberal bill to lower hydro rates, calling it a ploy for votes. <http://fb.me/2fp9jCIHx>
- [@brampton_news](#) - Ontario NDP to vote against hydro bill plan [http:// dlvr.it/P8Vdbp](http://dlvr.it/P8Vdbp) [#Brampton](#)
- [@OntarioPCParty](#) - [@brownbarrie](#) asks the Premier to disprove leaked Cabinet document that shows hydro rates to skyrocket after the next election [#onpoli](#)

- [@TBYPO](#) - Commentary: How can we believe the Liberals on hydro? [#onpoli](#) [#StandwithTBYPO](#)
- [@fitzpatrick_m](#) - Ontario NDP Leader [@AndreaHorwath](#) announces her party will vote against Wynne's hydro bill
- [@OntarioPCParty](#) - News: Liberals Covered-Up Return of Debt Retirement Charge: [https:// onpc.ca/2qoj4L9](https://onpc.ca/2qoj4L9) [#onpoli](#)
 - o [@financialsanity](#) - Ask [@GlennThibeault](#) what the new "DRC" will be when interest rates return to historic norms, 200-250 basis points higher than today!
- [@ontarioisproud](#) - No one trusts [@GlennThibeault](#) [http:// globalnews.ca/news/3450357/c ommentary-how-can-we-believe-the-liberals-on-hydro/](http://globalnews.ca/news/3450357/commentary-how-can-we-believe-the-liberals-on-hydro/) ... [#onpoli](#)

[NDP to vote against bill that paves the way for 25% hydro rate cut](#)

By: Rob Ferguson

For: The Star

On: May 15, 2017

New Democrats will vote against the Liberal government's "borrowing bill" that set the stage for Premier Kathleen Wynne's promised 25 per cent hydro rate cut.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath signalled the move Monday over concerns that Ontarians will see lower rates only for a few years then see them climb sharply again according to leaked cabinet documents revealed last week.

"People know, one way or another, they would pay the price," Horwath told reporters after holding a meeting with her MPPs on the issue.

She described the Liberal plan as "relief for a couple of years, then, boom!"

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault unveiled legislation last Thursday to enable and set up the "special purpose (financial) vehicle" to handle the borrowing of billions of dollars to fund the cuts, which will result in ratepayers paying interest of \$25 billion over 30 years to lower rates starting this summer.

The money will amortize the costs of improvements to the hydro system over the last decade — such as phasing out heavily polluting coal-fired plants and contracting more renewable power such as wind and solar — over a longer period of time to give people a break on rates now.

Electricity bills fell 8 per cent starting in January when the government instantly rebated the provincial portion of the HST. Another 17 per cent will come soon.

Both the NDP and Progressive Conservatives have charged the Liberal plan does nothing to lower the structural causes of high electricity prices, and say the rate cuts are a ploy by Wynne to boost her flagging popularity with a provincial election campaign just one year away.

Horwath said she's not worried about the government painting her New Democrats as opposed to the rate cut, saying "the Liberals can play whatever political games they want."

The energy minister has dismissed the leaked cabinet documents, obtained by the Conservatives and first reported here, as “outdated” and denied the government plans to raise hydro rates 10.5 per cent in 2028, when average monthly bills are forecast to hit \$215.

“Hydro rates will be higher than they’ve ever been before,” Conservative Leader Patrick Brown said in the Legislature’s daily question period.

Premier Kathleen Wynne responded with a line similar to Thibeault’s that the documents were “out of date” and “not the document on which the plan was built,” Brown challenged her to show “a new document with rates going down.”

According to the leaked documents, after rates fall this year, they will rise by no more than 2 per cent in the four following years before starting to rise 6.5 per cent annually.

Horwath has promised to cut hydro rates between 17 and 30 per cent if she wins the June 7, 2018 provincial election. The Conservatives have not unveiled a plan for hydro costs.

“The party opposite has no idea what to do with the energy file,” Thibeault shot at Brown during question period.

The Conservatives are having a pre-election policy convention in November.

[Legislation For Lower Hydro Bills Introduced](#)

By: Robert Tuomi

For: The Square

On: May 15, 2017

(TORONTO, ON) – Last Thursday, the Ontario government introduced legislation that will, if passed, lower electricity bills by 17 per cent on average for residential and small business customers. The 17 per cent includes previously announced rate cuts by the Ontario Energy Board, which took effect on May 1.

The 17 per cent does not include the 8% Ontario sales tax which was removed from electricity bills in January. The reduction was offset by tax increases of a combined equal amount. These increases, known as cap and trade taxes, were added to gasoline and natural gas purchases.

The proposed bill, known as the Fair Hydro Act, 2017, will also hold hydro rate increases over the next four years to no more than the rate of inflation. Currently the province’s inflation rate is a little over 2 per cent.

If the province continues with 2% inflation, the impact of its 17% reduction will be severely eroded. In four years, the reduction will be less than 9%. On a related issue, the Ontario Energy Board is still contemplating whether or not to extend its temporary ban on the winter discontinuation of service to hydro customers who are late in paying their bills.

The ban has since been lifted and a review is now being conducted. However the OEB, in a May 1 letter to electrical distributors, has cautioned that it will expect them to be, “... customer focused in their approach to any pending disconnections of residential customers and to ensure that they must continue to follow the current rules.”

The ban did not sit well with Windsor's electricity distributor EnWin, which is owned by the city.

EnWin publicly argued that taking away its ability to cut customers from electricity, even in the winter, would eliminate one of the methods it uses to collect the money it is owed.

The OEB's letter noted that the distributors are, "... strongly encouraged to work with customers facing disconnection to find solutions that achieve the best possible outcome for those customers, including providing information and payment options to maintain the customer's connection."

[Energy Minister claims figures in a leaked document obtained by the conservatives are nothing more than projections](#)

By: Aaron Mahoney
For: My North Bay Now
On: May 15, 2017

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says the leaking of an internal Liberal document by the Ontario Progressive Conservatives on the same day as the Fair Hydro Plan was introduced in the legislature at Queen's Park was just a dirty political trick. The leaked cabinet document came out on Thursday and showed that after the first four years of electricity relief under the plan that prices would be on the rise. Thibeault was asked about the leak during a stop in North Bay over the weekend. He says they're holding rates down to the cost of inflation for the next four years, and any numbers after that point are just projections. Those projections show that rates will start rising 6.5 per cent a year in 2022 and top out at 10.5 per cent in 2028, when average monthly bills hit \$215. That would be up from \$123 this year once the rate cut from the Fair Hydro Plan takes full effect.

Thibeault says those numbers are just one set of many, many projections that they've looked at. He says they've always said that they're holding rates down to the cost of inflation for the next four years. But then after that, it's his job as the Minister of Energy to find ways to continue to pull costs out of the system so that the projections that were talked about won't be high. Thibeault says when they look at where the cost of energy will be in 10 years as a projection, they do it through the Long-Term Energy Plan. He says in 2010, they had a Long-Term Energy Plan that said energy costs right now, today, should be \$178. Thibeault continued by saying in 2013, the Long-Term Energy Plan said that cost should be \$170. He says they've continued to pull costs out of the system because today the average cost in the province is \$156.

Thibeault says the PCs have no plan on how to address the energy issues in the province. He says when the Liberals brought forward the Fair Hydro Plan, all the PCs could do was produce a leaked document, not offer any solution for families. Thibeault finished by saying the PCs used an outdated document to distract from the fact that they are the only major party without a plan for dealing with hydro rates ahead next June's provincial election. Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli was hanging around in the parking lot of North Bay Hydro on Friday to offer up a response to Thibeault. Fedeli said he'd use the opportunity to correct the minister again, using real facts. He says the Liberals continue to talk about their plan, but they're not telling people how they're going to pay for it. Fedeli says the bottom line is they did nothing to fix the problems at Hydro. Fedeli concluded by saying the government is adding \$50 billion of additional payments to pay for the mistakes that they've made and the documents delivered to them by a whistle-blower

confirmed it.

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[NRStor wins approval for 7 MWh compressed air storage project in Ontario](#)

By: Peter Maloney

For: Peter Maloney

On: May 15, 2017

The city council of Goderich, Ontario, has approved a proposal by NRtor for a 1.75 MW, 7 MWh compressed air energy storage (CAES) plant.

The project would pump air into an unused salt cavern during off peak hours and generate electricity by using the stored during times when electricity is in greater demand and more expensive.

Unlike other CEAS projects, the NRStor Goderich project would use technology developed by Hydrostor that captures heat from compressing the air in order to avoid using natural gas.

Story continues below

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Your Guide to the SGIP's \$448 Million of Incentives

The comprehensive report from Utility Dive and Strategen will help you thoroughly understand and tap into the largest state incentive program for storage in the US.

Dive Insight:

One of the advantages of CAES technology is its ability to provide long duration energy storage solutions.

NRStor's Goderich project would be able to discharge energy for up to four hours. The project also would use technology that strips the heat from compressing air and stores it in a thermal heat exchanger developed by Hydrostor. The stored heat is then used as the compressed air is discharged to turn the turbines that power the generators.

With a traditional CEAS project the air would have to be heated to power the turbines, typically using natural gas.

Hydrostor's heat exchanger is one element in another CAES technology Hydrostor is developing. The Toronto company compresses air into water reservoirs to stabilize the pressure and improve efficiencies.

It is developing variants of that technology. One stores the air in underwater balloons, the

other stores the air in underground caverns.

The Goderich project only uses Hydrostor's heat exchanger, but that still means it is able to store and discharge energy without creating any emissions.

Katherine Peretick, NRStor's director of engineering, said the Goderich project would be the first fuel-free CAES project in the world.

[Municipalities 'need tools to do their job': PC Patrick Brown](#)

By: Laurel J Campbell
For: North Bay Nipissing
On: May 15, 2017

NORTH BAY — Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown says red tape is costing people much need wages.

"Nowhere do we see more red tape than in the dangerous species act," said Brown speaking to the annual convention of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) in North Bay last week.

Such legislation, he said, sees "hard-working people sent home from their jobs" because of issues like "turtle crossing restrictions."

Brown lashed out at the Liberal government for what he called "a lack of support for the forestry industry," citing a decrease of 50 per cent of forestry jobs in the last decade, and for "taking the north for granted. Northern Ontario did not even have an opportunity to provide input on the mining legislation," he said.

Speaking to the municipal leaders from across Northern Ontario, including those from Parry Sound and Nipissing Districts, Brown said the Liberal government only took action on Ontario Hydro bills after people in southern Ontario became vocal.

"When they realized it was going to affect their seats in Toronto, they suddenly woke up," he said, but added that this "short-sighted approach hurts Northern Ontario more than southern Ontario. The cost to operate our hockey rinks, hospitals and community centres are affected when the hydro bills are going through the roof."

Pointing at the councillors and mayors in the auditorium, Brown said, "You have to wear that. These costs are in your budgets."

And it wasn't just mounting bills that Brown brought to the municipal leaders' attention.

"Under the Liberal government, 600 Ontario schools have been closed," he said. "When a school is taken out of community, you rip the heart out of that community."

Brown said school closures were "the best recipe to depopulate a municipality. When you're trying to bring in new employers or businesses, it hurts your pitch if there's no place for their children to go to school."

Stressing that "municipalities need the tools to do their job," Brown said he repeatedly hears the same concerns from municipalities but the government doesn't respond.

"It's like the movie Groundhog Day," he said. "I hear the same concerns every year, but

they don't get acted upon. The Liberal government must recognize that a prosperous Northern Ontario means a prosperous province of Ontario."

Over 200 delegates attended the convention held May 10-12 at Nipissing University, which looked at specific concerns for Northern Ontario communities.

Through keynote speakers and workshops, the municipal leaders were given an opportunity to "take tangible tools back to their communities," said FONOM president Al Spacek, mayor of Kapuskasing.

With sessions planned to provide for interaction with a variety of provincial ministers, party leaders and senior bureaucrats, Spacek hoped the message would become clear that when it comes to Northern Ontario, "one size does not fit all."