Afternoon Energy Media Summary - November 28, 2016

From: "Doig Moore, Jacqueline (ENERGY)" <jacqueline.doigmoore@ontario.ca>
To: "@ENERGY All" <energy-all2@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Date: Mon, 28 Nov 2016 15:00:42 -0500

Good Afternoon,

Here is a roundup of the day's news:

- Exclusive: Shutting down nuclear plants, buying Quebec hydro is path to cheaper electricity – Global News
- Ontario electricity rates: Experts explain how they would make power cheaper - Global News
- Jack MacLaren urges residents to speak up against rising hydro costs - West Carleton Review
- Huge Hydro Bill in Owen Sound - Bayshore Broadcasting
- Hydro costs force Kingsville greenhouse to expand outside Ontario - CBC News
- Financial Accountability Office warns of continued budget deficits in Ontario – Canadian Press
- Comparing some of Canada's hydro rates - Farms.com
- Power restored on north side after early morning blackout – CBC News

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

Today in Twitter

November 28, 2016

- Mike Crawley @CBCQueensPark - "Buy food or pay my hydro bill?" Rising electricity costs pose challenge for Ontario's 335,000 food banks users
- Keith Leslie @PCnewsboy - Ontario Energy Min @GlennThibeault says buying wind + solar power was arbitrary + led to sub-optimal siting + uncompetitive prices. #onpoli
- Globalnews.ca @globalnews - 'It ruined me': Ontario fixed income seniors forced to move due to sky high hydro rates
- The Empire Club @Empire_Club - Honoured to have the Minister of Energy, the Honourable Glenn Thibeault at our podium. #glennthibeault #ministerofenergy #empireclubofcanada
- Alan Carter @ACarterglobal - Energy Minister @GlennThibeault advocating for more competition in electricity system, including the possibility of more LDCs #onpoli
- Alan Carter @ACarterglobal - New buzzword from @GlennThibeault at Empire Club speech in hydro is "technology-agnostic." #onpoli
- Clean Air Alliance @oncleanair - Jack Gibbons, OCAA on @globalnewsto tonight 5:30 talking sol'n to high electricity rates is to cancel Darlington #onpoli @GlennThibeault
- Ont. Fed of Ag @OntarioFarms - This week's http://ofa.on.ca poll question: Have you sent a letter to your MPP asking for natural gas at http://actnow.ofa.on.ca ?

Exclusive: Shutting down nuclear plants, buying Quebec hydro is path to cheaper electricity
By Brian Hill Reporter, November 28, 2016 10:08 am
Global News

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance says Premier Kathleen Wynne can help solve Ontario's electricity affordability problems by cancelling the planned $12.8 billion refurbishment of the province's Darlington nuclear facility and purchasing cheaper hydro-electric power from Quebec.

The organization is also calling on the province to scrap plans for extending the life of the Pickering nuclear facility and to begin its immediate decommissioning.

In a statement obtained by Global News, Jack Gibbons, chair of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance, says Wynne's decision to proceed with nuclear refurbishment "unnecessarily" increases electricity bills.

"Premier Wynne's decision to prop up aging nuclear plants has nothing to do with keeping the price of electricity down for you. In fact, her nuclear plans are going to unnecessarily increase your bills," Gibbons said.

The increases Gibbons is referring to relate to a recent rate-increase proposal put forward by Ontario Power Generation, the provincially-owned company responsible for managing the Darlington and Pickering nuclear facilities.

The application asks the Ontario Energy Board to approve a 66 per cent rate increase for nuclear power generated at the two facilities over the next five years. If approved, the price the government pays OPG for nuclear power would increase from the current rate of 5.9 cents per kilowatt-hour to roughly 10 cents per kilowatt-hour by 2021.

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance is an environmental group that worked to help phase out coal in Ontario and favours renewables such as hydro-electric power, wind and solar over the use of fossil-fuels and nuclear-generated power.

While OPG's proposal is limited to the next five years, the application also references plans to extend the rise in prices at a rate of 11 per cent per year between 2016 and 2026 as a way of recovering the cost of refurbishment.

If approved, these additional increases would see the per kilowatt-hour price of nuclear power generated by OPG – until now one of the cheapest forms of electricity produced in Ontario – rise from 9.9 cents in 2021 to nearly 17 cents by 2026 – a 185 per cent increase over the 2016 price.
A better way forward, says Gibbons, would be to forget nuclear refurbishment altogether and agree to purchase more electricity from Quebec.

Buying more from Quebec

In October, Wynne and Couillard announced plans for Ontario to purchase two terawatt-hours of electricity from Quebec each year – enough power to run nearly 230,000 Ontarian homes.

But Gibbons thinks this amount is nowhere near enough. He says Ontario needs to abandon its costly addiction to nuclear power in exchange for strengthening ties with Quebec.

"[Wynne] needs to spend the $2 billion to upgrade transmission lines to Quebec that OPG says Ontario can't afford," said Gibbons, who believes the strategy would save the province billions. "The solution to Premier Wynne's expensive electricity problem is staring her in the face – and it's saying 'Bienvenue à Québec!'"

Quebec's clean energy surplus

So exactly how much clean energy does Quebec have?

Quebec produces roughly 99 per cent of its electricity from hydroelectric dams and is among the largest producers of clean energy in the world.
At present, Quebec has the capacity to produce roughly 200 terawatt-hours of electricity each year – enough to power nearly 23 million homes.

The province exports approximately 15 per cent of this total to places like New York, Massachusetts, New Brunswick and Ontario, but Gibbons says this amount could more than double from 31 to 62 terawatt-hours a year if Quebec were to make improvements to its energy system's efficiency.

Gibbons cites a [report](#) from Montreal's HEC school of energy management which says such measures would not only be cost-efficient – meaning they'd save Quebec ratepayers money – but they'd also free up as much as 31 terawatt-hours of electricity for export.

This point is further illustrated by a 2014 [report](#) prepared for the Quebec Ministry of Energy and natural resources which states that upward of 90 per cent of Quebec's energy exports are sold on the open market, without any long-term contracts, at an average price of three cents per kilowatt-hour – or roughly 40 per cent less than what Ontario has agreed to pay for Quebec's hydro power.

Ministry of Energy responds

Ontario's energy minister Glenn Thibeault says the Clean Air Alliance is misguided if it thinks energy imports from Quebec alone can meet Ontario's need for clean, reliable electricity.

"The Clean Air Alliance is wrong to suggest all of this could simply be replaced with electricity imports from Quebec," said Thibeault. "Over the past decade, Ontario completely phased out dirty coal as a source of electricity. This is the largest climate change initiative in North America, and our safe, reliable nuclear energy supply was part of what made it possible."

Thibeault also says that while costs of the Darlington rebuild are significant, the planning process and job creation aspects of the project will ensure it's done right and that Ontarians will benefit from the project as a whole.

"Planning for these projects has taken five years, even building a full-scale mock reactor to fine-tune the refurbishment process," said Thibeault. "The Darlington refurbishment project alone will create up to 12,000 jobs in Ontario, and provide almost $15 billion in economic benefits."

And while the large-scale import of electricity is at least theoretically possible, Thibeault says differences in the provinces' energy needs and capacity make it highly impractical – a statement echoed by OPG.

"Imports on the scale the Clean Air Alliance suggests would require billions of dollars in costly system upgrades from both provinces and still would not provide the sort of reliable, home-grown electricity that we get from nuclear," Thibeault said.

What to do with nuclear

For now, Ontario is moving full-steam ahead with plans to refurbish the Darlington nuclear plant and extend the life of the aging Pickering facility.
The costs associated with these rebuilds will be passed on to Ontario ratepayers through the province's Global Adjustment fee and will equal roughly $1.05 more per month on average electricity bills over the next decade.

But as Gibbons points out, this is dependent upon planned refurbishments coming on time and on budget – something Gibbons says no major nuclear project in Ontario's history has ever accomplished.

Instead of rebuilding, Gibbons suggests the province cut its losses and commence with the immediate decommissioning of the Pickering plant, which has already exceeded its maximum life-expectancy. He says the Darlington plant should also be allowed to expire and then be decommissioned.

A report prepared for the Ontario Clean Air Alliance by Torrie Smith and Associates, a Toronto-area energy consulting firm, concludes that immediate decommissioning of the Pickering plant is not only the most practical and cost-effective solution to the province's nuclear problem, but also the method of decommissioning preferred by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

According to the report, OPG had roughly $7.4 billion available as of Jan. 1, 2015 for decommissioning. These funds are earmarked specifically for shutting down the province's nuclear facilities and cannot be used for any other purpose.

OPG prefers what's known as "deferred decommissioning," meaning spent nuclear materials will be removed the site and the plant secured for 30 years before decommissioning begins.

However, the Torrie Smith report suggests that immediate decommissioning would not only save money – between $800 million and $1.2 billion when compared to the deferred option – it would also create thousands of jobs and permit a smooth transition for those currently working in Ontario's nuclear industry.

If the province goes ahead with plans to extend the life of the Pickering plant, it will remain operational until 2024, at which point it will have to be decommissioned.

The Darlington plant, meanwhile, could remain operational until sometime in the 2070s.

Ontario electricity rates: Experts explain how they would make power cheaper
Global News
November 28, 2016

Over 90 per cent of Ontarians want some form of relief on their electricity bills, and Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne has called high energy costs in the province her "mistake."

And as Global News first reported, nearly 60,000 households were disconnected in 2015 after they fell behind on their bills.

So what should the Ontario government do — if anything — to fix the problem? Global News asked three experts to weigh in and explain what they would do.

The following is by both Parker Gallant, a retired banker who now analyses Ontario's energy sector and is the author of the blog "Energy Perspectives" as well as Jane Wilson, the president of Wind Concerns Ontario.

The Ontario government undertook its program to add renewable power without proper cost-benefit or impact analysis.

Now we have electricity bills that are the fastest rising in North America. The rich contracts awarded to huge corporate wind power developers are a factor.

Here's what we suggest:

Immediately cancel Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) II that is currently "suspended." With its target of acquiring 1,000 megawatts (MW) of more renewable capacity — it's not needed and will further add to consumers' power bills.

Cancel the five wind power contracts awarded in 2016 under LRP I and save electricity customers about $65 million annually or $1.3 billion over 20 years. Cancellation costs will amount to a small fraction of the annual cost. Cancelling approved but not yet built wind power projects and the new FIT 5.0 program will also save money.

Cancel "conservation" spending of $400 million annually. Ontario has already cut back on power use by more than 12 per cent since 2005 when consumption was 157 tWh to 2015 when it had fallen to 137 tWh. Do this and save immediately on electricity bills.

Move the Ontario Electricity Support Program to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, where this social assistance program really belongs. Electricity customers should not bear the burden of its costs. The move would create a budget shortfall so we recommend the following action:

Levy a tax on wind (and solar) power generation. The auditor general reported that 20-year wind and solar contracts exceed those in other jurisdictions — the tax would help correct that.

Last, reduce the Time of Use (TOU) off-peak rate. This would encourage the shift of power consumption from peak to off-peak time in order to flatten daily demand, with less waste of hydro and nuclear power, and intermittent wind.

Let's stop adding expensive, intermittent power to our system and stop punishing Ontarians.

The following is by Mark Winfield, a professor of Environmental Studies at York University, and co-chair of the University's Sustainable Energy Initiative.

Recent public debates about electricity prices in Ontario have focused strongly on the cost of renewable energy under the Green Energy Act. This focus is misguided, as the province's renewable energy program has only accounted for a relatively small portion of the total increases in electricity costs.

Nuclear power plant refurbishment projects, the construction of new natural gas fire plants, upgrades to long-neglected transmission and distribution infrastructure and simple inflation have accounted for much larger portions of the overall cost increases.

The proposed refurbishments of the Bruce and Darlington nuclear power stations are by far the largest areas of risk for further cost increases, given the well-established history of delays and massive cost overruns on previous nuclear projects in Ontario.

It is important to recall as well that Ontario's electricity rates remain in the middle of the pack relative to other Canadian provinces and U.S. states. Similar rate increases have been seen in other jurisdictions needing to undertake major renewals of their electricity systems following extended periods of low capital investment, as has been the case in Ontario.

That said, there are several steps the province could take to reduce electricity costs to consumers, and to reduce the risk of further electricity cost increases in the future.

First, the province should make energy conservation its priority for investments in the system.

Conservation remains the most cost-effective way of meeting energy needs, and carries with it many benefits in terms of improved housing quality and economic efficiency.

Secondly, the province should undertake an independent, public, evidence-based evaluation of the environmental and economic risks associated with the Darlington and Bruce refurbishment projects, before they proceed.

An evaluation of the economic, environmental, and technical performance of potential alternatives to these projects, such as increased electricity imports from Quebec, should be undertaken in parallel.

Third, in the longer term, Ontario needs to establish a meaningful independent, public review and approval process for its electricity plans to ensure their resilience, and economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Finally, the province must abandon the misguided sale of Hydro One. Privatization of the utility can only lead to higher costs for consumers.

The following is by Tom Adams, an energy consultant and researcher

Start telling the truth about the extent of the problems Ontario power consumers now face — that's the most important government reform needed to start controlling Ontario's power costs.

Three of the many false claims propping up Ontario's power policies relate to exports, conservation and how Ontario's rates compare.

Endlessly repeated government claims that Ontario's soaring power exports are profitable don't square with average export revenue yieldings — less than 20 per cent of the cost of production from generation being added under new government contracts.

Conservation programs, now costing in excess of $400 million per year, are harming, not helping consumers. Rising power rates have been driving down electricity demand since 2005. Meanwhile, the total annual cost that must be collected from consumers has soared. Collecting a rising total amount from declining units of sales is one of the many factors driving up rates. Subsidizing conservation might sound warm and fuzzy but notice that Ontario consumers are at the same time getting stung paying generators to not generate and massively subsidizing power exports.

The government and its fellow advocates for higher power rates claim that Ontario's power rates compare well with other jurisdictions. The only evidence they have to support this nonsense are rate surveys that cherry pick a handful of the worst utilities in the United States. Ontario's power rates do compare well against the European jurisdictions like Germany and Denmark that the Ontario government has tried to emulate, but Ontario's residential power rates are now the highest in Canada and 13 per cent above the average for the contiguous U.S., exceeded by only 10 U.S. states.

When the time comes to stabilize Ontario's electricity future, Ontario's legislature must repeal Green Energy and Green Economy Act, legislation that drove unprecedented politicization of power sector decision making and needless harms ratepayers.

Jack MacLaren urges residents to speak up against rising hydro costs
West Carleton Review
By Kelly McCarthy

Carleton-Mississippi Mills Conservative MPP Jack MacLaren is urging residents who are unhappy with their Hydro One bills to make their voices heard.

MacLaren held the first of four town hall meetings on Nov. 26 at the Stewart Community Centre in Pakenham to rally his constituents to stand up against the current hydro structure and to shed light on exactly what ratepayers are funding with each month's bill.

"The Ontario energy crisis seems to defy logical explanation," MacLaren said during the meeting. "I think you'll all be surprised to learn what you've been charged for."

Attendees of the meeting had the opportunity to hear a presentation from Parker Gallant, a retired banker, journalist and former chairman of the Canadian Bankers Association's trade finance committee, who went over some of the "hidden fees" included in the average hydro bill from Hydro One. His presentation, arranged by Conservative MacLaren, was critical of the Liberal government.

For example, Gallant told the crowd that off-peak hydro rates have increased 222 per cent in the last six years, since May 1, 2008. While there was no rate increase on Nov. 1 of this year, Gallant said he suspects Hydro One is "just delaying the inevitable" increase to another time.

On Jan. 1 of this year, Hydro One ratepayers also adopted the Ontario Electricity Support Program, which offers support for low-income families to receive a small break on their hydro bill. Everyone else, Gallant said, picks up the fall from those discounts.

"Why burden the rest of the ratepayers in the province?" Gallant asked.

The Liberal government has also introduced a Rural and Remote Rate Protection program, effective Jan. 1, 2017, which aims to reduce the costs to provide electricity to communities not hooked into the conventional grid, such as First Nations communities. Gallant said he doesn't think ratepayers should have to pay for that, either.

All in all, Gallant said that the average Hydro One bill has increased 33 per cent over the last 24 months. He ended his presentation with a slide that read, "When I was young I was scared of the dark. Now when I see my electricity bill I am scared of the lights."

Several of the meetings attendees were curious to know what a Conservative government would do in the Liberal's place.

"What would you advise a future, Conservative government do?" Richard Bonato, a Carp resident, asked.

Ross Valliant, another Carp resident, directed the same question at MacLaren.

"We'd call Parker," MacLaren said in answer, referring to Gallant.

MacLaren went on to say that a decade ago, Ontarians had average incomes that were 10 per cent higher than the average for the rest of the country. Now, he said, Ontarians have a lower average income than the national average.

"We are suffering – we have neighbours who are suffering," he added. "We are taxing the poor to pay the rich – that's what the current government is doing."

MacLaren said that he urges all residents who are "fed up" with their hydro bills to write to their local MPs, MPPs, the Minister of Energy (Glenn Thibeault) and Ontario's Premier Kathleen Wynne.

"We have to make a lot of noise," MacLaren said. "If they get a stack of mail and it all says the same thing, they'll get the message."

MacLaren said that the issue of hydro is the number one item that his office receives the most calls about, and that the rate of calls is only increasing.

“I thought it would be good for people to collect and talk about it,” he said. “To sort of gather people to stand up and say we’ve had enough.”

MacLaren has drafted a petition that he plans to bring forward at the legislature to protest hydro prices in Ontario. It can be found on his website at jackmaclarenmpp.com.

“A lot of people are mad as hell and we need to do something,” he said.

MacLaren will host two more town halls featuring Gallant’s hydro presentation, in addition to the two he hosted on Nov. 26 in Pakenham and Kanata:

• Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Kinburn Community Centre from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

• Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Intercultural Dialogue Institute in Kanata from 2 to 4 p.m.

Huge Hydro Bill in Owen Sound
Bayshore Broadcasting
Owen Sound | by Claire McCormack
Monday, November 28, 2016

The City of Owen Sound is being charged a huge fee by Hydro One.

It's called a Global Adjustment Fee and for one billing period, which was about a month from October to November the fee was $4,923 for 13 street lamp accounts.

The actual energy consumption bill was $442, and City Manager Wayne Ritchie says the global adjustment fee is ten times the cost of energy.

Ritchie says since switching to LED lamps actual energy usage has gone down.

He's talked to Hydro One in the past about global adjustment.

He says "It's a fee they're allowed to charge and they charge it."

He adds, on Hydro One's website the page "Understanding My Bill" is no help.

Ritchie says "I'm not sure it would be understandable to anybody, what that charge is covering."

"If you go to Hydro One's website you can see what numbers they throw into their calculations, at times it's a tremendous charge to the ratepayer."

Ritchie says once you combine the delivery charge which is also ten times the energy and then you add the smaller charges for regulatory ($341), and debt retirement ($344), "You end up taking a $442 energy consumption charge and you end up paying well over ten thousand dollars."

He says Owen Sound is not alone, the City of Oshawa has been vocal about the charge.

He notes municipalities have been criticizing the rising cost of energy at past Association of Municipalities of Ontario conferences (AMO).

He isn't sure what the city will do next, or if there is anything it can do about the fee.

"At this point other than complaining and making it public, there's not much that municipalities can do."

Hydro costs force Kingsville greenhouse to expand outside Ontario
CBC News
Posted: Nov 28, 2016 9:04 AM ET Last Updated: Nov 28, 2016 9:05 AM ET

Greenhouse growers in Kingsville are choosing to expand operations outside of Canada because of rising hydro rates.

After operating in the region for 45 years, owners at Mucci Farms are building a new greenhouse in Ohio, saying the cost of being in Ontario is just too high.

Bert Mucci would prefer to expand his business in the region, but hydro rates continue to rise. Instead, the business will stay in the region, while building their new U.S. operation.

"If we had competitive electricity rates, we would be doubling our production here," he said.

As the winter months approach, greenhouse growers are firing up their lights, and that means hydro costs are about to become even more grim.

"We are paying one of the highest rates in North America," Mucci said. "It's causing us to move out of Ontario right now."

Mucci Farms has paid up to 18 cents per kilowatt, but the company can get hydro for 6 cents a kilowatt in Ohio.

"The only thing in Ohio that's making it the most effective is the electricity costs," he said. "We have the best of the best here."

Corrections

A previous version of this story stated Mucci Farms was located in Leamington and planned to move operations to Ohio.
Nov 28, 2016 8:46 AM ET

Financial Accountability Office warns of continued budget deficits in Ontario
THE CANADIAN PRESS
November 28, 2016
Posted: 1:25 PM

TORONTO - Ontario's government spending watchdog warns there is "significant risk" the Liberals will not eliminate a $4.3 billion deficit next year, but Finance Minister Charles Sousa insists the books will be balanced as promised.

In his fall economic statement Nov. 14, Sousa announced he would dip into the reserve fund to ensure a balanced budget in 2017-18, in part because of an accounting change in the way pension liabilities are calculated.

``We're balancing next year and we're balancing the year after that," Sousa said Monday. ``We're much more aggressive in our assumptions, and while the FAO is estimating that impact (from the accounting change) will be $1.5 billion a year, we said it would be $2.2 billion and $3.7 billion."

The Financial Accountability Office issued a report Monday insisting the Liberals were relying on ``optimistic assumptions for revenue growth and program spending restraint." The FAO said the government's revenue projection is $2.8 billion higher than its estimate for 2016-17, and $5.2 billion higher by 2018-19.

``The government has a variety of tools that it could use to temporarily improve the budget balance in 2017-18," concludes the FAO report. ``Beyond 2017-18, maintaining a balanced budget will likely require additional measures to raise revenues or reduce expenses."

But Sousa insisted the government could reach balance next year without new or increased taxes or cutting government programs.

``We're very confident that we're balancing next year and the year after that because of the disciplined nature of the program spending restraints we put in place and without sacrificing the things that matter," he said.

``We're investing over $1 billion more into health care, we're putting more into education and we're providing for social programs to ensure that everyone is able to participate in the increased prosperity of the province."

The FAO questioned how the government will pay for new promises it made in September's throne speech to discount the eight per cent provincial portion of the HST from hydro bills and to create 100,000 new child care spaces.

The FAO assumed program spending would increase $1.8 billion annually to fund the hydro rebate and to create the child care spaces, but Sousa's fall economic statement reported program expenses only $400 million higher in 2018-19 compared to the 2016 budget,

``That suggests that these new initiatives may be partially funded though reallocations from existing programs or the contingency funds,'' concluded the FAO's report.

``Government officials indicated that since the policy details for the child care expansion are still being developed, the final cost of the program has not been fully incorporated into the fiscal plan.''

The Progressive Conservatives said the FAO's report shows the Liberals' fall economic statement did not reflect reality.

``Contrary to minister Sousa's numbers, the FAO has projected a budget deficit of $2.6 billion in 2017-18 and a 'significant risk'
of a structural deficit going forward,'' said PC finance critic Vic Fedeli.

``The FAO has confirmed minister Sousa's plan to balance the budget in the election year of 2017-18 is a complete fantasy and will only be artificial.''

Sousa reported in the fall economic statement ago that Ontario's net debt-to-GDP ratio would peak at 40.3 per cent in 2016-17 and then edge down to 39.3 per cent by 2018-19. But the FAO projected the debt-to-GDP ratio would hit 41 per cent, primarily because of ``continued deficits beyond 2017-18.''

Comparing some of Canada's hydro rates

Farms.com
By Diego Flammini **Assistant Editor, North American Content**

With cold weather arriving in parts of Canada, farmers are turning up the heat in their barns to keep produce, livestock and other investments safe.

On Monday, Mucci Farms, greenhouse growers from Kingsville, Ont., said it's looking to build a new greenhouse in Ohio because the hydro rates are much lower.

In Ontario, hydro can cost up to 18 cents per kilowatt hour, while in Ohio rates are as low as six cents per kilowatt, according to CBC.

"We are paying one of the highest rates in North America," grower Bert Mucci told CBC. "It's causing us to move out of Ontario right now."

Farms.com has compiled some hydro rates from many of Canada's provinces.

British Columbia (Farm Rate)
Basic charge of $0.1957 per day.
Energy charge of $0.0993 per kWh (kilowatt hour).
5 per cent Rate Rider applied to all charges before taxes and levies. The Rate Rider covers additional and unpredictable energy costs resulting from things including low water inflows or higher-than-forecast market prices.

Saskatchewan (Farm Rate)
For farms with "normal household and agricultural use, up to and including 3,000 kVA."
Basic monthly charge of $32.61.
Demand charge of $0 for the first 50 kVA (kilovolt ampere), and $11.981 per kVA afterwards.
Energy charge of 11.803¢ for the first 16,000 kWh and 5.118¢ per kWh afterwards

Alberta
Farmers in Alberta can choose from different companies.
Direct Energy Regulated Services – Farm rate of 3.880¢ per kWh as of November 2016.
ENMAX Energy Corporation – 3.8114¢ per kWh for residential and commercial use.
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP – 3.736¢ per kWh for residential and small commercial use.

EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (Fortis service area) – Farm rate of 3.709¢ per kWh.

On November 22, the Government of Alberta announced changes to hydro pricing. In June 2017, when the changes are implemented, Albertans can sign a contract to pay no more than 6.8¢ per kWh for four years.

Manitoba

Monthly basic charge (not exceeding 200 Amp) - $7.82.
Monthly basic charge (exceeding 200 Amp) - $15.64.
Energy charge of 7.930¢ kWh.

Ontario

For customers with Smart Meters, different rates apply at different times of the year. Ontario Hydro is currently in its Winter Rate.
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – On peak rate of 18¢ per kWh
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Mid peak rate of 13.2¢ per kWh
5:00 p.m. To 7:00 p.m. – On peak rate of 18¢ per kWh
7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., weekends and holidays – Off peak rate of 8.7¢ per kWh

Many farmers in Ontario fall under the residential - low density delivery rate, and some are eligible to apply for a year-round residential rate status.

Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath met with dairy farmers in Windsor at the beginning of November to address concerns.

Power restored on north side after early morning blackout

Weather to blame for power outages
CBC News Posted: Nov 28, 2016 8:20 AM ET Last Updated: Nov 28, 2016 11:30 AM ET

Thunder Bay Hydro crews have restored power to Thunder Bay's north side after a power outage left about 4000 customers without electricity at 5:30 a.m.

The outage at Broadway Ave. and 20th Side Rd. is ongoing, with Hydro estimating power to be returned around 1:15 p.m.

Wind, along with snow still on tree branches being weighted down by this morning's rain is to blame, said Eileen Dias of Thunder Bay Hydro.

"As long as the winds keep up, it's very possible this is what the day's going to look like," said Dias.

"We've done restorations in the north end of the city, however, high winds continue to cause smaller outages."