

Afternoon Energy Media Summary - September 19, 2016

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Good Afternoon,
Here is a roundup of the day's news:

Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn champions hydro rebate plan – *Oakville Beaver*

Cambridge Towel to get a break from high-cost energy 'penalty' of doing business in Ontario – *Cambridge Times*

International nuclear power experts arrive at Pickering – *PennEnergy*

Thunder Bay Hydro seeks input on proposed rate hike – *TB News Watch*

Thunder Bay Hydro Customers Asked to Participate in Survey – NetNewsLedger

U of G Recognized for Energy Efficiency, Receives \$5.8 Million – *University of Guelph News*

Pump up your business' savings at no cost with Toronto Hydro's new conservation program – *CNW*

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

Today in Twitter September 19, 2016

[@ KarenPtbo](#) - 2013-14 ON gave away \$1.2 BILLION worth of energy; looks like in 2015 it's another \$1.1 BILLION [@Kathleen Wynne](#) Scrap Green Act now, [# onpoli](#)

[@ Sam_CA_Toronto](#) - Some **hydro** rate relief coming in January pocket change
[#TorontoAccountant](#) for [#Tax](#) [#Taxrelief](#) [#Toronto](#) [# Ontario](#)



Sarah WP @SarahWPojanski · 2h

In case you haven't heard, #HamOnt is going to get together to address the #hydro price issue. #onpoli

Hamiltonians Against High Hydro!



struggling to keep up with energy costs??

Do you want to let local and provincial politicians know that you are FED UP with bad energy policies?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, please join us for a peaceful public protest.

September 28th, 5 p.m

City Hall, Hamilton

www.facebook.com/events/1577987359177634/



Christine Van Geyn @cvangeyn · 5h

Hey @ScottTalking, remember when @GlennThibeault said this on your show?

#FACEPALM #ONPOLI



[Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn champions hydro rebate plan](#)

Oakville Beaver

By [David Lea](#)

September 19, 2016

Ontario Labour Minister and Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn stopped by Oakville Hydro's headquarters at Redwood Square Friday (Sept. 16) to explain the provincial government's announcement last week aimed at lowering household hydro bills.

The move was announced by Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell Sept. 12 following the Liberal loss in the Scarborough-Rouge River by-election.

It includes:

- Reducing Ontario residential electricity bills by eight per cent on the amount before tax, an average savings of about \$130 annually or \$11 each month
- Providing eligible rural ratepayers with additional relief, decreasing total electricity bills by an average of \$540 a year or \$45 each month
- Empowering businesses to reduce their bill by up to 34 per cent through the expansion of the Industrial Conservation Initiative

All these changes are to take effect at the start of 2017.

The Liberal government says it will positively impact about five million residential consumers, farms and small businesses, along with more than 1,000 industrial customers.

While rising hydro rates have been a topic of concern to many Ontarians, Flynn said understanding how Ontario got to this point, requires looking back to the electrical system the Liberals inherited in 2003 when they came to power.

“Any objective analysis would tell you Ontario’s electrical system wasn’t in very good shape back in 2003. It wasn’t really a system we could rely on. There were brownouts, blackouts. We were still burning an awful lot of coal. The future of the nuclear baseload was in question,” said Flynn.

“Over the past 13 years, we took that challenge up and decided the system had to be transformed, had to be modernized. Those improvements had to be made and we were determined to be the first jurisdiction in North America that got off burning coal... Though it was inexpensive and very dispatchable we knew coal had some very dark sides to it from a health perspective and we needed to get off it and we did.”

While Flynn said these efforts stabilized Ontario’s power supply and set up the province for the low carbon economy of the future, he acknowledged there was a cost to these investments and said the government recognizes these costs have put pressure on households and small business budgets.

“We’ve heard from Ontarians that they could use some help with those hydro bills... so I am pleased to be able to stand before you today and announce Ontario is going to be taking action to reduce electricity costs in a lasting, meaningful and permanent way,” said Flynn.

“Yesterday the Minister of Energy, Glen Thibeault, introduced the Ontario Rebate Electricity Consumers Act of 2016. What that will do is permanently rebate the provincial portion of the HST directly off the electricity bill of millions of families, farms, rural properties and small businesses throughout this province.”

The new measures come into effect Jan. 1, 2017 when the average Ontario family would see the savings reflected in their hydro bill.

Flynn said the modernization of the Rural/Remote Electricity Rate Protection would result in a 20 per cent decrease in electricity costs for more than 300,000 eligible rural customers.

He said the government is also working on bringing natural gas to more rural communities to help further cut their energy costs.

When asked if \$11 off their hydro bills each month is enough of a reduction for Ontario families, Flynn pointed out that total is just the average and residents with higher hydro bills would see significantly higher reductions.

“There is a cost to coming off coal, there is a cost to having clean energy and there is a cost to the health implications that perhaps aren’t taken into account. When people are going into the hospital, when kids are dealing with asthma, there is a cost to dealing with that as well,” said Flynn.

“This is something the Province is able to do on a direct basis. It is something we are able to do very quickly. Are we prepared to look at other programs in the future? Absolutely.”

Flynn pointed out a review of energy costs found that only one province in Canada pays less for its electricity than Ontario and that is British Columbia.

He said Ontario’s electricity rates are about half of what would be found in places like Los Angeles, New York, Boston or Chicago.

Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris, who represents the Halton provincial electoral district including Milton and north Oakville, also praised the hydro rebate plan during a similar event in Milton.

In a press release issued last week Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown called on the Liberal government to stop giving away billions of dollars in energy to competing jurisdictions.

He noted in 2013 and 2014, Ontario gave away \$1.2 billion worth of energy to neighbouring states and in 2015 an additional \$1.1 billion.

“Let’s pose this question I found on a Liberal math test. If you pay 8.55 cents a kilowatt hour to produce energy in Ontario, and you sell that energy for 2.65 cents a kilowatt hour to New York, Minnesota, Manitoba, and Quebec, how much profit does Ontario make,” asked Brown.

“We are paying huge money for energy that Ontario will never use. We are giving energy away, costing the people of Ontario billions of dollars. We need the premier to stand up and take time away from her other job as Minister of Economic Development for Pennsylvania.”

[Cambridge Towel to get a break from high-cost energy 'penalty' of doing business in Ontario](#)

Cambridge Times

By [Lisa Rutledge](#)

On September 19, 2016

Liberals "inherited" energy issues from the Progressive Conservatives, area MPPs claim

CAMBRIDGE – Although its offshore competitors aren’t burdened by the same high hydro bills, local textile manufacturer Cambridge Towel Company has remained committed to making its products in Canada.

“Canadian people want to buy something Canadian-made,” said the company’s president of operations David Hamby, while standing in front of a colourful backdrop of towels in the Galt-based company’s showroom.

But hydro bills of nearly \$125,000 per month, plus a \$30,000 surcharge fee, have not made that goal an easy one.

“Electricity is our third highest expense,” he said.

Cambridge Towel chief executive officer Hugh Thompson said the company chose to remain in Canada, but at a price.

“We decided we’d stay here, but there’s a penalty for staying here. Higher costs.”

As a medium-sized manufacturer, Cambridge Towel didn’t qualify for exemptions from fees under the Industrial Conservation Initiative offered to larger and smaller companies. It was a point the company’s executives outlined as unfair during a recent visit to the Cambridge manufacturer by Glenn Thibeault, Ontario energy minister

Companies that use more than three megawatts per month, or less than one megawatt per month, were given exemptions for surcharge fees under the conservation initiative, introduced in 2011.

The Cambridge company learned this week, however, it will receive a break on hydro costs starting next year, namely in exemptions from the surcharge fees.

What those cost savings will amount to has yet to be calculated, said Hamby.

News of hydro savings for businesses and homes, as part of the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act 2016, was officially unveiled during a news conference hosted by Cambridge MPP Kathryn McGarry and Kitchener Centre MPP Daiene Vernile at the Cambridge Towel plant Friday morning (Sept. 16).

Companies in Waterloo Region, say the MPPs, could see hydro bill reductions of up to 34 per cent as part of the expanded exemptions.

Friday’s announcement will also mean energy costs savings for residents in the form of rebates of eight per cent on monthly bills – before tax. According to estimates, that could amount to about \$130 in savings annually.

When asked where the money for the rebates would come from, McGarry and Vernile cited money management by the Liberals, investment in infrastructure and job creation.

“Next year, we will be coming to balance, and when the finance minister and our government took a look, we were able to spend \$1 billion now to relieve the pressure on families,” said McGarry. “And we’re still on track to balance the budget next year.”

McGarry believes this week's energy rebates and savings announcements show the government is listening to concerns.

"We are hearing that everyday Ontarians can certainly use help with lower costs of electricity," she said.

Vernile echoed the Cambridge MPP's point, saying, "Taken together these actions represent one of the largest electricity support programs ever in the province of Ontario."

The provincial politicians also took a moment to chastise their predecessor government, saying the Progressive Conservatives left them to clean up and rebuild the province's energy system.

"I just really wanted to remind people what we inherited in 2003," said McGarry. "It was a very dirty system, it was unreliable, with rolling brownouts and blackouts."

The Liberals, since taking power 13 years ago, have transformed and modernized the energy system, she said, replacing most coal burning system with clean energy, resulting in billions in annual savings on health care.

[International nuclear power experts arrive at Pickering](#)

By: PennEnergy Editorial Staff
For: Penn Energy
September 29, 2016

A team of [nuclear power](#) experts led by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has arrived at [Ontario Power Generation's \(OPG\) Pickering Nuclear Station](#) to conduct a standard Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) mission.

"This is an important international review for OPG and Canada," said OPG's Nuclear President and Chief Nuclear Officer Glenn Jager. "This is an opportunity for us to showcase our commitment to excellence and safety, and to share best practices with these international experts."

Pickering Nuclear was put forward for this review in 2014 by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Canada's independent nuclear regulator and active participant in the international nuclear community.

The OSART program has been providing member countries the opportunity to share knowledge and to support continuous improvements to

their operations since 1982. Best practices identified through these reviews are shared with other nuclear operators through the IAEA.

In the 2015 Nuclear Safety Report, OPG's Pickering and Darlington nuclear stations received the highest possible safety rating of "fully satisfactory" and for Darlington, it's the seventh year in a row the station has achieved this rating.

Combined, the plants provide about 30 per cent of the electricity used in Ontario.

OPG provides about half the power Ontario relies on. The electricity OPG produces is more than 99 per cent free of greenhouse gas emissions.

[Thunder Bay Hydro seeks input on proposed rate hike](#)

Leith Dunick
TB News Watch
September 19, 2016

Thunder Bay Hydro has asked the Ontario Energy Board for a rate hike, that if approved would add about \$4.71 to the average customer's monthly bill.

However, the publicly owned utility is giving the public a chance to have a say in the process through an online survey that began on Monday and concludes on Oct. 3.

Tim Wilson, Thunder Bay Hydro's vice-president of customer and information services, said the survey is something new.

Last fall the company engaged with customers about its capital renewal plan, which has been in place since 2008. An online survey followed in the winter, which Wilson said showed Thunder Bay Hydro's

customers had a high degree of confidence in the way the utility was spending its capital allocations.

“But now we’re at the stage where there are bill impacts, which we didn’t really have before,” Wilson said. “We were talking more in generic terms of one to two per cent if we continue on this way, and were asking if this was reasonable.”

Thunder Bay Hydro is now at the point where it can tell customers just how much more they’ll have to pay – if the rate-hike is improved by the OEB.

The actual percentage is 1.5 to 1.6 per cent.

Wilson said every five years Thunder Bay Hydro must submit a distribution rate application, which is a little bit different than the annual rate adjustment the electricity producer seeks each year.

“It’s a much more detailed version of the application process,” Wilson said.

Consultations will give the public a chance to tell utility brass if they are happy with the way the company is investing its money.

There’s a little wiggle room, but not much.

“You’ll see by the wording of a couple questions that we’re looking for feedback on if this is reasonable for us to spend this amount in this way,” Wilson said.

“We’re giving customers the opportunity to say, ‘No, I prefer that maybe you spread that out.’”

Wilson said the OEB will be checking to see if the survey had any influence on Thunder Bay Hydro’s plan and if so, where.

“And if not, why not,” Wilson said. “We’ll have to come in and defend our position.”

The rate hike, if approved, would come into effect on May 1, 2017.

The survey can be found at www.tbhydro.com.

[Thunder Bay Hydro Customers Asked to Participate in Survey](#)

NetNewsLedger

September 19, 2016

THUNDER BAY – BUSINESS – Thunder Bay Hydro customers are being invited to voice their opinions about the projected outcomes of the company’s 2017 Distribution Rate Application.

From September 19 through October 3, an online survey will collect feedback on the impact of the 2017 Distribution Rate Application that has been filed to support the company’s Distribution System Plan (DSP) for the next 5 years. This survey is a follow-up to one conducted earlier in the year when the current DSP was being developed.

“Thanks to the initial public support of the proposals put forth in our Distribution System Plan, Thunder Bay Hydro has produced a Distribution Rate Application which supports this plan. Yet we want to be prudent to ensure the conditions are right to proceed with our stated plan,” says Robert Mace, President & CEO of Thunder Bay Hydro. “The purpose of the survey is to collect ongoing information from Thunder Bay electricity customers to help us shape how we can continue to deliver safe and reliable electricity at a reasonable rate.”

In 2008, Thunder Bay Hydro set out a long-term capital renewal plan for infrastructure investments to improve the quality and performance of its local electricity distribution system. The plan involves delivering key infrastructure projects and reviewing how plans will be funded and financed. The 2017 Rate Application has been submitted to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for regulatory review.

Customers can participate in the online survey by following the link found in the top banner at www.tbhydro.com. More information about Thunder Bay Hydro’s Rate Application is posted online at the Ontario Energy Board and can be accessed using the address: goo.gl/eE7z4N.*

[U of G Recognized for Energy Efficiency, Receives \\$5.8 Million](#)

University of Guelph News
September 19, 2016

The University of Guelph's leadership in energy conservation and sustainability was recognized today by the provincial government.

Glenn Thibeault, Ontario's minister of energy, and Liz Sandals, MPP for Guelph, toured U of G's novel thermal energy storage facility and delivered a \$5.8-million energy-saving incentive to the University.

"Congratulations to the University of Guelph for being a leader in energy innovation," Thibeault said.



"Energy conservation remains one of the best ways for families, businesses and institutions to reduce their electricity costs. I'm happy to see communities like Guelph celebrating initiatives like this one that will contribute to Ontario's green energy future."

Provided under the provincial Save On Energy program, the funding rewards projects that reduce energy consumption. The program is run through Guelph Hydro by the Independent Electricity System Operator, which is overseen by the Ministry of Energy.

The University will use the funds to offset construction costs of its \$15-million thermal energy storage system, the only one of its kind in Ontario.

Since becoming operational this past summer, the facility has reduced the University's energy bill by about \$2.5 million, in addition to supporting Ontario's goal of a cleaner and more renewable energy supply.

“The University of Guelph is committed to an energy future that is sustainable and reliable,” said president Franco Vaccarino.

He said finding innovative ways to use and manage energy and water – with support from programs such as Save on Energy – is fundamental to the University’s goal of improved efficiency.



“It’s a win-win for the University and the province. We reduce energy use and costs, which helps our bottom line. The province lowers daytime electricity use and reduces dependency on power plants and imported electricity,” Vaccarino said.

“But the most important winner is the environment, as using less energy preserves natural resources and cuts down on pollution.”

Sandals added: “The University of Guelph is an excellent example of an institution that has taken advantage of our Save on Energy Program to construct a thermal energy system, cut their electricity use and protect our environment.”

The thermal energy storage system works like a giant battery. The system chills water at night when energy costs are lower, reducing demands on the provincial power grid.

Chilled water is piped to the central utilities plant to cool University facilities during warm daytime hours, and is returned to a giant water tank for nighttime cooling. The 30-metre-tall tank holds 22 million litres of water.

“It allows us to avoid running our chilling system during expensive, high-use daytime hours,” said Dan

MacLachlan, acting associate vice-president, physical resources. He said the tank will pay for itself in energy savings within about five years.

The thermal energy storage system was a major project of the University's Green Gryphon Initiative, which funds campus-wide energy and water conservation projects.

The \$26.2-million plan is funded by the University and by the Student Energy Retrofit Fund, approved in a student referendum in 2008.

In addition, in recent years the University has invested more than \$10 million in retrofit programs, energy-efficient lights and windows, heat-recovery systems and water conservation.

[Pump up your business' savings at no cost with Toronto Hydro's new conservation program](#)

TORONTO, Sept. 19, 2016 /CNW/ - Toronto Hydro is announcing the launch of its first Toronto-tailored conservation program. After conducting a pilot study on multi-unit residential and commercial buildings, the PUMPsaver program is now available to business customers across the city.

Under Ontario's new *Conservation First Framework*, local distribution companies, like Toronto Hydro, are encouraged to develop conservation programs tailored to the regional needs of their customers. The launch of this program will help contribute to Toronto Hydro's allocated target of achieving 1.58 terrawatt-hour (TWh) energy savings by 2020, the largest target in the province, and will help customers more efficiently manage energy consumption and costs.

In many condominium buildings, hydronic heating and cooling systems waste energy by operating often oversized pumps at full capacity. Toronto Hydro's new PUMPsaver program is designed to incent the installation of variable frequency drives (VFDs) to reduce costs. The installation is completed by a qualified professional and can reduce electricity use of the pump's motor(s) by up to 35%. The program is a simple end-to-end solution and is offered to qualified business customers free of charge.

To participate in the PUMPsaver program, a Toronto Hydro customer must own a multi-residential condominium or commercial building or have written permission from the owner, have a closed-loop hydronic system with flow restriction at the main pump and a pump motor greater than 10 horsepower (HP) in size that is compatible with a VFD installation.

If a business customer has questions about whether a building is eligible for the PUMPsaver program, contact a Toronto Hydro Energy Expert at 416-542-3388 or cdm@torontohydro.com. Energy Experts are available to help Toronto businesses assess the requirements, and look at the next steps to achieve energy savings. To learn more about the PUMPsaver program, visit www.torontohydro.com/PUMPsaver

QUICK FACTS/DID YOU KNOW?

There is no cost to participate (approximately \$10,000 typical value per site)

PUMPSaver can improve a building's pump system efficiency by up to 35% - an estimated electricity cost savings of \$4,000 to \$20,000 per year¹

Case Study example: The 42-storey Pinnacle Centre Condominium building (16 Yonge Street) retrofitted two 50 HP pumps with VFDs to optimize its system and control costs, which resulted in annual energy savings of 70,956 kilowatt-hour (kWh) and approximately \$10,500 savings in annual electricity costs

QUOTES

"Toronto Hydro's customer base is unique because of the high volume of multi-residential buildings in the area. These buildings require conservation programs tailored to their needs in order to help achieve energy savings. We're happy to launch a program like PUMPSaver to help customers better manage their building's energy use and electricity costs."

- Chris Tyrrell, Executive Vice-President and Chief Customer Care and Conservation Officer at Toronto Hydro, Toronto Hydro

ABOUT TORONTO HYDRO

Toronto Hydro owns and operates an electricity distribution system, which delivers electricity to approximately 758,000 customers located in the city of Toronto . It is the largest municipal electricity distribution company in Canada and distributes approximately 19% of the electricity consumed in the province of Ontario .

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