Afternoon Energy Media Summary - September 28, 2016

From: "Hendy, Adam (ENERGY)" <adam.hendy@ontario.ca>
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Date: Wed, 28 Sep 2016 15:00:28 -0400

Good afternoon,

Here is a roundup of the day's news:

'Ontarians have never been this angry': Poll respondents feel unprotected from power price increases – *National Post*

No New Green Energy Deals - Don't be fooled – *Canada Free Press*

NOTL Hydro asks province to focus on reducing underlying costs of electricity - *Niagara -On-The-Lake Town Crier*

Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece slams government on hydro rates, wonders if constituents should move to Scarborough – *Stratford Beacon Harold*

Ontario going down the wrong road – *Canadian Green Tech*

Why is Ontario turning its back on renewables? – *Toronto Atmospheric Fund*

Letter: 'Why are we proceeding with the sale of Hydro One even though we know it will leave ratepayers and taxpayers worse off?'- *North Bay Nugget*

No cap-and-trade costs shown on natural gas bills: Ontario Liberals – *Canadian Press*

Action Alert launched to help small businesses fight large hydro bills – *Brampton Guardian*

Ontario's Green Energy Cancellation is Admission of Defeat – *AM 640*

Hydro Ottawa recognized for setting the standard in green power – *CNW*

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

Today in Twitter
September 28, 2016

@ jackmaclaren1 - Glad to be back at Queen's Park https://www. youtube.com/watch?v=Ojud63 FmvIQ … RT if you agree. @hydroottawa @ **HydroOne**

@ brownbarrie - Addressed delegates at the OEA's 2016 **Energy** Conference about ways to clean up the **Ontario** Liberal hydro mess. #onpoli

@ am640oakley - Have **Ontario** Liberals FINALLY made a GOOD decision with cancellation of future Green **Energy** plans? Enough to make you vote for them?

@ TorSunCity 7h 7 hours ago Of all the Liberal's many spending scandals, none were bigger than mad pursuit of green energy: @sunlorrie http:// bit.ly/2d3MN6w #onpoli =

Keith Leslie - Canadian Press

@ CPnewsboy - PC Leader @brownbarrie questions why @Kathleen_Wynne would say Ontario's high electricity rates are 'worth it' in a radio interview. #onpoli

@ CPnewsboy - Premier @Kathleen_Wynne says it was "worth it" to have no smog days and a reliable electricity system that's 90% emissions free. #onpoli

@ CPnewsboy - PC @brownbarrie says Liberals got $1.3 million from energy lobbyists + resulted in Ontarians paying $9 billion too much for power. #onpoli

@ CPnewsboy - Deputy NDP leader @jagmeetNDP asks if Ont Liberals are helping Mayor @JohnTory sell Toronto Hydro. @Kathleen_Wynne says ask city. #onpoli

@ CPnewsboy - NDP says Liberals wouldn't give straight answer in 2014 election on Hydro1 sale + now dodging questions on selling more utilities. #onpoli

@ CPnewsboy - CP quick hit: Ontario Liberals still back decision not to show costs of cap-and-trade on natural gas bills. http:// bit.ly/2dfaaKe #onpoli

Ontario PC Party

@ OntarioPCParty - "On September 22, the Premier of Ontario told Evan Soloman that skyrocketing hydro costs are… and I quote “worth it”" @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "Is it worth it…that this government forces people to choose between heating and eating?" @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "Is it worth it…for the 567,000 households that are behind on their hydro bills?" @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "Can you tell the families who can’t put food on the table the prices are worth it?" @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "Can she say it was worth it to the people who had to sell their homes? Can she really tell them it was worth it?" @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "I was recently in Kakabeka Falls and I stopped by Odena Foods. I chatted with the owner there and he had a question for the Liberal gov't."

@ OntarioPCParty - "As a small business owner in Northern Ontario how is he expected to pay his bills and staff with a 13,000 dollar hydro bill?" @brownbarrie

@ OntarioPCParty - "Are those hydro bills worth it, if a business is struggling to make their payroll?" @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "Are the hydro prices worth it every time a business closes their doors?" @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "This government continues to insist we have reliable power. But you just have to look next door to know that isn't true" @brownbarrie

@ OntarioPCParty - "In 2015, Quebec had 3 power outages that were a result of either faulty equipment or human error. Blackout tracker Ontario had 32." #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "Total outages in Ontario totalled 11 and a half days – in Quebec they only had 6 and a half hours." @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty = "It's not just Quebec that is better – Ontario lags behind the rest of the country." @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "Our hydro system is both unaffordable and unreliable. Why does the Premier continue to ignore the real problems?" @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty "The Minister of Energy said yesterday that this "government has been tasked to find ways to bring bills down"." @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "The Minister said he is saving families $2.45 by cancelling the next round of renewable contracts. But in fact he isn't saving them a cent"

@ OntarioPCParty - "He's just not going to raise prices. The definition of saving is a "reduction". No one is saving anything." @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "Did I save $25,000 dollars this morning by not buying a car? No, that's not how savings work." @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "Will the Premier come clean? Will she admit this won't save families a cent?" @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "Don't get me wrong. I do applaud the government for finally opening their eyes to these reckless and unnecessary energy contracts." #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty "But why did it take the Liberals so long to realize Ontario didn't need these contracts?" @brownbarrie #onpoli

@ OntarioPCParty - "Was it because they milked 30 of these renewable energy companies for over 1.3 million dollars in donations?" @brownbarrie #onpoli

Lorrie Goldstein @sunlorrie · 8h

Depends on what stage the contracts were at.

> **Lou Pedron** @loupedron
> @sunlorrie @brownbarrie Smells like a gas plant scandal... There are penalties, what's the cost?

2 2

ShawnPatrick Stensil @SPStensil · 6h

This extract from a 2009 OPA board briefing predicts the excess nuclear supply that is stopping **Ontario**'s **energy** transition. #onpoli #cdnfoi

> B. Supply Mix and Operability
>
> Scenario A is based on moderate levels of forecast amounts of demand and energy efficiency and an increased amount of renewable generation. Under theses assumptions, the need for, and ability to incorporate nuclear generation was found to be limited to about 9,100 MW — which is somewhat less than the amount previously announced by the government (6,300 MW at the Bruce site plus 3,200 to 3,500 MW included in the RFP for new build nuclear generation). *In effect, renewable supply and nuclear are "competing" for the same space in the time period beyond 2016. Stated another way, the amount of renewables that can be accommodated depends on the amount of nuclear generation in the mix.*

8 2

[‘Ontarians have never been this angry’: Poll respondents feel unprotected from power price increases]

Ashley Csanady

National Post

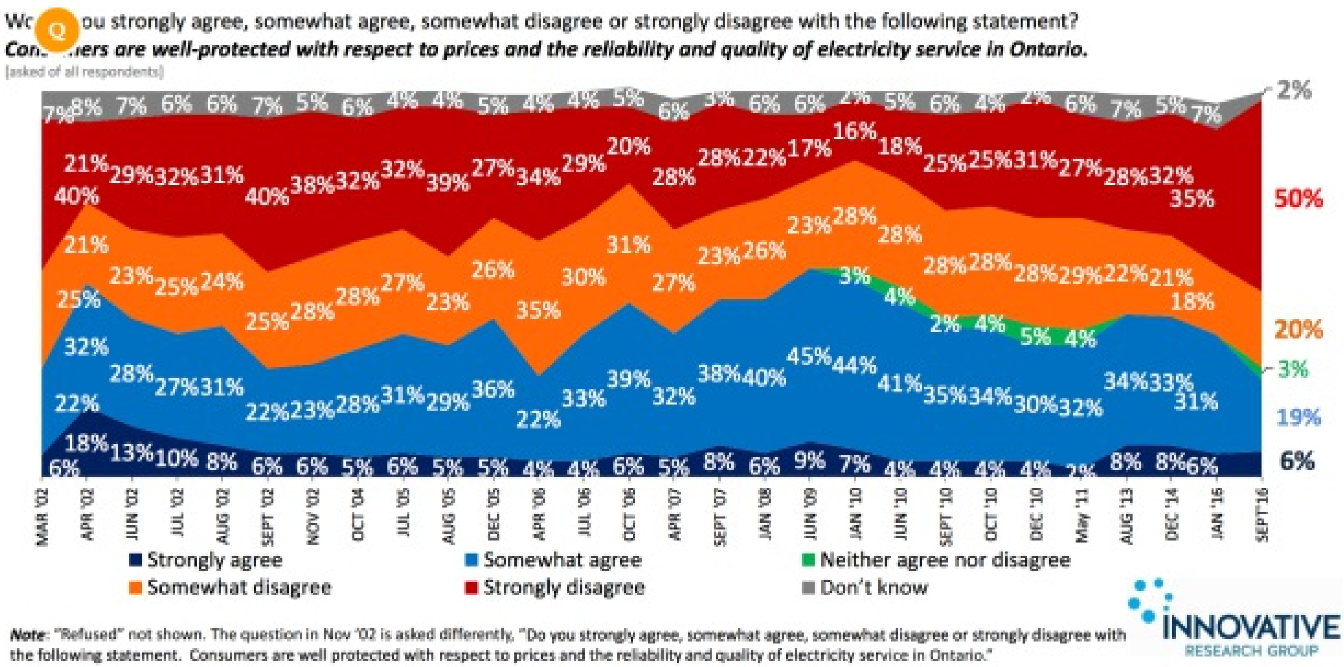
September 28, 2016

Half of Ontario voters feel unprotected from price increases in the electricity system, a new poll shows.

“Ontarians have never been this angry,” declares a presentation of the Innovative Research Group poll, to be revealed Wednesday afternoon at the Ontario Energy Association conference in Toronto. A draft of the presentation was shared with the National Post and the results of the 600-person poll show a growing distrust in the Ontario government’s handling of the energy file, in particular electricity prices.

The poll about provincial politics and energy rates was commissioned by the Ontario Energy Association — an industry group representing everything from gas to electricity companies — for its annual conference.

When asked if they feel “consumers are well-protected with respect to prices and the reliability and quality of electricity service in Ontario,” 50 per cent of respondents “strongly disagreed” — the highest rate of disatisfaction since the firm started asking the question in 2002. Another 20 per cent “somewhat disagreed” while just 19 per cent said they “somewhat” agreed and six per cent “strongly agreed.” Three per cent had no opinion and another two per cent didn’t know.



Fifty-one per cent said a party’s stance on electricity prices will influence their vote in the next election — a 17-point jump from 34 per cent who said the same in 2014.

That compounds the trouble for the Ontario Liberals and Premier Kathleen Wynne. The governing party used a throne speech earlier this month to address the concerns about raising electricity rates. They announced a program to lower rates for industrial consumers would be expanded and a rebate of the eight per cent provincial portion of the HST off hydro bills. On Tuesday, energy minister Glenn Thibeault announced a moratorium on new green energy projects to reduce future costs. While those moves proved popular, they did little to shift voters’ views of the Liberals. Overall, 54 per cent of respondents said they feel the province is on the wrong track.

The poll and the government’s focus on rates highlight the importance Ontario voters are placing on electricity prices about 18 months out from the expected June 2018 election. The poll also showed 30 per cent of voters identified electricity prices as a key pocketbook concern, second only to 35 per cent who said their biggest worry was jobs and the economy. Fifty-one per cent said a party’s stance on electricty prices will influence their vote in the next election.

Voters are also against rate increases to fund improvements to the system, with half (49 per cent) saying they are against even a 2.5 per cent increase over 10 years under the long-term energy plan. Opposition only grows with potential increases. Fifty-six per cent believe any improvements can be funded by reducing waste and finding efficiencies within the energy sector, suggesting consumers feel the system is bloated and they are paying for poor choices.

The Official Opposition has benefited the most from the anger over electricity rates.

Support for the provincial Progressive Conservative grew seven points over the summer, the poll shows.

The Tories lead the Liberals at 30 per cent to 26 per cent — but within the margin of error. Twenty per cent support the NDP, six per cent the Green Party and 11 per cent don't know, six per cent don't support anyone and one per cent would vote for someone else.

Two thirds of voters (66 per cent) feel it's "time for change" and most of them (50 per cent of the entire sample) say they feel "strongly" about it. Of that 66 per cent, 17 per cent would still support the Liberals but want change within the party's leadership.

All three party leaders are essentially tied for the role of "best premier": 22 per cent support PC leader Patrick Brown, 19 per cent NDP leader Andrea Horwath and 18 per cent Wynne. That's within the poll's four per cent margin of error.

But Wynne's overall performance is in the dumps. Her "net favourability" (the number of people who have a positive view of her work less those who have a negative opinion of her) is -34 per cent versus a 20 per cent positive for Horwath and a 9 per cent positive for Brown. The PC leader, who took the party reins in May 2015, still suffers from poor name recognition, however, with 56 per cent saying they still don't recognize him.

The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus four per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Innovative Research group poll for Ontario Energy Association on politics and power

No New Green Energy Deals - Don't be fooled

Elizabeth Marshall
Canada Free Press
September 28, 2016

Electricity is back in the news again and some are expressing that green jobs might be lost if the province doesn't enter into any new agreements for renewable energy. This will save Ontarians a whopping $2.45 per month on their electricity bills.

Ontarians need to know about the original contract between Ontario and Samsung/Korea Consortium, where there was to be approx. 16,000 jobs created. This was challenged in the World Trade Organization Court and Canada lost. Because of the amended trade agreement in 2013 Samsung/Korea could "develop, construct and operate wind and solar generation projects" totaling "up to 1,369 MW of capacity (Phases 1 and 2 and 300 MW for Phase 3). It could also "establish and operate facilities" to "manufacture wind and solar generation equipment" which might create approximately 900 jobs.

With how much Ontarians have spent on this monopoly there would be 900 jobs created - think about that. And it would be the same deal even if it were the PCs or the NDP. They are all getting the same failed advice from the same back-room boys.

We also must remember that there is 3 phases to the Samsung/Korea monopoly and only new agreements, with others, won't be entered into. This leaves Ontarians on the hook for the next umpteen years, according to the press, and what about the turbines that are already expropriating people's use, enjoyment and operation of their land with 500 meter plus set-backs, that go over property lines. According to the Canadian Wind Energy Association, a noise receptor is the inner ear, not the government's definition that it is a house. This expropriation/violation should not be tolerated by any Ontarian because if it can happen to one person it can happen to any person. And one merely has to look at the "big 3" parties to see why this is continuing.

Bill Davis' PCs (1985) was one of the first to have a government agreement with Suncor (TransCanada), which neither, the Liberals or NDP seem to cancel. This might explain why none of the parties are not saying anything about the breach of trust involved with the cancellation of the gas-plants. Wynne even admitted her government had committed breach of trust against Ontarians – silence from the other parties. As for the Attorney General's office, why isn't it upholding the law? Isn't that its job?

When Ontarians find out what is really happening they might look to someone else to represent them in Queen's Park and not merely the "big 3" representing the "back-room boy's." These costly agreements will be back, no matter which party is in power. So don't be fooled. We have 18 months to find someone new – let's do it.

NOTL Hydro asks province to focus on reducing underlying costs of electricity

Scott Rosts
Niagara -On-The-Lake Town Crier
September 28, 2016

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — The board of Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro is urging the premier to focus on reducing the underlying costs of electricity in the province.

The board, in a Sept. 13 letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne, said it is pleased to hear the premier declare the high cost of electricity in the province an "urgent issue" and offered its help in addressing the issue.

"The rising cost of electricity is affecting all Ontarians so it is important that any government actions provide relief for all consumers, both business and residential," the hydro board wrote. "However, it is critical that the underlying cost issues be addressed. As the saying goes "when you are in a hole the best thing is to stop digging."

The board says there are actions that can be taken immediately and in the medium term to reduce the cost of electricity, or at least slow down the increase. They use their local model as a way the province can focus on that priority.

"NOTL Hydro has the lowest delivery charge in the Niagara region not because of anything special we have done but because of a 15-year focus on managing the business to keep costs low for our customers," the board said, noting generally the driver of cost increases is at the generation level.

The board suggested immediate actions could include halting any FIT And MicroFIt contracts and the immediate move to net metering. The board even offered to cancel its FIT contract if the province was able to accomplish those goals by the end of September.

Other immediate actions proposed included the elimination of the Meter Data Management and Repository branch of IESO — removing a $0.79 monthly charge on every customer's bill, the transfer of excess costs of FIT and MicroFit contracts to Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation and the development of plans, with the input of industrial businesses, to mitigate the impact time-of-use pricing is having.

Other more medium-term proposals include breaking up Hydro One between its transmission and distribution businesses, the sale of Hydro One assets to local distribution companies in areas being over-charged compared to their neighbours, phasing out of conservation programs costing more than $300 million a year, an independent review of the future of the Darlington Nuclear plant and a green energy project assessment.

“Assess the real cost of solar and wind projects including the back-up natural gas facilities to support them and assess whether there is not a better approach to this initiative,” the board wrote.

The board said it would welcome the opportunity to work with the province on the implementation of any of its proposed action items.

“We only have one objective, to lower the costs for our customers,” wrote the board.

Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece slams government on hydro rates, wonders if constituents should move to Scarborough

Steve Rice
Startford Beacon Harold
September 28, 2016

Do residents of Perth County need to move to Scarborough to be heard by the provincial government?

Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece asked the question facetiously while blasting the Liberals for skyrocketing hydro rates during Tuesday's question period.

“If the cost of hydro suddenly matters to her, it's fair to ask, 'what changed?'” Pettapiece said. “It's no wonder hydro costs so much. They spent billions of dollars putting up unwanted wind turbines to produce power the province did not need. And they ran roughshod over rural Ontario.

“But who finally got this government to pay attention to hydro rates: Scarborough. So I ask the premier, will the Liberals start listening to my constituents, or do they have to take up residence in Scarborough?”

Shortly after a by-election win by the Progressive Conservatives in the riding of Scarborough-Rouge River on Sept. 1, Premier Kathleen Wynn released a statement saying the result gave her “cause for reflection.”

Less than two weeks later, the Liberals announced that they would be knocking the province's 8% portion of the HST off of hydro bills.

Pettapiece said in a media release that since the Liberals first took office the average household’s annual hydro bill has increased by more than $1,000. Hydro rates are expected to increase again in November and further increases will, for many ratepayers, more than wipe out any savings by the Liberals’ promised 8% rebate, he said.

Pettapiece's charge that wind turbines are producing power the province does not need were all but confirmed in Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault's response to his question.

After thanking his predecessor, Bob Chiarelli – now the Minister of Infrastructure – for “not building two nuclear units, saving $15-billion to the ratepayers,” Thibeault announced that the government would be cancelling plans to sign contracts for 1,000 megawatts of power from solar, wind and other renewable energy sources.

“I'm very happy to come forward today and bring forward a plan where we are going to actually suspend and cancel the LRP2, that will save an additional $3.8 billion and that will save more money for families right across this province,” Thibeault said.

The Independent Electricity System Operator’s planning outlook determined Ontario has a “a strong supply of clean power” for the next decade, Thibeault added later.

“It was power that we didn’t need right now,” he said. “Looking at this prudently and finding ways to continue to have downward pressure on rates, because that’s one of the mandates that I’ve been given by the premier, I acted on it.”

The PC's have long been demanding the Liberals stop signing long-term contracts for renewable energy projects. They used virtually all their time in question period talking about individuals and business owners struggling with soaring electricity rates.

“It’s bad policy,” said Opposition Leader Patrick Brown. “I just wish at this point, now that they’ve acknowledged that they’ve made a mistake, that they would apologize. They made a huge mistake on the energy file and everyone in Ontario is paying for it.”

The LRP 2 program was designed to procure 600MW of wind, 250MW of solar photovoltaic, 50MW of hydroelectricity and

30MW of bioenergy.

“Our decision to suspend these procurements is not one we take lightly,” said Thibeault. “The typical residential electricity consumer would save an average of approximately $2.45 per month on their electricity bill, relative to previous forecasts.”

Pettapiece said that people are tired of this government playing politics with power.

“Since the day I was elected, I’ve been calling on the government to address hydro rates,” said Pettapiece after his question. “Instead, they waited until they lost a by-election to slap on a Band-Aid.”

Those in rural areas who use the least amount of power will be hardest hit, he said. Distribution costs are expected to spike by 25 percent—meaning total hydro bills will be up to 11.5 percent higher by 2017.

Last week, the Premier visited Perth-Wellington for the International Plowing Match and was loudly booed.

“She heard loud and clear what we think of her government’s energy policies,” Pettapiece said.

srice@postmedia.com

Ontario going down the wrong road

Canadian Green Tech
September 28, 2016
Industry associations are questioning the Ontario government’s decision to suspend the second wave of the **Large Renewable Procurement**, saying it’s a mistake.
Environmental Defence said in a statement this is the wrong time to put the brakes on renewable energy in the province, especially since “prices for nuclear and natural gas are rising” when those for wind and solar are on the decline.
Describing the move as shortsighted, Keith Brooks, program director at Environment Defence said, “The Independent Electricity System Operator’s own planning outlook shows that green energy is competitive with new nuclear power or natural gas. Some contracts recently signed for wind power are cheaper that what we pay for nuclear power.”
The **Canadian Environmental Law Association** (CELA) wondered why the government is even consulting on the next Long-Term Energy Plan when it has now “cancelled” 1000 MW of renewables procurement and decided to run the Pickering nuclear station until 2024.
“These decisions by the Ontario government call into question the point of the government’s plans to consult the public on the electricity generation mix this fall,” said Jacqueline Wilson, counsel at CELA.
“We will continue to press this government and all jurisdictions to make decisions that lead us to a fully renewable, clean, healthy energy future. Ontarians deserve to be in the vanguard of the innovation economy, and that will be built on renewable energy,” added Theresa McClenaghan, executive director at CELA.
The **Canadian Solar Industries Association** (CanSIA) suggested that suspending the renewables procurement initiative could have lasting impacts on the province. It said it may not have enough generation to meet growing demand as the economy moves towards electrification, nuclear is taken offline, and the need to meet conservation targets.
Cancelling or delaying the procurement of renewable electricity could leave Ontario unprepared to effectively deal with these risks cost-effectively and without increasing electricity sector GHG emissions,” said CanSIA president and CEO John Gorman.
“Shocked and extremely disappointed” was the way the **Canadian Wind Energy Association** (CanWEA) described its reaction to the Ontario’s government’s decision.
“This is a missed opportunity for the province as CanWEA believes that the Ontario Planning Outlook not only identifies the need for new clean energy supply in the coming years, but also understates the need for new electricity generation going forward given the important role electrification will play in meeting Ontario’s climate change commitments and transitioning to a low carbon economy,” said Robert Hornung, president of CanWEA.
“Not proceeding with this procurement also represents a missed opportunity to mitigate the risks and uncertainties associated with the costs and timing of the Pickering Generating Station operating licence extension, Ontario’s ambitious nuclear refurbishment plan, and the uncertainty of supply from outside of the province,” he added.
Why is Ontario turning its back on renewables?

Julia Langer
Toronto Atmospheric Fund
September 28, 2016

Yesterday the Ontario government cancelled future large-scale clean power projects, claiming that we have no “urgent need” to procure more electricity supply. What is clear is that projection of Ontario’s electricity generation needs is a difficult challenge, and over-projection of need has left Ontario with a costly over-supply of electricity from inflexible, centralized generation facilities. 60% of Ontario’s electricity now comes from nuclear power, and combined with overall energy efficiency improvements, demand has dampened. While the government will continue to purchase power from small and medium-sized renewable projects, it is cancelling the Large Renewable Procurement program. Up to 1,000 megawatts of clean power projects have been cancelled, which is expected to save up to $3.8 Billion in electricity system costs relative to Ontario’s 2013 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) forecast.

While responding to the situation by putting the brakes on new generation seems rational, it is a shame to de-stabilize an emerging renewable energy sector that the Province has worked hard to build in the first place. At a time when wind and solar are reaching cost competitiveness with nuclear and natural gas generation, and are the fastest growing sectors in the energy market worldwide, scrapping large renewable energy feels out of touch.

Also, the decision ignores the fact that Toronto is grid constrained, and our population and energy demands are growing. A flexible combination of small and large scale generators of renewable energy, such as rooftop solar and off-shore wind, in concert with storage and conservation, could meet our local power demands and more. Add progressive energy efficiency policies into the mix and we have a low-carbon, cost effective electricity system for the city, enabling us to reach our ambitious climate change commitments.

It’s a good time to start the conversation about Ontario’s energy supply mix, but we need all of the options on the table. We need to make wise choices about where to source our power because decisions made now will have serious economic and environmental impacts in the future. Forecasting of future energy demand has taught us we’ll need a flexible and resilient energy grid as markets fluctuate and the effects of climate change continue to cause extreme weather. We’ll need more distributed power that is easy to turn on and off in response to demand. And of course, it needs to be low carbon and cost competitive. A mix of large and small scale renewable energy fulfils all of those necessities, and the cost per kilowatt continues to drop dramatically. When Ontario continues its long term energy planning this year, it would be prudent to address the pitfalls of locking consumers into non-renewable, expensive, high-carbon power for long periods of time.

Ontario should be proud of the strides it has taken over the past decade to phase out coal, increase renewable energy capacity, upgrade transmission infrastructure, and improve energy efficiency. Utility rates are an important consideration as many Ontarians struggle to pay for power, but there are ways to address affordability that do not involve abandoning efforts to keep abreast of global trends towards smart, resilient clean energy systems. As the LTEP review is underway, we hope to see a concerted effort among government decision makers to get Ontario back on track as a world leader in clean, low-carbon electricity.

Letter: 'Why are we proceeding with the sale of Hydro One even though we know it will leave ratepayers and taxpayers worse off?'

Vic Fedeli - Mp
North Bay Nugget
September 28, 2016

To the editor:

Once again the (Kathleen) Wynne government did what it does best – stifle debate, and put the interests of the Liberal party above the interests of the people of Ontario.

MPPs have been blocked from speaking to the Electricity Rebate Act. Shortly after introducing its new Energy Bill, the government stopped debate, and called for a vote.

They refused to allow almost the entire opposition to speak to the energy crisis in Ontario. They refused to listen to any stories about local families struggling from their skyrocketing hydro bills.

And they refused to hear any potential solutions from the opposition.

Premier Wynne and Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault spent months denying an energy crisis even existed in Ontario. Aided by mounting anger over skyrocketing hydro rates and the premier's own personal popularity hitting new lows, they suddenly saw the light and turned their attention to the hydro crisis.

They began with the major move of proroguing the legislature. All the resulting Throne Speech provided was a Band-Aid solution to remove the provincial portion of the HST on hydro bills. They squandered the opportunity to provide Ontarians with meaningful relief from skyrocketing hydro rates.

Since the Liberal government first took office, average households in Ontario are paying $1,000 more a year on their hydro bills. Frankly, a rebate that saves ratepayers less than 36 cents/day is too little, too late. Nor does it address the systemic issues that have caused hydro rates to skyrocket in the first place, meaning rates will continue to rise.

The Wynne government's decision to stifle debate on this legislation means a number of important questions will go unanswered.

Why are we not addressing the root causes leading to Ontario having the highest hydro rates in North America?

Why are we generating surplus electricity and selling it at a loss to Quebec and the United States?

Why are we proceeding with the sale of Hydro One even though we know it will leave ratepayers and taxpayers worse off?

It's clear why the government doesn't want any of this debate to be heard.

For instance, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) disclosed 567,000 families were behind in their hydro bill payments at the end of 2015, owing a total of $172.5 million. The OEB also revealed that 60,000 residential customers were disconnected from their hydro services in the past year, for being unable to pay their bills.

After spending months denying a hydro crisis even existed, the Wynne government now feels it's so urgent that it introduce a bill (that doesn't come into effect until 2017), but stifles debate by the opposition on real solutions.

Victor Fedeli
Nipissing MPP and PC finance critic

No cap-and-trade costs shown on natural gas bills: Ontario Liberals

Canadian Press
September 28, 2016

TORONTO – Ontario's Liberal government is defending the decision not to display the costs of its cap-and-trade program to fight climate change on natural gas bills.

The Ontario Energy Board this week told natural gas companies to separately show their costs of cap-and-trade on tariff sheets posted on their websites, after ruling earlier that those costs would not be listed as a line item on monthly bills.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says the energy board views the costs of the program designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions like labour or pipes or any other cost of doing business, which are not shown on bills.

Thibeault says he "respects" the decision by the OEB, which he describes as "a quasi-judicial organization that looks after bills in the natural gas sector," while the government is responsible for electricity bills.

The Liberals predict cap-and-trade will add about $5 a month to residential natural gas bills when the program starts January 1, but insist they can't tell the energy board what to display on those bills.

The OEB has also approved rate increases effective Oct. 1 for natural gas distributors that will add between $22 and $40 a year to residential bills.

Action Alert launched to help small businesses fight large hydro bills

Brampton Guardian
By Joanne Lovering
September 28, 2016

The Province's much-ballyhooed recent announcement that it will slice the eight per cent provincial portion of the HST from hydro bills does not spell relief for the small businesses.

So says a spokesperson for the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses (CFIB.)

"That is nice," said Julie Kwiecinski, director of provincial affairs for Ontario. "But it is throwing a Band-Aid on a booboo."

In addition, Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault announced Sept. 27 the government will reverse a decision to buy $3.8 billion in large renewable-energy projects, saving each hydro customer $2.45 monthly in future costs.

Kwiecinski said hydro has "bigger problems," including a thing called "global adjustment."

"Global adjustment is really tricky and a lot of media shy away from it," commented Kwiecinski. "In fact, global adjustment is not global, it is provincial. Oh boy! Such a complicated file. It is hard to understand

and I think the government likes it this way.”

She said that in 2015 the global adjustment fee accounted for 77 per cent of hydro useage fees in Ontario. This fee remains the same regardless of how much hydro a customer uses.

The charge comes from long-term contracts the government signed with energy providers, both green and nuclear. These providers are paid a fixed amount regardless of energy consumption. Out-of-province users do not pay it.

The CFIB is now collecting signatures on an Action Alert to be presented to the Province on this issue. They are requesting:

- Eliminate all time-of-use rates for small businesses and implement a lower cost rate on the first 3,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity consumed per month.
- Eliminate the so-called “conservation tax” known as the “Global Adjustment”, which accounted for 77 per cent of 2015 hydro usage fees.
- Accelerate the elimination of the Debt Retirement Charge on commercial hydro bills.
- Review salaries and benefits on executive compensation in all public sector energy jobs.
- Direct the Ontario Energy Board to reject any future rate increases.

Interested parties can go to www.cfib.ca . Click on Ontario in the Lobbying section, then look for the article entitled Time For A Recharge: CFIB seeking energy cost relief for small business.

Ontario’s Green Energy Cancellation is Admission of Defeat

Toronto, ON, Canada / Talk Radio AM640

Posted: September 28, 2016 08:53 am

The Liberal Party’s cancellation of future Green Energy plans (announced by Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault) is an admission of defeat by Kathleen Wynne, and doesn’t mean a direct savings for the province’s hydro customers.

Ross McKitrick, Professor of Economics at the University of Guelph, told The John Oakley Show what this news REALLY means for taxpayers.

Hydro Ottawa recognized for setting the standard in green power

OTTAWA, Sept. 28, 2016 /CNW/ - Hydro Ottawa is honoured to be recognized at the Ontario Energy Association Excellence Awards as Company of the Year for its industry-leading best practices, including its growing green energy generation portfolio.

The award acknowledges a company that has raised the bar for best practices in Ontario's electricity sector, recognizing a variety of business areas, including financial operations, customer service, environmental practices and technology.

The award was presented last night in Toronto.

Quick Facts

Hydro Ottawa is the largest municipally-owned producer of green power in the province of Ontario, generating enough renewable energy to power 62,000 homes annually.

By the end of 2017, with the expansion of its Chaudière Falls generating facility, scheduled to be operational in 2017, that number will increase to approximately 107,000 homes (equivalent to one-third of Hydro Ottawa's customer base).

Recently, Hydro Ottawa expanded its green energy generation portfolio to include:

The acquisition of 10 run-of-the-river hydroelectric facilities in Ontario and upper New York State;

The purchase of all remaining Hydro-Québec hydroelectric assets at Chaudière Falls; and

A new large-scale solar initiative project with the City of Ottawa that will see an annual output of 3,000,000 kWh.

Hydro Ottawa's overall customer satisfaction score has increased from 83 per cent to 87 per cent.

To date, more than $890,000 in contributions has been provided to a range of non-profit agencies through the company's Community Investment Program.

Hydro Ottawa continues to develop and promote customer self-serve options and has over one-third of all its customers subscribed to e-Billing.

Quotes

"I am humbled by this recognition that speaks not only to our commitment to growing our green energy generation but to the continued excellence in our operations. Being acknowledged in this manner by our provincial peers in the energy sector is quite meaningful."
- Bryce Conrad, President and Chief Executive Officer

About Hydro Ottawa
Hydro Ottawa's core businesses are delivering electricity, generating renewable power and providing energy conservation/management services. Hydro Ottawa is a community-owned, private company, delivering electricity to more than 325,000 customers in Ottawa and Casselman. It is the largest municipally owned producer of green power in the province, with hydroelectric and landfill gas-to-energy generating facilities. Hydro Ottawa Holding Inc. (Hydro Ottawa) owns and operates two subsidiary companies, Hydro Ottawa Limited and Energy Ottawa Inc.
www.hydroottawa.com

SOURCE Hydro Ottawa Holding Inc.

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