

Media Call Summary: August 29, 2017

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Date: Tue, 29 Aug 2017 17:06:37 -0400

Ministry: 1 inquiry

Topic: Ontario Fair Hydro Plan advertising campaign

Reporter & Outlet: Andrew Dreschel, Hamilton Spectator

Response Type: Ministry spokesperson

Questions:

1. What is the cost of the hydro reduction ads?
2. What is the date the campaign commenced?

Response:

TBD

Minister's Office: 2 inquiries

Topic: Alectra announcement in Barrie

Reporter & Outlet: Chris Reynolds, QP Briefing

Response Type: Minister's spokesperson

Questions:

Does the Minister have any remarks beyond those included in the Alectra release?

<http://www.alectrautilities.com/docs/2017-08-29-Alectra-expands-trial-electricity-pricing-program.pdf>

Response:

The following was provided to the reporter:

- Minister's remarks
- Backgrounder – Alectra pilot project
- Pricing plan brochures x3 – Alectra pilot project
- News release – OEB pilot projects
- Backgrounder – OEB pilot projects

Topic: Hydro pilot project

Reporter & Outlet: Mary Yang, Sing-Tao Newspaper

Response Type: Minister's spokesperson

Questions:

What's the purpose of this pilot projects and is it an initiative by OEB or your government? What will be done after the pilot project and will it be permanent in the future?

Is cost of the project 17.5 million as indicated from previous news? Who's going to pay for that? Are taxpayers going to pay for it or the 3 utilities?

Response:

The purpose of the pilot projects is to increase fairness and choice in electricity billing, while giving customers more opportunities to save money. A young professional living in a condominium has very different electricity usage and needs than a retire couple in a bungalow, and we want to make things more fair for both of them. This is in line with the Government's recent Fair Hydro Plan, which has now lowered residential electricity bills by an average of 25 per cent. Half a million small businesses and farms also benefitted from those reductions.

The OEB is overseeing the pilot projects, which are managed by local utilities. Government is providing policy oversight. Data from the pilots will be analyzed, and more pilots will be rolled out. The goal is to look at program feasibility and to increase flexibility choice for electricity consumers across the province.

For the pilots that have been approved to date, funding of \$16.3M has been budgeted to be recovered from the Independent Electricity System Operator's Conservation Fund. Utilities and some of their technical partners are also making in-kind contributions.

Agencies: 1 inquiry

Agency: OEB

Topic: Pilot projects on RPP pricing

Reporter & Outlet: Kelly Cutrara show, Talk AM 640 Toronto

Response type: OEB spokesperson

Questions:

1. Where the pilots will be offered?
2. How they will work?
3. How long they will they last?
4. What the goals are?
5. and basically wants to breaks some of the technical jargon down ie. "higher critical peak rate"

Response:

TBD