

Media Call Summary: July 10, 2017

From: "Demetriades, Natasha (ENERGY)" <natasha.demetriades@ontario.ca>
To: "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, "Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.whittington@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Barbaro, Rachel (ENERGY)" <rachel.barbaro@ontario.ca>, ted.gruetzner@opg.com, martine.holmsen@ieso.ca, alexandra.campbell@ieso.ca, mary.bernard@ieso.ca, john.cannella@ieso.ca, neal.kelly@opg.com, Sylvia Kovesfalvi <sylvia.kovesfalvi@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, John Bozzo (OEB) <john.bozzo@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, Chuck Farmer <chuck.farmer@ieso.ca>, "Martin, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.martin@ontario.ca>, "Berg, Denna (ENERGY)" <denna.berg@ontario.ca>, "Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY)" <jeet.chatterjee@ontario.ca>, "Pagel, Alexa (ENERGY)" <alexa.pagel@ontario.ca>, "Maguire, Lauren (ENERGY)" <lauren.maguire@ontario.ca>, Lars Hansen <lars.hansen@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Evans, Karen (ENERGY)" <karen.evans@ontario.ca>, "@ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations" <energy-comm-issues_and_mediarelations@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Schlaepfer, Martin (ENERGY)" <martin.schlaepfer@ontario.ca>, "Lyon, Sam (ENERGY)" <sam.lyon@ontario.ca>, "Tretiakov, Iliia (ENERGY)" <ilia.tretiakov@ontario.ca>, "Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)" <kevin.denheijer@ontario.ca>
Date: Mon, 10 Jul 2017 17:07:10 -0400

Agencies: 2 inquiries

Agency: IESO

Topic: TOU rates vs. dynamic pricing

Reporter & Outlet: Herman Trabish, Utility Dive

Response Type: IESO spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

We received a media call from Herman Trabish from Utility Dive. He is working on a story about the effectiveness of TOU rates vs. the effectiveness of dynamic pricing. We spoke to him about the IESO study on TOU rates.

Follow up questions:

1. What is your reaction to the results reported by the IESO?
2. Will the TOU rates continue to be used in the Fair Hydro program?
3. Do you plan any changes in the TOU rate structure?
4. Do you have any other changes planned for the TOU program?

Response:

Kausar Ashraf, Evaluation Manager, explained to Herman that the IESO was asked to do a study on TOU by the OEB so that any savings that came from TOU could be credited to LDCs toward their conservation targets. It was a three-year study, each year with a different number of LDCs participating, and its scope was to look at residential and general service (less than 50 kW) customers. Because of privacy concerns, the analysis was limited to examining consumption data.

She explained that the study results indicated residential customers did shift their consumption based on TOU pricing, while general service (small business) customers did not. There was no statistically significant impact on energy conservation for either group. This is consistent with what has been found in other jurisdictions. She also explained that as the ratio between peak and off-peak increased over the course of the study, so did the load shift. Kausar also told him that in the new conservation framework, TOU is not considered an eligible tool for LDCs to use toward their conservation target.

He also asked about where TOU rates were going, the ratio for the prices and how it has changed, and how the TOU rates are affected by the Fair Hydro Plan, and we referred him to the OEB for these types of questions.

Response to follow up questions are TBD.

Agency: OEB

Topic: TOU rates vs. dynamic pricing

Reporter & Outlet: Herman Trabish, Utility Dive

Response Type: OEB spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

Background

The journalist is preparing a story on the future of rate designs and pricing in the electricity sector. Overall his article will look at the effectiveness of TOU rates vs. the effectiveness of dynamic pricing. He has spoken to a variety of utility and industry players in different jurisdictions across North America and recently completed an interview with Kausar Ashraf, Evaluation Manager at IESO who reviewed the report produced by the Brattle Group. IESO subsequently referred the reporter to the OEB for additional questions.

He is tentatively expecting to have the article published next week online and would like the interview/email response to be completed by Tuesday or Wednesday at the latest this week.

Utility Dive is a North American industry magazine that focuses on a wide variety of electrical energy topics including power generation, transmission and distribution, solar, storage, distributed energy and energy regulation.

Questions

1. What is your reaction to the results reported by the IESO?
2. Will the TOU rates continue to be used in the Fair Hydro program?
3. Do you plan any changes in the TOU rate structure?
4. Do you have any other changes planned for the TOU program?

Response:

TBD

Minister's Office: 0 inquiries

Ministry: 0 inquiries

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