

Media Call Summary: June 5, 2017

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Date: Mon, 05 Jun 2017 17:05:13 -0400
Attachments: OPG Biomass & Coal Conversion-R4.pdf (574.79 kB)

Agencies: 3 inquiries

Agency: OEB

Topic : Cyber Security Framework

Reporter & Outlet : Geoff Zochodne, QP Briefing

Response Type : OEB spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

Looking to discuss the report in general and why there's a need for it?

Why are natural gas distributors included and what happens next with the report?

Response:

The OEB will decline to do an interview on the Framework report however we have posted a letter to distributors at the same time the Cyber Security Framework was placed online.

It is available at <https://www.oeb.ca/sites/default/files/ltr-CS-Framework->

20170601.pdf and provides full details on your questions concerning the purpose of the report and the process that the publication of the framework is part of.

Agency: OEB

Topic : Hydro One Rate Application

Reporter & Outlet : Caroline Bourdua, CBC Radio-Canada

Response Type : Email response, OEB spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

- 1. *Is this a five year rate application?***
- 2. *Why this is only three years since the last rate application?***
- 3. *How will the rates approved here increase while the Fair Hydro Plan also promises a decrease in rates?***

Response:

Is this a five year rate application?

Yes.

Why is this only three years since the last rate application?

Hydro One submitted their previous 5-year rate application in 2014. The OEB indicated that they had not provided enough information for a full five-year term and were granted only a three-year rate approval. This current application includes a 5- year term.

How will the rates approved here increase while the Fair Hydro Plan also promises a decrease in rates?

This application deals exclusively with the distribution costs of Hydro One – which is part of the delivery line on a consumer's bill. This is the funding through distribution rates that Hydro One is requesting in order to manage its distribution business. The bill reductions envisioned in the Fair Hydro Plan will work to reduce total electricity bills. Electricity bills include distribution costs.

The OEB has just started the review of this rate application. No decision has been reached.

Our job is to review that application to make sure the utility's costs are justified and appropriate. We work hard to keep rates as low as possible while ensuring the system can run properly and be financially viable.

Utilities rarely get all they ask for. In the last 8 years, we've reviewed over 100 major rate applications and reduced requested rate increases by an average of about 40 percent.

Overall, the Ontario Energy Board has kept the annual growth in average distribution rates close to the rate of inflation during the same period.

We conduct an open, robust and inclusive rate review process and will be holding OEB Community meetings across Ontario, including the Sudbury area, to provide Hydro One customers with an opportunity to learn more and ask questions about Hydro One's distribution rate application.

We encourage all Hydro One consumers to attend our meetings and tell us what they think about their utility's rate application. Please check the OEB website to confirm the dates, locations and times of meetings across Ontario:

<https://www.oeb.ca/participate/community-meetings>.

Agency: OPG **updated with response**

Topic : Ontario's transition off-coal/workforce adjustment

Reporter & Outlet : Jim Stanford, Economist and Director of the Centre for Future Work at the Australia Institute

Response Type : OPG spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

I am interested in the workforce adjustment angle of the OPG transition away from coal.

Closing 19 units at 5 stations must have affected a lot of people. Yet I understand no-one was laid off: a combination I suspect of severance buy-outs, transfers to other jobs/locations, and (in a couple of cases) the conversion of facilities to biomass (which meant jobs did not actually disappear).

I am interested in learning as much detail (including numbers) of the people affected and how it was handled. It seems to me this is an enormous success story, that I would be keen to tell through my research.

Response:

OPG provided the attached.

It's posted on OPG's website. It is their story about moving to off coal. There is a number of points about transitioning the workforce.

Minister's Office: 0 inquiries

Ministry: 0 inquiries

