

Media Call Summary: March 14, 2017

From: "Renwick, Meredith (ENERGY)" <meredith.renwick@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>, "Katona, Keley (ENERGY)" <keley.katona@ontario.ca>, ted.gruetzner@opg.com, martine.holmsen@ieso.ca, alexandra.campbell@ieso.ca, "Demetriades, Natasha (ENERGY)" <natasha.demetriades@ontario.ca>, "Doig Moore, Jacqueline (ENERGY)" <jacqueline.doigmoore@ontario.ca>, "Halford, Gavin (ENERGY)" <gavin.halford@ontario.ca>, "Hendy, Adam (ENERGY)" <adam.hendy@ontario.ca>, "Malcolm, Pauline (ENERGY)" <pauline.malcolm@ontario.ca>, "Nutter, George (ENERGY)" <george.nutter@ontario.ca>, karen.evans@ontarioenergyboard.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>, "McGoey, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.mcgoey@ontario.ca>, "Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY)" <jeet.chatterjee@ontario.ca>, "Pagel, Alexa (ENERGY)" <alexa.pagel@ontario.ca>, "Maguire, Lauren (ENERGY)" <lauren.maguire@ontario.ca>, "Biggs, Megan (ENERGY)" <megan.biggs@ontario.ca>, Lars Hansen <lars.hansen@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Lyon, Sam (ENERGY)" <sam.lyon@ontario.ca>, "Cvjeticanin, Dan (ENERGY)" <dan.cvjeticanin@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 14 Mar 2017 17:03:35 -0400

Media Call Summary

Ministry: 1 Inquiry, 1 Update

Topic: Grid Capacity

Reporter & Outlet: Evelyn Harford, Smiths Falls Record News

Response Type: Ministry spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

Reporter inquired about a local hydroelectric project that is stalled due to lack of grid capacity. She mentioned that a town delegation spoke to ministry officials about it at ROMA earlier this year.

Response:

TBD

UPDATE: Response to media call from March 9, 2017

Topic: Distribution costs/RRRP

Reporter & Outlet: Ray Ford, Cottage Life

Response Type: Ministry Spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

Is the ministry looking at ways to reduce distribution costs to cottagers, perhaps by extending something like the RRRP? During last year's reworking of the RRRP, what changes were made extending it to full-time customers in other LDCs?

Response:

Currently, support to offset the high cost of electricity distribution in rural and remote areas is provided to roughly 350,000 rural and remote customers through the Rural and Remote Rate Protection (RRRP) program. The cost to distribute electricity to low-density rural and remote areas of the province is higher than the cost in other areas of the province. The majority of customers that receive RRRP are full-time residential customers living in low-density rural areas of the province served by Hydro One Networks in the R2 rate class. Seasonal class customers, such as cottagers, who do not reside full-time at the service address who are served by Hydro One Networks, are not eligible to receive RRRP.

As part of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, the government has announced that it is broadening its distribution rate protection providing lower distribution rates for about 800,000 customers. This broadened rate protection will include residential customers of local distribution companies (LDCs) with some of the highest rates in the province, including medium density full-time residential customers served by Hydro One Networks in its R1 rate class. The broadened eligibility announced by the government does not include seasonal class customers who are not full-time residents at the service address.

However, seasonal customers, like other residential customers, are eligible to receive the 8% rebate available since January 1, 2017. Seasonal customers will also benefit from the reduction in the electricity usage portion of the bill announced as part of Ontario's fair Hydro Plan, which is planned to take effect this summer.

Agencies: 0 inquiries

Minister's Office : 0 Inquiries