

RE: Ministry of Energy Top Issues - July 14, 2016

From: "Syed, Usman (ENERGY)" <usman.syed@ontario.ca>
To: "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, "Colalillo, Sam (ENERGY)" <sam.colalillo@ontario.ca>
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Date: Fri, 14 Jul 2017 07:57:15 -0400

Hi Andrew, we're on it, thanks.

- Usman

From: Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY) <Andrew.Teliszewsky@ontario.ca>
Date: Friday, Jul 14, 2017, 7:23 AM
To: Syed, Usman (ENERGY) <Usman.Syed@ontario.ca>, Colalillo, Sam (ENERGY) <Sam.Colalillo@ontario.ca>
Cc: Armstrong, Hillary (ENERGY) <Hillary.Armstrong@ontario.ca>, Whittington, Matt (ENERGY) <Matt.Whittington@ontario.ca>
Subject: Fw: Ministry of Energy Top Issues - July 14, 2016

Good Morning:

First story - would that be under the current 'net metering' process?

I'm interested in unpacking their claims of "no government support" (ie. Not FIT?) but a "7-year-pay-back"?

Would be great to understand it better.

Maybe a tour opportunity as well?

Atel/

From: Cvjeticanin, Dan (ENERGY) <Dan.Cvjeticanin@ontario.ca>
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 6:59 AM
To: @ENERGY All
Subject: Ministry of Energy Top Issues - July 14, 2016

Good morning,

Here's what's making news:

- Winery cuts electrical use by 80 per cent – Niagara Advance

- Brown stumps early in Welland -- Niagara This Week – Welland, pg. 1
- Questions about turbine – Owen Sound Sun Times, pg. A3
- Hydro One Requests Rate Increase for Customers in Muskoka - CKVR - Time: 18:10
- Reevely: Ontario's government is underscrutinized — it doesn't need to be -- National Post
- CWI to stop manufacturing in Erin due to hydro costs -- The Wellington Advertiser

Winery cuts electrical use by 80 per cent

Niagara Advance

2017-07-13

Bill Redelmeier has been building a reputation for environmental stewardship since Southbrook Vineyards opened in Niagara-on-the-Lake almost a decade ago.

Southbrook already holds the designation of being the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold-level winery in Canada, and its vineyards are certified organic and biodynamic - even the sheep, who roam through the rows of vines eating weeds and bugs, are fed organically-grown hay.

But the winery owner has recently taken a huge step forward in energy conservation with two projects that have resulted in a net reduction in the company's electricity use of 80 per cent.

Behind the Niagara Stone Road winery, best known locally for award-winning wines and the long lavender wall that runs parallel to the vineyards, sits a newly-constructed large block of solar panels.

They are part of a net metering project which uses 432 solar panels to produce electricity tied to the grid. The winery uses what it needs and what it doesn't need is redistributed, creating a credit for Southbrook for the cold winter nights when it requires more than it produces.

"This is good for all of us, and good for society," said Redelmeier.

With a large chunk of the province's energy coming from nuclear power that is produced around the clock, he says, "Ontario is selling excess power to the U.S. at night. We'll be using that excess power. It's a win-win situation."

Southbrook paid about \$250,000 for the solar panels, installed with no government subsidies, and the project will pay for itself within about seven years, he said.

But operating on his philosophy that “it’s way better to not use something in the first place than to create more generating power,” the solar project that was unveiled at the winery Thursday was only part of the story. Redelmeier said he decided he should look at overall energy consumption first to see if there were opportunities for improvement. That became another step in Southbrook’s sustainability project, working with an Ontario-based engineering firm, Enviro-Stewards, and NOTL Hydro to reduce the winery’s use of electricity and natural gas.

With those steps taken combined with the solar project, “we’re proud to reduce net electrical consumption by 80 per cent,” he said.

The winery’s consumption was 360,000 kilowatt/hours per year in what was already an energy-efficient building before the start of the two projects, and Redelmeier says he hopes to get down to 60,000 kWh per year.

His motivation for playing a leadership role in environmental issues stems partly from being identified as one of the baby-boomer generation who have made such a mess of the environment, he said, and from listening to his kids complain about the damage.

“I’m trying to get ahead and fix what’s been done. I don’t want to leave it for the next generation.”

The initial decision to go organic was because it was “the proper thing to do,” and the practices that earned the biodynamic designation “were about making better wine,” he said.

The recent projects to conserve energy “make good business sense and they’re the right thing to do. We want to provide an example of what’s possible.”

Brown stumps early in Welland

Niagara This Week - Welland

Thu Jul 13 2017

Page: 1

Section: News

WELLAND - A provincial election may be just under a year away, but as Patrick Brown swung into Welland on Wednesday night, one might have been inclined to think otherwise.

After getting off to a late start, the Ontario PC leader spoke to a room of supporters at the Welland Branch 4 Royal Canadian Legion, rounding out a day of touring across the region in what looked like a campaign stump stop. Brown used the opportunity to build up PC Niagara Centre candidate April Jeffs and Niagara West-Glanbrook MPP Sam Oosterhoff, while taking shots at the Kathleen Wynne Liberals on the subjects of skyrocketing hydro rates, slow economic growth, overspending and health care.

"We need to turn things around," said Brown, adding, "after 14 years of Liberal government, Ontarians work harder, pay more and get less."

Brown took questions from the roughly 100 party faithful in the audience, the first zeroing in on the issue of historically high hydro costs.

"Wherever I go, I hear about hydro," said Brown, underscoring the issue that will certainly dominate much of the campaign discussions in the run-up to a 2018 election.

With rates increasing threefold under the Liberal government over the last 14 years, Brown criticized the Liberals' fair hydro plan, describing the plan as a borrowing scheme to provide a discount in the present at the cost of future ratepayers should the Liberals be re-elected.

"Rates are going to skyrocket after the election," he said, claiming the PCs would curb over generation that has seen billions of dollars in energy given away.

"We have to make sure generation is limited to consumption," said Brown, blaming the Green Energy Act's Feed In Tariff program for driving unnecessary generation projects like wind and solar farms.

Brown was quick to defend the future operation of the Welland Hospital, a subject Wainfleet Mayor Jeffs has been vocal on in recent years. However, he did not make any firm commitment to continued operation of the hospital that he visited earlier in the day with the PC candidate.

"I get the sense they are making small towns pay for mismanagement," said Brown, adding, "you pull a hospital out of a small town and you rip the heart out of a small town."

He went on to target administrative and executive excess as the root of the problem.

“April (Jeffs), you’ve been fighting for this hospital and we will fight with you,” said Brown, who was quick to throw out support for the business and manufacturing sector, calling for a focus on reduced business costs.

“I want to make sure it is a competitive environment,” he said, adding, “the only way taxes will go when I’m premier of Ontario is down.”

Brown didn’t miss the opportunity to praise both Jeffs and Oosterhoff.

“We’ve got phenomenal candidates like April and Sam,” said Brown, who cited Jeffs’ experience with the Green Energy Act in opposing wind turbine developments in her municipality. “She (Jeffs) won’t let your community down.”

Jeffs said it was great to welcome Brown to the region as a dry run of sorts for the campaign ahead.

“We’re going to start getting out there,” said Jeffs, adding, “I think it’s on.”

Questions about turbine

Owen Sound Sun Times

Fri Jul 14 2017

Page: A3

Section: News

Byline: Frances Lermont

Questions about whether acoustic testing was done for a UNIFOR wind turbine by June 30, as promised to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), have prompted renewed calls to shut the turbine down if it cannot be proven to be operating within provincial noise guidelines.

Saugeen Shores chief administrative officer David Smith told town councillors at a July 10 committee of the whole meeting that unofficially, the consultant hired to do a peer review of the turbine test results said the testing was not completed. The town contacted the MOECC and

Ontario Ombudsman for updates, who indicated the deadline was missed, but not officially. Coun. Dave Myette said he was “disappointed but not surprised” and asked if the testing was not done, or if the results were not compiled.

Smith said he did not want to speculate, but said testing did occur, and the town’s peer consultant was contacted.

He said the amount of rainfall may have hampered getting adequate test data, and leaves on trees may have also hampered testing.

“My sense is this: they didn’t get... enough sample that would articulate all the different wind conditions... we expect they will be asking for an extension,” Smith said.

Saugeen Shores Deputy-mayor Luke Charbonneau said missing the testing deadline should lead to a turbine shutdown, but he is not confident that will happen because the “ministry isn’t super keen on sorting it out.”

Since it began operating five years ago, hundreds of noise complaints -mainly health-related - have been lodged with UNIFOR and the MOECC by neighbours of the wind turbine in south Port Elgin, but other than UNIFOR’s promise to conduct the testing, no results have been offered. Earlier this spring, the town voted to hire a consultant to do a peer review of the UNIFOR turbine testing.

Charbonneau said the noise complaints continue, including one person who complained 20 times from May 22 to June 14, during testing.

“Of course, we’ve been waiting for 18 months for the wind to blow just right to test this turbine, and it never seems to blow right, but the wind has blown hard enough and has been just fine in the last six weeks to generate a great deal of complaints,” he said, adding another resident complained seven times, backed with data from hand-held decibel test equipment showing the turbine may have been operating outside its allowable noise limit. He said another resident complained three times, but felt it was futile to continue with more complaints.

“The wind isn’t blowing hard enough to meet Ministry of Environment criteria, but it’s blowing plenty hard to annoy people living close to the turbine, and like the turbine, we spin around and around and keep spinning.”

Charbonneau asked the CAO to return with an update as soon as he can, and if it turns out the testing was not completed, that council write another letter to the MOECC and ask them to

make the testing mandatory, and if it is not completed by a set date, the turbine be shut down.

Charbonneau noted the testing equipment set up recently was not in the area where complaints had been received, and they should insist that noise receptors be located in areas of complaints.

Hydro One Requests Rate Increase for Customers in Muskoka

Source: CKVR

Jul 13, 2017 6: 10 PM

Anchor: Hydro One customers in Muskoka are getting a chance to voice their concerns tonight over a possible hike on their monthly bill. Hydro One is looking to increase rates more than \$10 over the next four years. The Ontario Energy Board is holding a meeting that will be held at the Bracebridge Sportsplex starting at 6:30 P.M. to hear from residents and customers on the proposed rate hike. Hydro One is asking the OEB to approve its application to increase rates on January 1 by \$2.79 per month for the average customer. The rate would then continue to increase over four years. The request comes after the provincial government introduced legislation to reduce the out of control energy bills.

Reevely: Ontario's government is underscrutinized — it doesn't need to be

National Post

2017-07-13

Byline: David Reevely

Ontario's legislators should consider living up to their responsibility to keep an eye on what the premier and her ministers are up to, the province's financial watchdog advises.

Stephen LeClair uses just about the mildest possible language for this in his newly released annual report. He is not by nature a bomb-thrower. His tone is respectful. But his criticism should go through the opposition parties and even backbench Liberals like a million volts.

"Do I feel we're being underused? Yes I do feel we're being underused," he says in an interview.

LeClair's job is to double-check the numbers the government uses in its budgets and forecasts. He's the provincial equivalent of the federal government's Parliamentary budget officer, a permanent pain in the tuckus to any government that wants to fiddle its figures with unrealistic assumptions or by pretending important details are irrelevant.

His and his small staff calculated, for instance, that the Liberals' "Fair Hydro Plan" cuts electricity prices by 25 per cent now by having us spend an extra \$21 billion in the future. They laid out some of the risks of Ontario's cap-and-trade plan for greenhouse gases the government would rather not talk about. They pointed out how much the government's budget plans rely on Toronto's overheated housing market's spinning off billions of dollars in land-transfer taxes.

The Liberals never wanted him but the New Democrats forced LeClair's job into being as a condition of supporting a budget when the Liberals had only a minority and needed propping up. Now they aren't using him. Mostly LeClair and his staff are coming up with their own ideas about worthwhile things to examine.

“Hallloooooo!” his latest report cries out. “I’m over here! Let me know if you need anything!”

LeClair has been a senior official in multiple ministries in the federal government and in the Northwest Territories, Alberta and Yukon (where he was deputy minister of finance). He’s seen how a bunch of different systems work.

“I am looking for ways in which we can contribute more to (provincial) Parliament. From my past jobs, I know that committees can be an effective way. But I know that the committees here sometimes don’t have the kind of dialogue that can bring up the big issues,” he says. “What we often see is different people bringing forward their views on a subject rather than having ministers and public servants explaining the rationales for what they’ve done.”

The opposition parties’ most effective attacks on the Liberals — on any government — come from access-to-information requests and leaked documents and auditors’ reports and court filings in formal investigations, not rhetorical venting. Generating that raw material is hard, grinding work, but there’s a squad of experts ready to assist.

In the last year, LeClair’s received four inquiries from MPPs, a pitifully low number. He’s received precisely zero from any committees of the legislature.

“The FAO would be pleased to appear before a committee to discuss a potential research request,” LeClair’s report says.

Maybe the legislature’s finance committee could call in the finance minister to talk about implementing his budget, he suggests. The federal House of Commons does this and it seems to help MPs understand what’s going on.

Other subject-matter committees (on, say, justice policy) spend much of their time scrutinizing bills passing through the legislature, which is an important part of their job. But only part.

“These policy field committees rarely undertake general studies of the ministries that fall under their mandate,” LeClair says, even the multibillion-dollar ones like Health and Education. Also, maybe the legislature could adopt the practice of having the subject-matter committees study their ministries’ spending instead of having one general-purpose committee do it.

If they did, perhaps they’d come up with questions about how those ministries spend their piles of public money.

All MPPs who aren’t in the cabinet are supposed to monitor and challenge the premier and cabinet on how they govern and spend. That is their constitutional responsibility.

“These heavy tasks fall on the shoulders of backbench MPPs, both in the government and opposition parties. They face competing demands on their time, often lack access to useful information about economic and financial matters and historically had limited economic and financial analytical support,” LeClair writes. “The FAO looks forward to working with MPPs to better understand how to support their scrutiny function.”

A pause, a deep breath. “Hallooooo! Again! Let me know if I can help you do your jobs! If you feel like doing them, I mean!”

In the next election, Ontario’s count of MPPs goes from 107 to 122, which will likely mean more backbench MPPs. Maybe that’ll include more maverick government backbenchers, whatever party wins. It should certainly include more effective opposition legislators ready to use this powerful tool that’s just lying there ready to be picked up.

CWI to stop manufacturing in Erin due to hydro costs

The Wellington Advertiser

2017-07-14

Central Wire Industries (CWI) will be stopping the manufacturing portion of its wire production business in Erin due to the high cost of power.

CEO and president Paul From said manufacturing of stainless steel and nickel alloy wire products will be relocated to two of its U.S. facilities and its Perth, Ontario facility, meaning 20 to 25 people will be out of jobs in Erin.

“It really came down to the price of power in Ontario ... I mean we’re paying 19 cents a kilowatt hour in that plant versus less than half in U.S. facilities,” said From.

“It’s just very, very difficult. These rates keep going up ... but at the end of the day, we’re not unlike other companies that have left Ontario.”

CWI has two plants in Canada, eight plants in the U.S. and one in the U.K.

From said the offices at the Erin facility will remain open and the building will be used mainly as a warehouse. From said the cost of power to run the equipment was a significant factor in the restructuring.

“We’re using power-intensive equipment to manufacture the product and it’s a big problem for us,” he said.

Transition

The transition of the Erin plant will take several months.

“This is recognizing that the landscape in Ontario from the standpoint of power and jobs is in jeopardy and that’s unfortunate,” said From.