Afternoon Energy Media Summary - November 3, 2017

From: "Quartarone, Robert (ENERGY)" <robert.quartarone@ontario.ca>
To: "@ENERGY All" <energy-all2@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Date: Fri, 03 Nov 2017 15:00:07 -0400

G ood afternoon,

Here is a roundup of the day's news:

- * Wind: worst value for Ontario consumers – *Parker Gallant Perspectives*
- * Resident questions facts spouted by Provincial Liberals – *Durhamregion.com*
- * William Osler Health in Brampton faced with spiraling electricity bills as patients crowd hallways – *Canada Free Press*
- * Letters to the editor – *Sarnia Observer*

Please see below **Today in Twitter** for news articles.

Nov. 3, 2017
Today in Twitter

@RobinMartinPC - Under the Wynne Liberals, you pay more for wind energy GA ($57M in Oct) & get less 0 - read Parker Gallant #onpoli

@charlesadler - Shutting down #SiteC a dam shame if it demands #BC **make the same risky bet on wind & solar that saw** #Ontario **power bills skyrocket.**

@OntNewsWatch - Hydro: Ontario permanently bans winter disconnection from electricity #OnPoli

@WindConcernsONT - Wind power lobbyist claims wind makes #Ontario electricity bills "affordable." October stats tell a different story

@Can_Energy - Good news for Ontario and Western Canada. @TransCanada is making it cheaper to ship natural gas to Ontario Dawn Hub.

Wind: worst value for Ontario consumers
Parker Gallant Perspectives
Nov. 3, 2017

Right after Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault released his version of the LTEP (Long-Term Energy Plan), "Delivering Fairness and Choice," CanWEA (the Canadian Wind Energy Association) issued a news release with the following statement: "New wind energy provides the best value for consumers to meet growing demand for affordable non-emitting electricity."

To back up that claim, CanWEA president Robert Hornung had this to say: "Ontario's harnessing of wind power can help fight climate change while keeping electricity costs low. Without new wind energy, costs to electricity customers and carbon emissions will both continue to rise."

Brandy Giannetta, CanWEA's Regional Director for Ontario also had a quote: "CanWEA supports competitive, market-based approaches to providing flexible, clean, and low-cost energy supply, to meet Ontarians' changing needs."

The expression "I wish I had a dollar for every time I heard that," immediately comes to mind but here's the truth: industrial-scale wind turbines have failed miserably in producing anything resembling "low-cost" energy and is instead one of the reasons consumers' electricity bills "will continue to rise"!

If Hornung and Giannetta had waited just five days, they could have visited my friend Scott Luft's spreadsheet and noticed how wind performed in October. They would have discovered it was pretty dismal: 37.9% of possible grid-connected (Tx) wind power generation was curtailed (paid for but not used).

The IESO (Independent Electricity System Operator) was concerned that too much wind power generation could cause repercussions such as a blackout or brownout, so 481,243 MWh (megawatt hours) were not accepted throughout the month. However, Ontario's ratepayers will still pay for those undelivered MWh at a cost of $120 each, meaning the GA (global adjustment) increased by $57.7 million (481,243 MWh X $120. = $ $57,749,160).

Add that $57.7 million to the 787,627 MWh of the Tx generation accepted into the grid, the total costs rise to $165 million or $208.32/MWh — the equivalent of 20.8 cents/kWh (kilowatt hour). (That calculation is 787,627 X $135/MWh = $106,329,645 + $57,749,160 = $164,978,805. Simply divide the latter amount by the Tx accepted generation and you get the $208.32 MWh or the 20.8 cents/kWh.)

It is important to note that the costs calculated and reported here do not include the transmission charge, delivery charge, regulatory charge or the HST. Additionally, another 158,609 MWh of wind were delivered to local distribution companies (Dx) at a cost of $135/MWh, bringing IWT costs for the month to $185 million — for power we didn't need. No doubt during the month we were also steaming off clean nuclear power from Bruce Nuclear and spilling clean hydro power from OPG's hydro generation units. In both cases the cost of the steamed off nuclear and the spilled hydro will be added to the Global Adjustment pot and find its way to our future bills.

I hope Mr. Hornung and Ms Giannetta will rethink their claims and simply admit wind power generation is high-cost, and frequently displaces low-cost non-emitting nuclear and hydro power.

You can't hide October's facts!

Resident questions facts spouted by Provincial Liberals
Durhamregion.com
Nov. 3, 2017

To the editor:

The News Advertiser on Oct. 25 had the insert and caption from our local MPP Joe Dickson "Working Hard for Ajax and Pickering", itemizing all the "goodies" for Ontarians. I have every respect for Mr. Dickson but question some of the actions and decisions of his Liberal party. For brevity, I have listed only a few.

The $15 minimum wage increase and vacation pay for part-time workers has been severely criticized by political analysts and has already caused some management concerns. e.g. McDonalds, Tim Hortons and small business. However, the government is proceeding regardless. Time will tell?

Free Pharmacare for children and youth under 24. These should be their healthiest years, yet seniors on a fixed income have to pay higher than the ODB premium for brand-name prescriptions even when doctors prescribe (no substitute). Added to the foregoing the $100 deductible is still in effect?

Twenty-five per cent off all household hydro bills: This is not factual and is misleading. There are thousands who live in condominiums etc. representing families. The savings consist of eight per cent provincial rebate. Granted, there is the removal of the $0.81 approximate OESP fee and minimal kilowatt reductions on peak, mid-peak and off-peak times. Even using 'the time of use system' for billing, this does not account for an additional 17 per cent savings.

Ontario's Fair Hydro plan: There is apparently $26 billion in hydro debt removed from the books which has been borrowed through Ontario Power Generation placing hydro ratepayers on the hook for approximately 30 years? In addition, the Auditor General uncovered an attempt to hide the $4 billion cost of the hydro rebate. The government's proposal is to treat that loss as an asset? That's like treating your credit card debt as an asset. This is one way as mentioned in the bulletin to have a 'balanced budget'?

As a senior in my twilight years, my concern is not for myself but for the future generations, when the most staggering and damming figure is hidden and I quote:

“Ontario’s $300 BILLION DEBT ranks larger than any province, state, or local government worldwide!

Work hard but work smarter.

Alistair Hinshelwood

Ajax

[William Osler Health in Brampton faced with spiraling electricity bills as patients crowd hallways]
Christine van Geyn
Canada Free Press
Nov. 3, 2017

TORONTO, ON: Documents obtained by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) reveal a dramatic increase to the cost of electricity to William Osler Health System in Brampton over the last five years.

The documents, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, show that in the last five years, bills for the health centre’s main campus rose from $3.44 million to $7.76 million. That’s more than a 125 per cent increase. These calculations do not include costs for the new 20 Lynch campus, which opened in 2016.

The Brampton facility has come under scrutiny lately because an internal memo showed how over a one-year period, 4,300 patients received care in hallways at Brampton Civic Hospital, located at 2100 Bovaird. That particular site has seen an increase to their electricity bills of $2.95 million since 2012.

“We are seeing patients languishing in hallways in Brampton, while the government is forcing hospitals to waste millions on inflated electricity prices because of their failed green energy policies,” said CTF Ontario Director, Christine Van Geyn. “Doctors and nurses want to provide exceptional care. But with limited resources, hospitals are forced to choose between keeping the lights on and providing that care.”

The internal memo states that research shows that patients who spend any length of time in hallways end up staying in the hospital longer, and face higher risks of complications like infections.

“No one wants to see sick people crowded in hallways, but when electricity is consuming more and more of the budget every year, there are fewer resources for beds, nurses, and doctors,” continued Van Geyn. “The Ontario government has manufactured a health care crisis with its failure to control electricity costs.”

The documents detailing William Osler Health Services electricity bills can be found HERE.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is currently running a campaign opposing the Green Energy Act and cap-and-trade at StopHighEnergyBills.ca.

[Letters to the editor]
Sarnia Observer
Nov. 3, 2017

Ontario can’t afford more Liberal government

Most recently we noticed our premier is up to her pre-election ploys. Let’s not get duped again!

I don’t think we need to be reminded of how our great province has tumbled from prosperity to abysmal debt during this last period of the Liberal Party’s direction. Our province already holds more debt than any other sub-national government in the world. Our net debt has tripled since the Liberals came to power, which is projected to be $312 billion this year. Currently this government spends over $11 billion annually servicing the debt. These charges continue to grow, leaving that much less for other priorities such as health care, education and tax relief.

Can we believe the provincial government’s announcement that they had achieved a balanced budget for this past year? The government may have curtailed some spending on day-to-day operations such as salaries, programs and income transfers to achieve this fictitious balance. But the overall debt will continue to accumulate due to spending on long-term projects such as roads, bridges and transportation systems and, of course, from interest payments on the aforementioned debt.

I don't believe we need to be reminded of the soaring electricity costs and how our premier has attempted to appease us by reducing hydro rates whereas, in fact, she is deferring the monstrous debt to the next generation as another "debt retirement charge".

Premier Wynne appears to be selfishly oblivious to Ontario's financial status as she continues to dole out our money in unwarranted increases.

You have to shake your head and ask, "How and why does the CEO for Hydro One merit to receive an annual salary of $4.6 million, more than the combined salaries of the top five world leaders?"

Most recently Wynne has offered to appease the teacher and OPSEU unions by offering them unexpected salary increases to avoid arbitration next year and, obviously, to gain their electoral support.

I don't believe we can forget the "boondoggled" cancellation of gas plants and the relocation of the Mississauga travesty at a cost of billions of dollars. That gas plant was built next door to a coal-burning hydro plant that could have been retrofitted and upgraded to a gas-burning plant for a couple of billion dollars less and also saved a few hundred jobs.

I don't believe we can forget the dictation of the Green Energy Act which took away the democratic and constitutional rights of municipal and county governments to determine whether they wanted to have the inefficient, unreliable and costly industrial wind turbines located within their jurisdiction.

I don't believe we can forget the fact the province wasted over $1 billion worth of clean, unneeded, energy in 2016 (enough to power 760,000 homes) because of overproduction. They had to "dump" or export the unrequited electricity for prices less than it costs to produce.

I don't believe we can forget the broken promises of reducing our car insurance premiums. Despite having the lowest levels of accidents and fatalities in Canada, we continue to have the most expensive premiums in the country.

We cannot afford Wynne and the Liberals.

Frank Bartelen

RR 4, Petrolia

Robert Quartarone
Program Officer | Issues Management, Media Relations
Communications Branch, Ministry of Energy
Tel: 416-327-7226
BB: 647-622-4138