

Afternoon Energy Media Summary - October 18, 2017

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Date: Wed, 18 Oct 2017 15:05:40 -0400

Good afternoon,

Here is a roundup of the day's news:

- Ontario PCs call for Wynne Liberal Energy Minister to resign over explosive Auditor General report – *OntarioPC.com*
- OPG Ranney Falls Generating Station Refurbishment – *News Release (OPG)*
- Guelph Hydro starting merger talks with Alectra – *CTV News*
- Lambton Shores council reaches 'top up' compromise on energy funding – *Exeter Times-Advocate*
- Why should Liberals' numbers be trusted? – *The North Bay Nugget*
- Scott Thompson: Do you believe Kathleen Wynne Liberals or Auditor General when it comes to hydro costs? – *Global News*
- WWF first members avoid paying damages... for now – *The Chatham Voice*

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

Oct. 18, 2017
Today in Twitter

[@PCPressOffice](#) - Ontario PCs call for Wynne Liberal Energy Minister to resign over explosive Auditor General report [#onpoli](#)

[@WindConcernsONT](#) - Save millions on [@HydroOne](#) costs say County citizens. Cancel wpd project [@IESO Tweets](#) save \$100 MM [@GlennThibeault](#)

[@LPOntario](#) - In the past 20 years, Ontario went from one of the lowest cost electricity producers in Canada to the most...

[@AmirFarahi](#) - "Ontario electricity prices have soared, hurting industrial competitiveness"

[@terencecorcoran](#) - Hydro One: the Svengali behind the Fair Hydro Act? ... <https://parkergallantenergyperspectivesblog.wordpress.com/2017/10/18/hydro-one-the-svengali-behind-the-fair-hydro-act/> ... via [@wordpressdotcom](#)

[Ontario PCs call for Wynne Liberal Energy Minister to resign over explosive Auditor General report](#)

OntarioPC.com
Oct. 18, 2017

In the wake of an explosive report from the Auditor General showing that Ontario families will pay an extra \$4 billion for Kathleen Wynne's expensive hydro scheme, Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown called on Ontario's Energy Minister to resign.

"The Auditor General's report was a scathing indictment of Liberal political corruption and their contempt for the people of Ontario," said Brown during Question Period.

The AG said the scheme was "needlessly complex," and that the government is trying to keep the true cost of her scheme buried by "improperly" accounting billions of dollars.

"This is an egregious abuse of power and someone must be held responsible," added Brown. "I have no doubt all of cabinet was complicit – and the direction came from the premier and her senior staff. But the minister of energy is the main spokesperson for this charade."

"In the end, the Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault must be accountable. Will the premier accept the resignation of him today?" Brown asked.

Today, Ontario PC MPP Lisa MacLeod tabled a motion at the Public Accounts committee to comprehensively study the Auditor General's report, and call for Ministers and senior political staff to testify about these questionable revelations. The motion will be debated Wednesday, October 25.

Motion tabled in Committee:

MPP Lisa MacLeod: I move, that the Standing Committee on Public Accounts postpone consideration of all matters currently before the Committee until the completion of its review on the report on "The Fair Hydro Plan: Concerns About Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Value For Money" from the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario.

[OPG Ranney Falls Generating Station Refurbishment](#)

News Release (OPG)
Oct. 18, 2017

\$25 Million Investment in Campbellford Area

CAMPBELLFORD, ON, Oct. 18, 2017 /CNW/ - Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is maximizing electricity production at its historic Ranney Falls Generating Station (GS) by replacing the smallest generator with a modern 10 megawatt (MW) unit, which will more than double the station's capacity.

Replacing the existing century-old unit makes economic sense and is a cost effective way of adding clean renewable generation to Ontario's electricity mix.

"We're proud of our role as stewards of heritage assets," said Mike Martelli, OPG's President Renewable Generation and Power Marketing. "Ranney Falls is the next in a long line of OPG hydroelectric stations to be refurbished and upgraded. Electricity customers will benefit from this investment for generations."

"The Ranney Falls Generating Station is continuing its century's old legacy of hydroelectric excellence," said Lou Rinaldi, MPP for Northumberland—Quinte West. "This new generator will breathe new life and double its generating capacity. We are committed to maximizing our hydroelectric resources across the province and today's announcement is an excellent example of that plan."

OPG's Ranney Falls Generating Station was built in 1922 by OPG's predecessor, The Hydroelectric Power Commission of Ontario, and it has provided clean renewable electricity for almost a century.

Key facts:

- The new generating unit is expected to be operational in 2020
- About 70 skilled trade workers are currently working on the project
- A new water spillway will be installed, further improving public safety
- The new unit will produce enough energy each year to power about 10,000 homes
- The new generator will extend the station's life into the 22nd century

OPG generates safe, clean, reliable, low-cost power for Ontario. More than 99 per cent of this power is free of smog and carbon emissions. OPG's power is priced 40 per cent lower than other generators, which helps moderate customer bills.

SOURCE Ontario Power Generation Inc.

For further information: Ontario Power Generation, 416-592-4008 or 1-877-592-4008, Follow us @opg

[Guelph Hydro starting merger talks with Alectra](#)

Ryan Flanagan
CTV News
Oct. 18, 2017

One year after the idea of selling or merging Guelph Hydro was first floated publicly, the City of Guelph says it's ready to move forward with a merger.

City officials announced Wednesday that they had begun talks with Alectra, the hydro utility servicing a wide area including Brampton, Mississauga, Barrie, Hamilton and other communities around the Greater Toronto Area, about a merger.

Over the past year, a public process had seen the city narrow down its options for the utility's future to the point where merging with another utility was considered the preferred choice.

City officials have said that a merger would create efficiencies in administration and other areas, in turn keeping local hydro bills low, while not affecting the reliability of the service.

According to a city press release, a merger would also result in Alectra locating an operations hub for southwestern Ontario in Guelph, as well as creating a green energy technology development centre in the city.

Details of the merger are expected to be presented to the community, although no specific dates for that to happen have been made public. Councillors are expected to vote on the matter on Dec. 13.

Guelph Hydro, which is currently owned by a subsidiary of the City of Guelph, provides electricity to Guelph and Rockwood.

Ontario's hydro utilities have undergone substantial consolidation over the past few years. In 2012, there were 73 such companies in existence, while a provincial report recommended reducing that number to eight.

Alectra was one such result of that report. It formed earlier this year when Enersource, Horizon Utilities and PowerStream merged and purchased Hydro One Brampton.

Other local impacts have included the creation of Energy+ when Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro purchased Brant County Power, as well as Woodstock Hydro, Norfolk Power Distribution and Haldimand County Hydro selling to Hydro One.

Waterloo North Hydro has also recently been considering a possible purchase of or merger with another utility.

[Lambton Shores council reaches 'top up' compromise on energy funding](#)

Gord Whitehead
Exeter Times-Advocate
Oct. 18, 2017

LAMBTON SHORES — Liveliness and robustness are synonyms for vibrancy and once again they aptly apply to the nature and duration of discussion when Community Vibrancy Fund allocation confronts members of council.

By the Sept. 15 application deadline, the community services department had received 24 requests totalling \$186,048.49 for projects proposed for 2018. That's almost double council's allocation of \$94,122.00, based on 20 per cent of the annual funds received from NextEra Energy, operator of the giant Jericho wind farm in Lambton Shores.

Director Steve McAuley reported that his staff intended to prioritize the grant requests for presentation to council's Oct. 17 meeting. However, two of the applicants requested "immediate" consideration because their proposed projects are time sensitive.

Grand Bend's Jingle Bells Group asked for \$9,900 to help retrofit hydro pole Christmas decorations in the village with new LED lighting. And Forest's International Silver Stick committee sought \$7,000 for promotion of the 50th anniversary of the hockey tournament in January.

Citing an affiliation with the Jingle Bells, Grand Bend's Ward One Coun. Dave Maguire declared a conflict and did not participate in what evolved as the Sept. 26 session's lengthiest discussion and series of motions.

Thedford area Ward 7 Coun. Jeff Wilcox argued that fully funding the Jingle Bells and Silver Stick could diminish amounts other applicants receive and "it would be fair to have all of these considered at the same time." However, a motion to table the entire discussion to the Oct. 17 meeting was defeated, as was a follow-up motion that would have committed some funding to both Jingle Bells and Silver Stick but "at the same level as all other eligible groups."

Forest area's Ward 5 Coun. Rick Goodhand eventually proposed a compromise motion to top up the vibrancy fund allocation to be awarded on Oct. 17 by the \$16,900 total granted to Jingle Bells and Silver Stick. That motion passed 7-1 with only Ward 4 Coun. Ronn Dodge recorded in opposition.

Director McAuley also sought council's direction on how his community services staff should rank the priority of the 22 other applications for consideration at the Oct. 17 meeting. Council passed a motion setting the following four criteria:

1. Requests based on new projects/organizations that have not been funded in the past;
2. Requests based on projects that have a demonstrated source of contributing funds;
3. Requests based on projects taking place on municipally-owned and operated property; and
4. Requests based on the overall benefit to the community.

In its application, Grand Bend's Jingle Bells Group cites a primary role "to enhance and augment seasonal and nonseasonal lighting in the community to foster the resurgence of shoulder season events." It says 40 volunteers plan and set up the seasonal lighting and activities for "Light Up Grand Bend," an annual celebration for the beginning of the holiday season Friday, Nov. 17.

Why should Liberals' numbers be trusted? (Opinion)

Vic Fedeli
The North Bay Nugget
Oct. 18, 2017

To the editor:

One thing is abundantly clear following Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk's damning report on Kathleen Wynne's 'unfair' hydro scheme. Kathleen Wynne and her government simply can't be trusted.

As a result of "incorrect" accounting methods, and cooking the books for politically-motivated reasons, Ontarians are on the hook for \$4 billion more than necessary.

The auditor couldn't have been more blunt in her condemnation.

"The accounting proposed by the government is wrong and if used would make the province's budgets and future consolidated financial statements unreliable," Lysyk said in her report.

"In essence, the government is making up its own accounting rules."

Make no mistake - this hydro scheme was a re-election ploy. We have seen hydro rates skyrocket to the highest across Canada, and if the Wynne Liberals are re-elected, rates will only continue to soar.

This is just the latest piece of evidence proving the premier and her ministers are deliberately not being honest with Ontarians about the province's fiscal numbers, or the numbers on our hydro bills.

Just last month, the auditor refused to sign off the government's public accounts, stating the deficit is actually \$1.4 billion higher than stated. Prior to that, the Financial Accountability Officer stated the government is using "unlikely assumptions" in its budget forecasts, and that future generations could be on the hook for up to \$93 billion in hydro costs. That came on the heels of a leaked Liberal cabinet document that showed hydro rates will rise to the highest levels we've ever seen.

So if the two independent financial officers of the legislature don't trust the Liberals' numbers, why should Ontarians?

This hydro scheme is a sham drafted to benefit the Wynne Liberals, not the people of Ontario.

Everything they have touched in the electricity sector has made life more unaffordable, including:

- Overpaying \$9.2 billion for green energy contracts which were awarded to energy companies who donated \$1.3 million in donations to the Ontario Liberal Party.
- Creating a secret millionaires club at Hydro One, including paying the CEO \$4.5 million
- Hiding the egregious cost of the global adjustment on hydro bills
- Shelling out \$7 billion to purchase an American coal-burning utility, instead of cutting hydro rates
- Wasting nearly \$1 billion of surplus electricity last year alone.
- Using \$5.5 million of taxpayer funds to run political self-congratulatory ads promoting the hydro plan, instead of cutting hydro rates
- The \$1.1 billion gas plant scandal, and subsequent email deletion which is the subject of an ongoing criminal trial against two top former Liberal aides.

Vic Fedeli
MPP Nipissing

Scott Thompson: Do you believe Kathleen Wynne Liberals or Auditor General when it comes to hydro costs?

Scott Thompson
Global News
Oct. 18, 2017

Ontarians have been given the true costs of Kathleen Wynne's Green Energy Act refinance (the Fair Energy Act) and it is as ugly as experts predicted many years ago.

Not only is this shell game costing us an extra \$39.4 billion, the Liberals are using creative accounting to make it appear as an asset instead of a loss on Ontario books adding \$4 billion.

That's because they promised a balanced budget last spring and you can't do that with a \$40 billion loss, so you bully the rules of engagement with your majority.

Or, you Trump everyone by just repeating the false news over and over again, hoping people believe your accounting instead of the auditor general.

That's what Energy Ministry Glenn Thibeault's sell is now.

What is crystal clear is electricity rates have almost doubled in the last decade for no reason other than an overzealous green plan, designed to attract voters, which never saw proper due diligence and cost analysis.

A "mistake" as Wynne called it.

Yet although the financing for this electricity "mistake" has changed by extending the loan to 29 years, her energy plan hasn't.

Are we not then repeating the same "mistake"?

And, if you cannot trust the office of the Ontario Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk to be neutral, who can you trust?

We have nothing left. No voice.

That is what the Ontario Liberals are asking of you, when believing Kathleen Wynne's accounting, over the Auditor General.

— <https://chathamvoice.com/2017/10/18/wwf-first-members-avoid-paying-damages-for-now/>
The Chatham Voice

Oct. 18, 2017

The owners of the North Kent Wind Farm project say that despite filing a statement of claim for damages due to a blockade at one of 34 turbine construction sites, they will not be suing Water Wells First members.

According to Matt Dallas, spokesperson for Pattern Energy, the company does not intend to pursue the claim "at this time."

"North Kent Wind does not intend to sue anyone to recover the financial losses it has incurred due to the blockade. We have not begun any legal action and it is not our intention to pursue any further legal action at this time. We are focused on bringing a new source of clean energy to the local area, which is creating jobs and will bring substantial economic benefits to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent," Dallas said in a statement.

The Council of Canadians, however, which is working with the members of Water Wells First, condemned Samsung and Pattern for even filing the potential million-dollar-plus statement of claim against Chatham area residents who blocked construction at one of 34 wind turbines the company is erecting as part of its North Kent One wind power project.

Many of the people who took part in the 11-day blockade have filed well interference complaints against the developer, citing the vibrations from the company's pile driving activity as the cause of the sudden influx of black silt in their wells. At least 13 well interference complaints have been made since the company started pile driving for the turbine foundations last June.

According to the developer's Statement of Claim filed in Superior Court, the impact of the construction delay caused by the blockade "amounts to costs ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per day, covering only the current amount of labour and equipment idle."

The Statement of Claim names Water Wells First spokesperson Kevin Jakubec and First Nations Head Crane Clan Mother Cindy Soney as defendants. It also includes "other individuals who have been involved in the unlawful conduct ... who have not yet been identified and have been named as John Doe and Jane Doe."

The well water on the Jakubec family's farm became polluted with black silt shortly after pile driving began nearby.

"Our well water was crystal clear for decades before the pile driving started," said Jakubec. "Now, Samsung is claiming that we damaged them to the tune of millions of dollars. I wonder how they sleep at night, because I sure can't."

"Million dollar lawsuits are usually meant to intimidate," said Mark Calzavara, Ontario Organizer for The Council of Canadians. "But people don't back down when it comes to protecting their water. The evidence clearly shows that the construction is causing the pollution. Samsung must stop this project now."

He added the statement of claim gives the company the option of pursuing for damages at any time. The company may also try to use it as leverage to reduce compensation in any negotiations for interfering with the wells belonging to anyone that took part in the blockades.

Chatham-Kent CAO Don Shropshire said the municipality is "aware of the statement of claim but weren't involved in it or in taking any action on the matter."

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