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Ontario

Sessional Paper No. Q-17

17: Mr. Fedeli, MPP - Would the President of the Treasury Board state whether the government is in possession of an opinion from KPMG or E&Y on how the Fair Hydro Plan transaction should be recorded in the government's Consolidated Financial Statements, and further state precisely where they disagree with the Auditor General. (Tabled March 21, 2018)

Response

The government, including IESO and OPG, engaged external accounting advisors to assist in the review of appropriate accounting standards for the recognition of Global Adjustment aspect of the Fair Hydro Plan, and specifically the application of rate regulated accounting. The financial statement of the Province are prepared in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards, , which are silent on this matter. Where Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS) are silent, standard accounting practice dictates that an entity should consult other accounting frameworks to determine the appropriate accounting for the transaction. This guidance for PSAS is included in Section PS 1150.07 of the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Handbook. The province's use of external expertise for accounting and financial reporting matters supplements its own resources on complex or emerging accounting and reporting matters.

The financial statements of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) are audited by KPMG, a firm of independent external auditors whose responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with PSAS. The 2017 IESO Annual Report, which is available on IESO's website, includes KPMG's audit opinion stating that the financial statements of IESO, are presented fairly, in all material respects, and in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards..

The financial statements of the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) are audited by EY, a firm of independent external auditors whose responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in the United States (US GAAP). The 2017 Financial

Results of OPG, which are available on OPG's website, includes EY's audit opinion stating that the financial statements of OPG are presented fairly, in all material respect, and in accordance with US GAAP.

The professional accounting staff of the Office of the Provincial Controller agree with the treatment of the Fair Hydro Plan as reported in the audited financial statements of both IESO and OPG for the year ended December 31, 2017, and will provide its analysis to the Office of the Auditor General outlining the supporting rationale for the accounting treatment in connection with the audit of the 2017-18 Public Accounts.

Commented [SB(1]: Is this accurate? Haven't heard this before

Yes

Eleanor McMahon
President of the Treasury Board
Minister Responsible for Digital Government