

Message

From: John Cannella [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CD667C6D53774DD0A749783BB02AE89D-JOHN CANNEL]
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Today's News

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Contact Editor

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Alectra study identifies residential solar storage potential

www.marketwired.com - Tue Apr 18 2017

HAMILTON, ON--(Marketwired - April 18, 2017) - Alectra Inc., with the support of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), has completed a feasibility study for mass adoption of the utility's residential solar storage pilot, POWER.HOUSE, ...



Power capacity reaching its peak in Barrie and Innisfil

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Residents reacted with surprise that the area power supply is nearing its limit, InnPower regulatory CDM manager Brenda Pinke said. RELATED STORIES Public meeting shines light on... She attended the inaugural Independent Electricity System ...

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'Prudent' plan to deal with hydro rates: Brown tells Oakville Chamber crowd

Oakville Beaver - Tue Apr 18 2017
Byline: Nathan Howes

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Alectra study identifies residential solar storage potential

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HAMILTON, ON—(Marketwired - April 18, 2017) - Alectra Inc., with the support of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), has completed a feasibility study for mass adoption of the utility's residential solar storage pilot, POWER.HOUSE, in Southern York Region.

The feasibility study focused on analyzing costs, benefits, technical capabilities, and key considerations associated with aggregating a large-scale fleet of solar storage assets, known as a virtual power plant, to deliver both customer and grid value. The study found that an expansion of the utility's existing offering is feasible and could result in a positive overall benefit to customers over the study period, with the opportunity to install up to 30,000 new units in Southern York Region by 2031.

Implementation of the proposed roll-out could, under the right conditions, result in the potential to defer energy infrastructure investments by at least two years in the

late 2020s, while offering customers a significant reduction on their bills by generating their own energy, sending the surplus back to the grid for additional credit and providing a number of grid reliability services.

Funded by the IESO's Conservation Fund, POWER.HOUSE uses an aggregate fleet of residential solar and battery storage systems located at customers' homes. The systems are autonomously controlled through intelligent software to simulate a single, larger power generating facility. The technology, which features a combination of rooftop solar PV panels and a lithium-ion battery installed behind the meter at customers' homes, helps to protect against power outages, off-sets peak hour electricity rates to provide significant reductions on bills and reduces impact during peak system demand, while delivering clean power directly to the customer.

"Alectra is committed to offering clean, cost-effective solutions to our customers, who are faced with managing rising energy costs," said Brian Bentz, President and CEO of Alectra Inc. "POWER.HOUSE is an example of how we can help customers meet future energy demands."

"This is an important project on which the IESO was pleased to partner with Alectra," said Bruce Campbell, President and CEO of the IESO. "The results make a strong case for further study of the technical and commercial potential that residential solar storage can achieve. It will also help inform future efforts that may see these technologies emerge as a sustainable option to support reliable grid operations."

About Alectra Inc.

Alectra's family of energy companies distributes electricity to nearly one million customers in Ontario's Greater Golden Horseshoe Area and provides innovative energy solutions to these and thousands more across Ontario. Our employees are allies in helping customers discover the possibilities of energy conservation and new technologies for enhancing their quality of life.

About IESO

The IESO manages the province's power system so that Ontarians receive power when and where they need it. It plans and prepares for future electricity needs and works with its partners to guide conservation efforts. For more information, please visit www.ieso.ca

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Power capacity reaching its peak in Barrie and Innisfil

www.simcoecom - Tue Apr 18 2017

Residents reacted with surprise that the area power supply is nearing its limit, InnPower regulatory CDM manager Brenda Pinke said.

Public meeting shines light on... She attended the inaugural Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) community meeting in Barrie on April 5, where the future power plans for the area were discussed.

"There was nothing surprising for us, because we've been participating in it, but I think folks were surprised about the demand growth," Pinke said. "I know we're always talking about it, but I think when they see it in terms that three other levels of electricity are experiencing it, they understand there's something to it."

Residents in the area are serviced by either InnPower, Alectra or Hydro One.

A local advisory committee was created for the area to talk about future power options, as the main Barrie transformer station is nearing the end of its life.

According to Hydro One, the Barrie transformer station will be at the end of its life in 2020.

While power demand has been relatively stable over the past five years, a population growth has been forecast in south Barrie and Innisfil over the next four years and there is concern there won't be enough supply.

In December 2016, a study was released to look growth in south Barrie and Innisfil, but also looked at areas such as Bradford West Gwillimbury, New Tecumseth, Essa, Springwater, Clearview, Mulmur and Adjala-Tosorontio townships.

"For InnPower, there is no concern because we already have those planning components into our models," Pinke said. "Where it does impact us is if they choose to build a new transmission site or are they going to refurbish. Those are the options"

Even if the Hydro One Barrie transformer station off Tiffin Street is refurbished, it would mean power would have to be diverted while construction takes place, she said.

"Sometimes that costs more money than building new, to build redundant lines while you're rebuilding," she said, adding the local advisory committee is going to examine the costs and report back.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 7. The meetings are open to the public. For more details, email ontarioregionalplanning@ieso.ca or search for the Barrie-Innisfil sub-region at ieso.ca.

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'Prudent' plan to deal with hydro rates: Brown tells Oakville Chamber crowd

Oakville Beaver - Tue Apr 18 2017
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"It's putting a bandage on a bullet hole."

That's what Ontario Official Opposition and Ontario Conservative Party Leader Patrick Brown calls the governing Liberals' recent Fair Hydro Plan to reduce electricity rates for residents and businesses alike.

His comments to the Oakville Beaver Tuesday, April 18, followed his presentation at the Oakville Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

The sold-out event drew an attendance of 192 people at the Glen Abbey Golf Club.

The gathering was Brown's first public address to the Oakville Chamber, its members and the local business community, and included his keynote address and a moderated question-and-answer-period with the Simcoe North MPP.

The provincial Liberals and NDP released their own plans to cut hydro rates by a certain percentage (up to 25 and 30 per cent, respectively). Brown stated his party has a structural plan to address hydro.

He noted it's standard for political parties to release their platforms closer to an election date, something the Conservative Party will do just ahead of the June 2018 election.

"What we're not going to do is a game of showmanship where people pick numbers out of thin air that aren't realistic, that aren't based on evidence," said Brown.

He called the NDP's proposal "pie-in-the-sky factitious" and described his party's structural proposal as prudent and well thought out.

Among the requests in the plan are to ask the Province to stop the "fire sale" of Hydro One; reduce compensation for executives; end bad contracts associated with the Green Energy Act; and stop new deals for electricity generation.

In 2016, Ontario produced "way more than we need" - 145 TWh (terra-watt), but it only used 137 TWh, excluding renewables, Brown said, suggesting energy is "given away" to the United States, while charging Ontarians for it.

"That's where we really differ from the NDP and the Liberals, where they've supported the Green Energy Act and they support these bad contracts...we don't and we're going to stop that practice," said Brown.

He also charged the NDP and Liberals' hydro plans "do not nothing for businesses. It does nothing with this Global Adjustment (rate)."

For companies, they can become more competitive if Ontario used its clean water power, rather than "spilling it," Brown told the Beaver, and called the Province's \$1.9 billion cap-and-trade a revenue grab.

"I passionately care about the environment. I believe climate change is man-made and we have to do something about it. But I don't believe governments should use that as an excuse to tax and fleece the public," said Brown.

"If it's really about the environment, why does the government need to get \$2 billion? Anything collected should be given back to the public, in broad-based tax relief, making businesses, like the members of the Chamber more competitive."

Electricity is an issue the Conservatives have been focusing on for the last "seven, eight years" at Queen's Park, Brown said, and not just in recent months because voters have taken issue with it.

"Do I think the Liberals and NDP are doing damage control on this right now? Absolutely. We're going to continue to be the party that makes promises we can honour, that makes policies based on sound evidence... and frankly, that's not what we're seeing right now," said Brown.

In his prepared remarks, the Official Opposition leader said nearly 600,000 Ontario families were unable to pay their hydro bills.

Hydro costs have also resulted in companies relocating to other provinces or to the United States, Brown charged.

"Now, in the 11th hour before an election, the government releases its hydro scheme, which really is just a borrowing scheme. Frankly, borrowing money that is not fixing the structural problems we face in hydro," said Brown.

Brown also touched on Ontario's 2017 budget, infrastructure needs, red tape and housing affordability issues in his presentation.

On the latter, he cited a RE/MAX market outlook report suggesting Oakville housing costs increased by 25 per cent in 2016, jumping to an average cost of about \$1.1 million, while prices are expected to climb another five per cent this year.

"This is a real challenge. The dream of home ownership is becoming just that - a dream that is out of reach," said Brown.

"Families deserve to see a credible plan to address housing affordability crisis in Ontario."

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