

Message

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

powered by:

Date: Thursday, April 20, 2017
Edited by: John Cannella (John.Cannella@ieso.ca)

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New Gas-Fed Power Plant Online

blackburn news - Wed Apr 19 2017

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Loblaw energy leader: MPP

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Clarington This Week - Tue Apr 18 2017
Byline: Jennifer O'Meara

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Kincardine News - Thu Apr 20 2017
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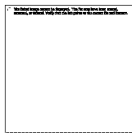
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CBC.CA News - Wed Apr 19 2017, 8:22am ET
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Electrifying ideas on how to make progress

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New Gas-Fed Power Plant Online

blackburn news - Wed Apr 19 2017

The Greenfield South Power Corporation generating facility on Oil Springs Line has been able to provide electricity to the Ontario market for nearly a month now.

Independent Electricity System Operator spokesperson Chuck Farmer says it met all of the market registration requirements on March 21.

"The facility has proven that it can synchronize with the Ontario electricity grid and meet all of the requirements that it has to meet to be able to generate electricity," says Farmer.

Farmer says the plant has the capacity to produce 325 MW.

"We plan for a reliable supply of electricity for Ontarians both now and in the future and so the Greenfield South facility is part of our gas fleet. The fleet is available for when the demand rises," he says.

Farmer says demand is low in the spring and fall.

"The demand will rise as we get into the summer and hotter months and also over the course of certain days the demand will rise and fall quite a lot," he says. "The gas plans provide a lot of flexibility on the system."

Farmer says the plant will also prove its value as the province refurbishes its nuclear generating fleet.

Construction of the \$360-million plant started in 2013.

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Loblaw energy leader: MPP

Sudbury Star - Thu Apr 20 2017 Page: A3

Sudbury MPP and Ontario energy minister Glenn Thibeault held up Loblaw Companies Limited as an example of an energy leader in the province during his visit to the Lasalle Real Canadian Superstore on Wednesday.

Thibeault got a first-hand look at electricity retrofits, supported by the province, which reduce the Lasalle store's energy consumption.

Since 2012, the Lasalle Superstore has received Save on Energy incentives for a variety of projects that save about 800 megawatt hours annually.

"Energy retrofits are some of the most important actions any business can take to reduce both energy consumption and monthly costs, and our government is committed to supporting these improvements," Thibeault said in a statement. "By working to reduce energy consumption at its stores through Ontario's conservationfirst framework, Loblaw is positively impacting our electricity system in Sudbury and across the province."

The Superstore in Sudbury has reduced its electricity usage by 22 per cent since 2011 and has committed to reducing energy even more by finding at least another 210,000 kWh per year in savings.

"As part of our company's commitment to respect the environment and reduce our carbon footprint, Loblaw has completed a number of energy conservation projects," said Mark Schembri of Loblaw Companies Limited, Canada's largest retailer. "Nationally, we have reduced our same store, corporate retail electricity consumption intensity by 18 per cent since 2011. A contributor to this reduction

comes from initiatives in Ontario that were performed in conjunction with the Save on Energy program. We are also excited to participate in the new Energy Performance Program, which will result in an additional energy conservation projects, including refrigerated dairy case upgrades and the conversion of ambient lighting to LED in stores across Ontario."

Programs and initiatives developed through Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan are meant to support people and businesses to implement clean and low-carbon solutions to lower costs, ensure competitiveness, maintain existing jobs and create new ones. The plan includes a \$25-million investment through the Ontario Green Investment Fund in SMART Green, a new program to help small-and medium-sized businesses invest in equipment and process upgrades to reduce emissions and increase efficiency. sud.editorial@sunmedia.ca

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Darlington's unit 2 successfully separated from generating station for refurbishment

Clarington This Week - Tue Apr 18 2017
Byline: Jennifer O'Meara

CLARINGTON - Workers on the The Darlington Nuclear Refurbishment project have now safely and successfully separated unit 2 from the rest of the generating station, Ontario Power Generation announced on Thursday, April 13. The publicly-owned company added that the beginning of the \$12.8-billion refurbishment project is on time and on budget.

OPG began the first steps in the refurbishment of its four reactors at the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station in October 2016 beginning with unit 2.

OPG's Darlington station has been in operation since the early 1990s and is approaching the midpoint of its operating life. Replacing critical components of the CANDU reactors will extend Darlington's operating life by 30 years or more.

Workers have now completed the first of four substantial steps of the unit 2 refurbishment and are moving into the next phase of work. The next phase involves opening up the reactor, setting up specialized equipment, and starting the disassembly and removal of reactor components. The refurbishment of unit 2 is expected to take until February 2020.

The province has built potential "off-ramps" into the refurbishment plans. Work on the first reactor at Darlington will have to come in on-time and on-budget before the government will approve going ahead with refurbishment of each of the remaining three units.

Then workers will move on to refurbish unit 3, unit 1 and finally unit 4 - scheduled to be completed in February 2026.

OPG has spent years planning the Darlington refurbishment project and built a full-scale mock-up of a reactor, so workers could practise prior to doing the actual work.

"We have a long way to go, but we're confident we've done the work, and have the people in place to deliver this project safely and to plan ... Here's where the months

of training and practice on our reactor mock-up will really pay off," Jeff Lyash, OPG President and CEO said in a press release.

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OPG shoots back at misinformation circulated on DGR from professor

Kincardine News - Thu Apr 20 2017

Byline:Lise Morton

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Dear Editor, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) welcomes public comment on its proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) project for storing low-and intermediate-level nuclear waste.

But it hopes to see critiques based on science, not political science.

International experts agree that a DGR is the best way to dispose of nuclear waste, the science case for the preferred site is robust and an exhaustive review by an independent Federal Joint Review Panel concluded it should be built.

While potential construction is still in the future, every step of the process is subject to the highest standard of study and rigour. It is a shame Associate Professor Erika Simpson has apparently not taken the time in her March column, featured in the London Free Press and Owen Sound Sun Times, to review the decision from the Joint Review Panel.

Had she done so she would have found answers to the "unanswered questions" she poses.

OPG has been safely transporting low-and intermediate-level waste on Ontario's public roads for 40 years - over three million kilometres travelled without an accident or threat.

The shipments are highly regulated, monitored and safe. Low-level waste consists of items such as garments destined for incineration, and intermediate level waste is mostly resins and filters used to treat heavy water. Such waste has zero value as a terror target.

Simpson states that OPG's studies fail to take into account issues about land ownership and aboriginal sovereignty. However, the Bruce site is in the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, to whom OPG has committed it will not build the DGR without their support. Engagement and consultation with Indigenous communities, including Métis groups, is respectful and ongoing.

Simpson sees "no mention of the possibility that earthquakes, fires, tornados or human error could limit access to the underground chambers." The science case for the DGR was made in lengthy public hearings in 2013-14 and did indeed look at extreme scenarios of accidents and weather. It found no likely or even improbable set of circumstances that would result in a radiation release to the public - due partly to the great depth of the repository, ideal geology, and low seismic activity across vast spans of time.

Similarly, Simpson's concern about the next expected period of glaciers is an argument for the DGR, not against it. The DGR rock at a depth of 680 metres has survived intact through nine glaciers in the last million years alone. Surface storage would not be immune to the next round of glaciers in 20,000 to 60,000 years - one more reason to bury the waste in a deep geologic vault.

She worries that no containers have been invented that will last hundreds of thousands of years. As the scientists who studied the DGR site and geology have shown, to the satisfaction of a federal Joint review Panel led by eminent experts, the rock - among the tightest in the world - is itself the impermeable container for the waste in the very long term. A molecule of water takes tens of thousands of years to move just one metre in this rock.

OPG is confident in the science behind the DGR and takes its responsibilities for protecting the environment seriously. The DGR is the responsible permanent solution for the waste for future generations.

Lise Morton Vice President OPG Nuclear Waste Management

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No hydro service causes expensive delays for Harrow, Ont. manufacturer

CBC.CA News - Wed Apr 19 2017, 8:22am ET
Byline: CBC News

Crippling hydro bills are a frequent complaint from industry in southwestern Ontario.

But a forklift manufacturer in Harrow says the problem with their hydro bill is that they aren't getting one yet.

Electricity still hasn't been connected at Sellick Equipment's new 120,000-square-foot plant in Essex County, a year after they first requested service. Construction broke ground on the new facility in April of 2016.

Around that time the company also put in a request to their existing electricity provider, E.L.K. Energy, to connect the new location.

E.L.K. is the municipally-owned utility for many parts of Essex County, and currently supplies Sellick's existing smaller facility. The new location is just a short distance away, but is across the street from the border of E.L.K.'s service area, placing it in territory serviced by Hydro One.

Hydro One more expensive than local utility

Sellick asked both Hydro One and E.L.K. for cost estimates on connecting their new facility. According to filings with the provincial regulator, the Essex utility's estimated installation costs were 45 per cent lower than Hydro One's because they have existing facilities and transmission poles close by.

In addition, Hydro One's ongoing monthly rate was estimated at about \$1,000 more per month than E.L.K.

This led Sellick to ask E.L.K. to serve as their energy provider, a request that needed approval from the Ontario Energy Board.

That request has come with a nearly year-long delay, filled with hearings and regulatory filings between E.L.K., the OEB, and Hydro One.

Backup generators only a stopgap

Staff at Sellick are now concerned the increasing delays will end up costing them.

"I've got equipment on order ... I've already installed two five ton cranes. I can't even power them up," said Ken Thoman, the project manager for Sellick Equipment. "It's really thrown our timeline off."

Thoman adds that without proper hydro service, he can't safely accept deliveries of new equipment. Some of that equipment is due to arrive through ship transport in coming weeks, and cannot be delayed without costing hundreds of dollars per day, according to the company.

Comparing two providers 'difficult'

Regulations say transferring a service area from one provider to another shouldn't result in higher costs to the electrical system, and by extension, all other hydro customers. E.L.K. claims only Sellick would be affected by any changes, while Hydro One disputes this in their application to the regulator.

The OEB did not respond to a request from CBC News for comment, but in a submission to the Energy Board, OEB staff said they found it "difficult, if not impossible" to compare E.L.K. to Hydro One directly because calculating the full cost to the electrical system was so complex.

Staff also submitted that the lower cost to Sellick should be taken into account in favour of E.L.K. Energy.

"We feel that the costs are lower and they've been a long existing customer of ours," said Mark Danelon, director of finance for E.L.K. Energy.

Delay is unusual

Staff with the Essex utility say they have previously applied to the OEB to change their service area and haven't faced delays like this.

"We're hopeful that the good news will come soon ... this is the first that we've experienced this timeframe," said Danelon.

Essex MPP Taras Natyshak has attempted to speed up the process and brought Sellick's case to the Minister of Energy.

"They're in a holding pattern, waiting for the OEB to make a decision," said Natyshak. "It looks like it could be another couple of weeks, up to nine more weeks."

Increased business costs

While the wait continues, Sellick's frustration that the OEB is not taking business needs into account continues to grow.

"It's sad that it takes that long for the Ontario Energy Board to make a decision, and not one time did the Ontario Energy Board ever ask or inquire as to when we needed power on site," said Thoman, adding that the situation is approaching a critical point and the company will need hydro by the beginning of May.

Thoman believes his struggle is indicative of wider problems for manufacturers in Ontario and doesn't believe he'd have similar issues elsewhere. "If an American company ... was having this problem getting power, I can't imagine," he said.

In a statement to CBC News, Hydro One said they're committed to working with Sellick to get them connected as quickly as possible, and will assess the OEB decision once it has been made.

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Electricity costs continue to concern rural residents: FOCA

Parry Sound North Star - Wed Apr 19 2017

Dear Premier Wynne,

The following comments are related to continued and widespread concerns about the unrelenting rise in electricity costs for rural residents.

We watched your introduction of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan with great interest, and we look forward to hearing what the specific rate impacts will be for the various rate classes, and for the full range of utility customers.

You can appreciate that even a broad and significant cost shift may still leave some customers with troubling utility bills. With this in mind, we are seeking your leadership - especially with respect to low-use rural customers, who appear to still be on the hook.

In our letter dated Feb. 17, 2017, we outlined our concerns about the challenge of thousands of low-use customers in rural Ontario facing extreme electrical bill increases.

This looming burden remains aggravated by the discriminatory RRRP mechanism which provides a monthly \$60.50 bill credit to some R2 customers, while "seasonal" customers are faced with a monthly fixed delivery cost in excess of \$117 - up from the current \$36.28 - with no such bill credit available.

Based on what we can determine from the recent announcements, FOCA calculates that with a complete shift to "all-fixed" delivery charges, plus the elimination of the seasonal class, your proposed "25 per cent discount" would still yield an annual delivery charge of approximately \$1,053 for these 84,000 low-use customers (up from \$435.00). This still represents an increase of over 140 per cent on a major household expenditure, with little or no remedy or way to mitigate the cost, through conservation or otherwise.

Respectfully, your recent announcements related to "averages," not actual charges; Ontario's electrical customers are due some answers about their actual future bill

impacts, along with what solutions or options will be available to help alleviate this tremendous shift. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Terry Kennedy

President, FOCA

Terry Rees

Executive Director, FOCA

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Ontario Power Generation completes work on 28-MW Sutherland hydropower plant

Energy Monitor Worldwide - Wed Apr 19 2017, 2:45pm ET
Byline: Energy Monitor Worldwide

Ontario Power Generation's 28-MW Sutherland hydropower plant began generating power earlier this month, according to the Canadian provincial utility. The project, located on New Post Creek about 80 kilometers north of Smooth Rock Falls, was built by OPG and Coral Rapids Power, a wholly-owned venture of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation, which previously said it hoped to see many of the anticipated 220 jobs associated with Sutherland's construction filled by its members. "Ontario's newest waterpower generation station further demonstrates our government's commitment to building a clean and reliable electricity system," Ontario Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault said. "Not only will it help to support a healthier environment and cleaner air for today and future generations, this project highlights a partnership between Taykwa Tagamou First Nation and OPG that delivered meaningful economic benefits to the local First Nation community." The project is named after community elder Peter Sutherland, Sr. Work began on the plant in August 2015 and was completed on time and within budget. Construction was performed by a partnership between Kiewit and Aeeco, which were selected as the design-build contractors through a competitive process. "This project has gone well due to the relationship we've built on a foundation of respect and trust," Coral Rapids president Wayne Ross said. "There have been many benefits for our community, including good paying jobs, transferable skills and a long-term revenue stream."

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Going green at new Port Colborne operations centre

Inport news - Thu Apr 20 2017
Byline: Laura Barton
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The new Port Colborne operations centre is going green.

Darlene Suddard, environment compliance supervisor with the city, brought a report to city council about green energy options for the new facility. The report was requested by council at a November meeting.

Suddard told councillors last Monday night that the facility is already very green because it has been built with items such as LED lights, but the goal is to make it as green as possible by reducing energy consumption and emissions of greenhouse gases.

"In investigating the three different options, net metering came up the best option," she told council.

Net metering, she explained, will allow the city to reduce its own energy costs by generating its own electricity. The added benefit is in the event it produces more energy than is used up, it would "essentially run the meter backwards" and the city would get a credit on its energy bill.

The report presented to council elaborates that net metering works on renewable energy, such as bioenergy, wind, solar photovoltaic and waterpower with an estimated seven-year payback and 20-year lifespan on the system.

The other two options explored in the report were solar panels without net metering and feed-in-tariff or microFIT programs. Suddard said the microFIT program, which would feed the extra energy generated back into the grid, seems to be coming to an end anyway.

"This (net metering) is just a responsible decision," she said. "It reduces our electricity and gives us an opportunity to save some energy costs."

Saving energy costs appeals to Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet, who said citizens would save tax dollars.

After receiving this report, the plan moving forward is for the city to evaluate energy consumption at the new operations centre for a year's time.

In doing that, the city will get a better understanding of just how big of a metering system they're going to need for the 3,150-square-metre building. At that time, they will also be able to start approaching consultants for installation.

Suddard said doing this was recommended to her by a resident in Niagara-on-the-Lake who operates on a net metering system. She said he told her to be careful with how big of a system the city gets because the goal is to get as much out of it as possible. The wrong size system could mean the city would be producing as much as it uses, for example, thereby not earning any credits.

Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters was curious about implementing the system with other city buildings, but Suddard advised taking the year to see how the system operates before trying to take on too much.

Said Doucet, "We'll probably be the envy of a lot of other areas if we can start doing this with our buildings."

Chief administrative officer Scott Luey said he will work with staff as well as Niagara Centre MP Vance Badawey to determine if there are any grants or other funding options for any part of the project.

The \$12.5-million operations centre project on Killaly Street West is set to wrap up

shortly, with the keys being turned over to the city sometime in May.
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Electrifying ideas on how to make progress

The Barrie Examiner - Thu Apr 20 2017
Byline: Erich Jacoby-Hawkins
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Green Party of Ontario leader Mike Schreiner recently toured the region to meet local citizens at two events where the main topic of discussion was Ontario's electricity system and the bills we pay for it.

There was much bad news, some potential good news, but most of all the need for a mature, non-partisan conversation about how to provide Ontario with the energy we need for our homes, services and industries.

Unfortunately, that conversation seems elusive. So far, the major parties obsess over finding scapegoats (mostly each other), or conjuring up their own Game of Shells to move costs around between private or public ownership, delivery charges or power rates versus tax hikes or borrowing, etc.

Until we sit down and accept that this is a complex problem with several contributing causes requiring multifaceted solutions, and avoid over-selling the non-solutions, we won't make progress. One popular scapegoat, for example, is renewable energy. Many people, usually on the right of the political spectrum, assert that wind and solar are the cause of our high power bills. Yet the numbers show otherwise.

According to Ontario Energy Board reports, renewable energy is responsible for only 17% of the Global Adjustment (GA) which comprises so much of our high bills. Larger shares are due to gas generation (26%) and most of all nuclear,

which alone accounts for 42% of the GA. And with that aside, about half of the rate increases over the past decade are due to inflation or necessary work to keep the distribution grid reliable. But if nuclear is to blame for our history of high prices, what about the future? How can we invest in energy production that's getting cheaper, and avoid methods that will cost more? Here, again, the truth is contradicts the common wisdom.

The price of solar and wind have dropped rapidly over the past decade: the most recent round of bidding in Ontario provided wind at an average cost of only nine cents per kWh, with solar costs also trending downward.

We are also buying hydro from Quebec as cheap as four cents per kWh.

Meanwhile, Ontario Power Generation has applied to triple their rate for nuclear power over the coming decade, up to almost 17 cents/kWh.

So logically, we should be ramping down how much nuclear we use, and replacing it (where needed) with wind, solar, and hydro. Not only does this green our energy mix, it lowers our bills. Yet, the province cancelled the last round of renewable bids and is still planning to refurbish our aging nuclear fleet to run past its expiry date.

It's true that Ontario paid abovemarket rates for renewable energy earlier in the decade, to jump-start this promising new industry. But now that rates have come down, it makes no sense to step away. We can make up for earlier buy-high costs by buying low, now that the industry has matured.

The Liberal Game of Shells, by creating a \$25 billion Band-Aid on rates, helps subsidize waste by the rich (who consume more energy) at the ultimate expense of the poor. On top of that, it undermines the business case for net metering, due to replace the microFIT program next year.

What we really need is a massive push for conservation and efficiency to reduce how much power we consume and what we pay for it. Privatizing parts of the system will bring the opposite: private owners maximizing their return by increasing consumption. Only a publicly owned utility can effectively carry out a mandate to help lower your use and your bills.

So it all comes down to this: let's have a mature conversation about how to maximize our savings through efficiency, through sourcing cheap AND clean electricity, and put aside the myths and partisan attacks. And if you don't have solar panels now, don't miss your last opportunity to take part in the microFIT program and produce clean energy to sell into the grid. Erich Jacoby-Hawkins serves on the boards of Living Green and the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. Read and comment on this and other Root Issues at www.erichthegreen.ca.

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