

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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Date: Friday, June 23, 2017
Edited by: John Cannella (John.Cannella@ieso.ca)

Contact Editor

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Power grid operators brace for solar eclipse

CTV Toronto News - Thu Jun 22 2017
[Permalink](#)

The IESO's Leonard Kula was interviewed by CTV News' Paul Bliss, to discuss the upcoming solar eclipse taking place in Ontario and across North America on August 21.

To view the segment, click on the permalink above.



Outlook for Ontario's Electricity System Remains Positive over the Next 18 Months

Canadian Newswire - Thu Jun 22 2017

TORONTO, June 22, 2017 /CNW/ -The Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) latest outlook for Ontario's power system says the province has enough power to meet the expected demand for electricity over the coming summer months, as Canada and ...



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www.sudbury.com - Thu Jun 22 2017

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Full impact of Ontario's controversial 25-per-cent hydro rate cut to kick in on Canada Day

thestar.com - Thu Jun 22 2017
Byline:Rob Ferguson

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Hydro One and OEB salaries under fire

thespec.com - Thu Jun 22 2017
Byline:sclairmont@thespec.com

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Outlook for Ontario's Electricity System Remains Positive over the Next 18 Months

Canadian Newswire - Thu Jun 22 2017

TORONTO, June 22, 2017 /CNW/ -The Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) latest outlook for Ontario's power system says the province has enough power to meet the expected demand for electricity over the coming summer months, as Canada and Ontario celebrate their 150th anniversary. The latest 18-Month Outlook report covers the period from July 2017 to December 2018.

About 1,550 megawatts (MW) of new supply – 500 MW of wind, 1,000 MW of natural gas, 50 MW of hydroelectric – is expected to be connected to the province's transmission grid over the Outlook period. Wind generation connected to local distribution networks over the same period is expected to exceed 600 MW, and distribution-connected solar generation will surpass 2,200 MW, continuing the growth of distributed energy resources across Ontario.

"We expect another positive outlook for Ontario as the trend of declining peak demand continues," says Leonard Kula, IESO's Vice-President, Market and System Operations and Chief Operating Officer. "The decline in peaks is due to conservation savings, increased generation output on local distribution networks and the Industrial Conservation Initiative, which more than offsets underlying growth." Annual demand for electricity is also expected to decline slightly.

Under normal weather conditions, Ontario's highest peak for electricity demand in 2017 is forecasted to reach 22,493 MW during July, which is lower than the highest peak reached in 2016 – 23,213 MW on September 7. Ontario's all-time peak for electricity demand was set on August 1, 2006, when demand reached 27,005 MW.

On August 21, 2017, a solar eclipse is expected to pass over parts of the continental United States and Canada. Although Ontario will see only a partial eclipse, this event is expected to cause a decrease in solar production that is similar to a cloudy day. The IESO has been tracking this event for some time and benefits from

knowing exactly when the eclipse will be happening and has planned power system operations so that there is no impact to consumers.

The IESO regularly assesses the adequacy and reliability of Ontario's power system. The 18-Month Outlook is issued quarterly and can be found on the IESO website [here](#).

About the 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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Learn about the challenges of mining more than 2 km down

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After a seven-month build, you can now learn a little something about the challenges of mining below 2.5 kilometres below the surface of the Earth.

the Hydraulic Air Compressor (HAC) Demonstrator at Dynamic Earth officially opened on June 21.

The 100-foot high (above and below ground) industrial scale system for testing and demonstration of compressed air production is installed in a former elevator shaft at Science North's Dynamic Earth.

This innovative technology provides an energy efficient alternative to conventional mechanical air compression that promises up to 50-per-cent savings in lifecycle cost for mine operators and other industrial scale users of pneumatic power.

The HAC Demonstrator project is a joint undertaking of the Ultra Deep Mining Network (UDMN) — a collaboration of MIRARCO Mining Innovation, Laurentian University, Electrale Innovation Ltd. and Reasbeck Construction. Hosted at CEMI, the network aims to resolve the challenges of resource extraction in ultra-deep (below 2.5km) environments.

This UDMN project was combined into two phases: research and construction, with a total value of \$3.375 million.

Financial contributions included \$463,000 through the province's Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), \$499,000 from the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Conservation Fund, and \$620,000 from Electrale Innovation Ltd and MIRARCO — Mining Innovation, with contributions from Victaulic Canada and KROHNE Canada.

Additional support was provided by Science North / Dynamic Earth, Vale Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

Among the contributors to the project, the Cambrian Innovates team at Cambrian College fabricated the air-water mixing head, a specialty item that followed a design created by Charles Havelock Taylor in 1905 for the HAC embedded in the concrete abutments of the Peterborough Lift Lock, on the Trent-Severn Canal, now operated by Parks Canada.

Hydraulic Air Compressors promise low cost, low carbon, energy efficient compressed air for all industries requiring pneumatic power, but there is a special synergy with the mining industry because the systems have great vertical extent.

The objective of the wider project is to lower the cost of energy for mine operators to help maintain the global competitiveness of the Ontario Mining Industry. One intended new use for the compressed air produced by a HAC is for refrigeration of ventilation air for ultra deep mine cooling.

Once the facility is opened, innovators from MIRARCO, scientists and engineers from Laurentian University and engineers from the industry partners will work collaboratively to prove the energy efficiency of the systems and to investigate their feasibility for mine cooling, gas liquefaction and carbon capture. Electrale Innovation Ltd. is already exploring commercial opportunities for this energy efficient technology.

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Full impact of Ontario's controversial 25-per-cent hydro rate cut to kick in on Canada Day

thestar.com - Thu Jun 22 2017
Byline: Rob Ferguson

The full impact of Premier Kathleen Wynne's controversial 25 per cent hydro rate cut (www.thestar.com) will kick in July 1 after the Ontario Energy Board approved some final changes Thursday.

That means the average monthly bill will have dropped about \$41 this year to \$121, including the 8 per cent HST rebate on electricity bills that took effect in January and other measures in place since May 1, the board said.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault touted the price break as "real and significant relief" for Ontarians who have been hit hard by rising electricity costs as the system has been improved over the last decade.

Opposition parties have been highly critical of the plan as short-term gain for long-term pain because of the billions in extra costs to amortize those improvement costs over the next three decades.

Premier Kathleen Wynne has compared it to extending a mortgage to get lower monthly payments now.

The province's independent Financial Accountability Office issued a report (www.thestar.com) in May that found the government's "Fair Hydro Plan" will cost the province \$45 billion over the next 29 years while saving ratepayers \$24 billion, for a net expense of \$21 billion.

Under the changes, time-of-use electricity prices will drop July 1 to 13.2 cents per kilowatt hour, down from 18.5 cents now for peak pricing periods.

For off-peak hours - after 7 p.m. and on weekends and holidays - the price drops to 6.5 cents from 9.1 now.

Costs taken off hydro bills include the government's rural and remote rate protection program and the Ontario electricity support program for low-income households.

Those costs will now be paid out of the general tax revenues.

Wynne has promised to keep hydro rate increases to no more than two per cent a year for the next four years, getting the government past next June's provincial election.

But the Progressive Conservatives have warned (www.thestar.com) hydro prices will rise more sharply after once the four-year promise of limited increases is over.

More will be known about the future direction of hydro rates when the government releases its long-term energy plan in the next few months.

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Cuts to hydro bills under Liberal government plan to take effect July 1; Hydro bill cuts to take effect July 1

Canadian Press - Thu Jun 22 2017

TORONTO - Hydro bills in Ontario are set to drop July 1 as the remainder of cuts promised by the Liberal government come into effect.

Some of the cuts came into effect May 1, but as of next month bills will be 25 per cent lower than last year, on average, including an eight per cent cut that took effect in January.

The Ontario Energy Board says that will lower the average monthly bill by about \$41 to about \$121.

The cuts will be reflected in lower time-of-use rates, which the government is achieving by taking \$2.5 billion a year off the global adjustment charge - to be paid back down the road with interest.

The financial accountability officer has projected that Ontarians will be paying a net \$21 billion over the next three decades to get short-term savings under the plan.

The budget watchdog found that the government will spend \$45 billion over the life of its hydro plan to save people \$24 billion on their bills over the next approximately 30 years.

Electricity bills in the province have roughly doubled in the last decade, due in part to Liberal government's green energy initiatives.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault has said rising bills reflected the costs of building a more reliable system.

"We did have to put some serious investments into the system to make sure that we could rebuild it," he said Thursday. "I know no one's going to have a ticker-tape parade for me going down the main street of any community in this province because we've lowered our bills."

After this year, increases to rates will be held to inflation for the next four years. A Hydro One rate increase application, which the energy board is holding public consultations on this summer, has caused concern and Opposition outrage.

Thibeault said the government's long-term energy plan is looking at more ways to take costs out of the system. It was originally due out in the spring, but Thibeault said the goal is now to unveil it in September.

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Hydro One and OEB salaries under fire

thespec.com - Thu Jun 22 2017
Byline:sclairmont@thespec.com

Staffers from the Ontario Energy Board and Hydro One outnumbered consumers at a public consultation meeting Thursday night. And the consumers wondered how much that was going to cost them.

Hydro One executive salaries and the money it is spending on trying to win over the public as it applies to the OEB for a rate hike, came under fire from the dozen or so members of the public who attended the meeting at the Ancaster Rotary Centre.

"How much of my monthly bill is going toward paying Hydro One staff?" Sarah Warry-Poljanski asked Hydro One staffers at the meeting. "Your executives are being paid an exorbitant amount."

This meeting tonight is costing money to rent this space and you're paying all these people to be here."

Warry-Poljanski represents a grass-roots organization called Hamiltonians Against High Hydro. The married mom has organized rallies at City Hall and Gage Park to voice opposition to Hydro One's high rates, which she says puts some residents in the position of having to choose between heating homes and putting food on the table.

"We are starting to struggle with our payments," she said in her presentation, which is to be considered by the OEB as it decides whether or not to allow Hydro One's proposed increases. "People's incomes are not going up at the rate of inflation."

The ask by Hydro One coincides with the province's new Fair Hydro Act, which came into effect June 1. The act is expected to lower electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for urban residential customers and provide additional relief for rural residential customers.

But at the same time, Hydro One wants to hike its rates beginning in 2018 to replace aging infrastructure. For instance, there are 1.6 million hydro poles across Ontario. Each has an average lifespan of 62 years. Hydro One says 280,000 poles are already beyond that age and 120,000 others will reach that mark in the next five years.

A typical "medium-density" customer - an urban homeowner - pays \$154 per month. After July 1, when the new act is reflected on bills, the cost will drop to \$116. If Hydro One's rate hike is approved, the monthly average will be raised by \$4, bringing the average bill to \$120. For rural customers, those same numbers go from an average of \$177 per month, down to \$122, then back up to \$124. So Hydro One says customers will still save.

But Warry-Poljanski says it is not enough. And Hydro One will continue to raise the rate each year.

"For some people, that \$2 (increase) has to come out of something else," she said. "Are those costs (for upgrades and repairs) not already in my bill? Do you guys just leave everything until it's ready to fail?"

Ben Levitt, the provincial Progressive Conservative candidate for Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas, also addressed the meeting. He said hydro rates are the issue he hears about most from constituents and people tell him they want Hydro One executive salaries to be cut.

He also took a swipe at the Liberal government, saying its strategy is to simply "kick the can down the road so they can win re-election" rather than dealing with the issue head-on.

The OEB is holding consultation meetings in communities across the province.

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