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Subject: Hansard: Smith to Thibeault -- Windstream

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Smith: My question's for the **Premier** this morning. Speaker, yesterday another mind-numbing example of Liberal mismanagement on the energy file. Speaker, yesterday we learned that wind stream energy would like the government to pay the \$28 million the NAFTA court said that they were owed after the government cancelled their offshore wind project. So my question to the **Premier** is, has the federal government asked your government for the money to pay wind stream?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So we have been working with our federal counterpart to ensure that we rectify this payment, Mr. Speaker. We're continuing to work with our federal counterparts and we hope to have that done in very short order, Mr. Speaker.

>>MPP Smith: I think the thing that everybody wants to know, Mr. Speaker, is how much more is this going to cost the ratepayers and the people of Ontario? The **Premier** has two options on this file, Mr. Speaker. The **Premier's** either going to pay wind stream or she's hoping that the electricity crisis that her government has created will blow over. I don't see that happening. And then she can announce that the government is actually going to go ahead and build its \$5.2 billion project with wind stream. Either way, Ontario families are on the hook for millions or billions of dollars. So is the **Premier** going to make them pay now for this project, or are they just going to make Ontarians pay for the next 20 or 30 years for this project?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I think I answered that question earlier. We're working with our federal counterparts on that, Mr. Speaker. But based off of wind stream's and the offshore wind turbines, Mr. Speaker, we're relying on the science coming from our Colleagues in MOECC, Mr. Speaker. But the one thing I find very interesting, Mr. Speaker, from a party that has no plan on how to deal with the energy crisis, Mr. Speaker, the only thing that they can offer, Mr. Speaker, is ripping up contracts, which would actually cost us billions of dollars more in litigation, Mr. Speaker. I kind of find this a little ironic, Mr. Speaker, that they're saying one thing from one side and then another thing, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

N.B.: Transcripts are captured by a closed captioning system and may contain errors.