

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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Edited by: John Cannella (John.Cannella@ieso.ca)

Contact Editor

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329076644 Voltage reduction tests Tuesday

thespec.com - Mon Mar 5 2018

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Six Nations invests \$12.5M in hydro line

Brantford Expositor - Tue Mar 6 2018

Byline: Michael-Allan Marion

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The Chronicle Journal - Tue Mar 6 2018

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329076644

Voltage reduction tests Tuesday

thespec.com - Mon Mar 5 2018

Alectra Utilities is giving customers a heads-up about voltage reduction tests planned for Tuesday by the arms-length provincial electricity market operator.

The Independent Electricity System Operator is expected to conduct two hour-long tests, one in the morning and another in the afternoon, that will cut voltage by three per cent and five per cent, respectively. The first starts at 9 a.m. and the second is slated for 1 p.m.

Customers should not notice any problems as a result of the tests, which are meant to assess emergency procedures and train staff in the event of high demand for power. The tests also give consumers the chance to identify problems during voltage reduction.

A voltage reduction of five per cent could cut power demand by 500 MW, if needed.

The IESO conducts such tests every 18 months or so. For more information, call 1-888-448-7777 or visit ieso.ca.

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329168734

Q&A: Ontario minister says hydro system was 'on its knees' when Liberals assumed power

Orangeville Banner - Mon Mar 5 2018 Page: 1

Ontario's Minister of Economic Development and Growth Steven Del Duca stopped in the Orangeville area for a breakfast with some Liberal supporters on Friday (March 2).

The Banner caught up with him and Dufferin-Caledon Liberal candidate Bob Gordanier to ask a few questions about hydro prices, high-speed Internet and the minimum wage. Their answers can be found below.

Dufferin County identifies a lack of reliable high speed Internet as a major challenge facing its economy. I know the province has already pledged to help fund the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project. In what more ways is the government of Ontario prepared to be flexible in both policy and programs to assist rural communities in addressing this issue?

DEL DUCA - "I think the broadband expansion issue is huge to for quality of life, and it is also huge for the economy. I've been hearing it everywhere I've gone. Certainly,

my colleague, Jeff Leal, the minister of agricultural, our infrastructure minister Bob Chiarelli, the Premier, we've heard it from municipal leaders. We've heard from business owners. We're working hard through a variety of programs to try and provide more resources. My expectation is over the next number of weeks, we'll probably hear a little bit more, especially when you are looking at things like the second round of the federal infrastructure money that is being made available. That is certainly part of the conversation, and some of the additional resources that we're likely to bring to bear from a provincial perspective. But there is a very clear understanding from our government that we need to work quickly, and I'm going to put the word quickly sort of in quotes because it does take time to deploy this kind of infrastructure, but work as quickly as we can and provide as many resources as we can to try and expand broadband. When I talk to farmers, they say we could do so much more if they had reliable Internet access. There are a lot of people in downtown Toronto who don't realize exactly how automated our farming systems and how technologically advanced some of our farmers and farms are. But it really is where things sit today, and what the future looks like. We need to make sure that fundamental infrastructure is in place to help make sure that our businesses, farmers and our communities can fly. So, stay tuned for more details. I believe there will be more good news coming."

GORDANIER - "It is not acceptable not to have, it is pretty simple. We're so close to Toronto, and yet we can't seem to get a good system here in the riding. This has been going on for some time. Where are we? From what I've been told, we're still a long way from getting this. There are so many people in this whole riding, and other ridings, that are working from home. They need the Internet. Myself, we use the Internet on the farm, and half the time when you want to use it, it is not working and it is just because of the system we can get. There is no doubt about it. This is definitely on the platform here for Dufferin-Caledon."

The Dufferin Board of Trade has demanded the province ensure future policies regarding energy pricing are affordable, transparent and flexible. What does this government plan to do to prevent hydro prices from hurting the manufacturing sector?

DEL DUCA - "We've introduced a number of measures both for residential, homeowners and targeted programs for business to try and help provide some relief and some support. I'd say there is no doubt that in the energy sector, the electricity sector, there has been a bit of a challenge in the last decade and a bit now. But that challenge comes from a very clear origin or a very clear place. When you have government after government after government, of all levels, and all partisan stripes, refuse for a generation to make adequate investments in all forms of infrastructure, including electricity, there does come a point at which it is unavoidable, that it has to be dealt with. In 2003, when we came back into power, our electricity system, for residential, homeowners and business owners, was on its knees. It was decrepit. There were brownouts. There was, of course, the major blackout in August of 2003. We have literally spent billions of dollars over the last 15 years. We haven't been perfect. We have not been infallible. We know that. The public knows that. But today in the province of Ontario, we have a clean, green and reliable electricity system that provides power not only to our homeowners, but also to our businesses. That comes at a cost. That cost is unavoidable. We do recognize that it has been a bit of a strain for both homeowners and business owners. That is why we introduced the Fair Hydro Plan a number of months ago to see on average a 25 per cent reduction in homeowners' electricity bills. It's why we introduced a series of targeted electricity relief programs from businesses. I don't think our work is done in this regard. I think there is more work to do, but sometimes it is easy for people to forget the recent

past and presume that prices have only escalated because they just have, or because decisions were made. Prices, by and large, have gone up because we were in desperate need of refurbishing, rebuilding and replenishing our electricity system and if we hadn't done that, our economy and quality of life would have been crippled by now."

GORDANIER - "We hear this all the time about hurting different organizations and industry. There is no doubt that there is an issue there with our hydro rates. But when you look at hydro rates in other provinces - people keep saying that we're the highest - but if you look through the whole country, we're not. We're knocking on doors. We're talking to people about their hydro. It is an issue that I bring up because I realize it is an issue for some people to pay their hydro bills. But we're actually not running into that many complaints that are out there about it. Yes, hydro is expensive, but this has been a problem for 40 years. All three governments have been in power in those 40 years and nobody has been able to seem to control this. The amount of money Liberals put into hydro and upgrades is so huge. It is billions of dollars. We have an infrastructure here now that does work very well. We got rid of coal, which was one of the best things we were asked by our voters to get rid of. We got rid of coal, which I believe was one of the cheapest ways to create electricity but environmentally is not. We've had no brownouts. We've had no blackouts. We've all kinds of good health reports coming back. I think it was a real good move on the Liberal party to get rid of the coal system here in Ontario."

Some people would argue the increase in minimum wage is hurting small businesses and may further eliminate entry-level jobs. How would you respond to that argument?

DEL DUCA - "Right now, and for the last number of months, Ontario's economy has been performing extremely well. For example, we led the country in economic growth, in GDP. We have the lowest unemployment rate right now in Ontario than we've had for the last 17 years. We have been below the national average for unemployment for 33 consecutive months. Since the depth of the recession 10 years ago in 2008, we've created net roughly 800,000 jobs in all sectors including manufacturing. We know our economy is doing well, but we also know there are still too many people in Ontario, here in Dufferin-Caledon and elsewhere who are working 40 hours a week, and at the end of the week, still have difficulty affording the basic necessities of life. I will say, as an Ontarian, there is a fundamental principle that I believe, that we all believe in, and that is that an honest day's work deserves an honest and fair day's pay. When our economy is humming, when our businesses, many of them, are doing well, I think it is important to help spread out that opportunity. By raising the minimum wage, we are taking an important step forward in terms of fairness. I will say, as the economic development minister, I know there are businesses, small businesses in particular, where the margins are tight that are facing a challenge because of the increase to the minimum wage. We understand that. But we've also taken steps starting earlier this year to do some other stuff to provide support to small businesses. Earlier this year, we reduced the corporate income tax rate for small business from 4.5 per cent down to 3.5 per cent. That's a 22 per cent decrease in the corporate income tax rate for small business. That is one measure we've deployed to be supportive. My colleague, Jeff Leal, who is also responsible for small business, is out in discussions with the small business sector and community to look at other ways we can continue to be supportive. I mentioned the small business corporate tax rate cut. We've also introduced what we call the red tape challenge a number of years ago where we've been working hard to reduce the burden of unnecessary regulation on all sized businesses and I think we will see our economy start to grow. Really important to stress it is about fairness.

It is about more people that can actually enjoy the benefits of a thriving economy. But we know we have to do more to support our small business sector.

GORDANIER - "I think we ought to be reading and looking a little more out there. I believe it was Scotiabank, they came right out and said this loss of 51,000 jobs in the last report that came out is not, and they made it very clear, on the back of the minimum wage increase. There are other things that are involved in it. We have made that decision out of fairness to people. I don't know how people can survive. In fact, they can't survive on minimum wage and we know it. I think it is about time we did something about it. I agree with our premier that this is nothing but a good thing. We have countries all over the world that have done this and it has been nothing but a good thing for people. Do you realize that we have, in our riding alone, more than 30,000 minimum wage earners? They are having problems and we need to be looking after those problems."

The province recently shelved the GTA West Corridor plan. Many Ontarians feel highways are facing more gridlock than ever. What is your ministry going to do to ensure local economies are supported with efficient transportation networks?

DEL DUCA - "There is no doubt that we need to continue to invest on a sustained basis with unprecedented levels in all forms of transportation infrastructure. So, in public transit and also in road, bridge and highway infrastructure, and we are. Whether we are talking about the expansion of the 410, whether we are talking about the expansion and extension northward of Highway 427, which is going to start construction in a couple of months. That becoming another nine km further north, which will help support Bolton, Caledon and that area. Whether we are talking about the 407 east that we are currently constructing to help build out to the Highway 35/115 and the eastern end of Durham, and a whole series of other widenings, expansions and upgrades of all kinds of existing highways, we're doing that work. We're also providing our municipal partners that invest in public transit with doubling of the gas tax money so they can deploy more public transit. We're trying and we're succeeding, I believe, with unprecedented levels of investment. Here is the other thing we know. The transportation network accounts for 30 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the province of Ontario. The single largest emitter of bi-sector greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). We know that, by far, the largest portion of the transportation sector producing those GHGs are personal vehicles. The notion that we can solve our long-term economic gridlock or even climate change challenges by simply building more mega-highways is something there is all kinds of data to suggest is not true. It doesn't mean we shouldn't keep expanding our highway network. We should. The government has decided to stop the EA for the GTA West highway corridor but to continue to preserve somewhere in the neighbourhood of a 400- or 500-metre corridor through the study area that was part of the EA process. The Ministry of Transportation and the IESO (Independent Electricity System Operator) will now do a planning study over the next nine to 12 months to determine what the future needs for what we call linear infrastructure. That could be rail, could be electricity, could be communications infrastructure, which could support the expansion of broadband. They are going to spend the next nine to 12 months looking at that and then report back to government. I suspect we will have an update at that point in time. But I think for all of the things I just mentioned, we thought this was the most prudent and responsible way to go forward."

GORDANIER - "They investigated this GTA West for quite some time. I think it is the same old story. They researched this. They looked at every angle there is. They've made a decision and that decision was probably the best decision to make. We

already have gridlock. We know that. But we need to move people, not vehicles. My thinking is on the GO train into Bolton. They've talked about this from 2010. The mayor of Caledon even said to me ... they are still sitting in the same position they were in back in 2010. That's not acceptable. We need to be moving people, not vehicles."

About 82 per cent of Dufferin County's tax base is residential. At least 40 per cent, probably more, of its employed residents commute outside of Dufferin. Should bedroom communities try to move away from this model or embrace it?

DEL DUCA - "There is an inherent challenge in how communities grow and how they evolve. I come from Vaughan. I represent Vaughan. In Vaughan, historically, like Richmond Hill, like Markham, like so many others, is a bedroom community. What we have seen in the inner GTA is that change over time. More of our municipalities developed really-robust economic development strategies. There are more and more people who from a quality of life perspective would rather live closer to where they work and vice versa. And we are trying to support and build out infrastructure transportation linkages to help make that easier. At the end of the day, if I can commute 20 minutes versus an hour and 45 minutes, who would choose the latter? Part of the trick in all of this is to lure more economic development and more business so that it is located more closely to a community like this. Now, there is obviously also a very strong rural/agricultural component in this community. I think over time, just looking at how there are natural flows and natural progressions, you will see more business want to locate into places like Dufferin-Caledon. Our government has a series of targeted regional economic development funds. Some of those may benefit companies who may want to settle in Dufferin-Caledon. I think through the provincial budget that we are going to have at some point in the (next) couple of months, and even what we have seen in the federal budget, I think there will be more opportunity to support businesses that want to grow and expand into communities like Dufferin-Caledon. When I GHGs earlier, again, this is part of the trick as well, making sure people are living closer to work and vice versa, is also critically important for the stress that you are putting on the transportation system and how you are dealing with the GHG piece. If a person can cycle to work, take public transit to work, or walk to work, which is easier to do today in Vaughan than it was 20 years ago because that natural and progressive is occurring. I think some of that will happen organically in places like Dufferin-Caledon but I think it is also the responsibility of municipal partners, the province and the federal government collectively to look for ways to drive more investment to communities like this."

GORDANIER - "You're saying that we need more jobs here at home. I think we do need more jobs closer to where we are. Over the whole part of Toronto, north of the GTA, everybody seems to filter down and go to work right from Hamilton across over to Ajax. I think we need to stop that and that's not an easy thing to do. There is no doubt. But I believe we really need to start looking at that. ... I think we need to be looking at light and small industry here in our riding. I think just being smart about development, whether it be industry, housing, farming, the whole works. I think we need to be smart about what we are doing here."

Dufferin County is mostly rural. Some would argue the agricultural sector is expected to shed jobs in the future. What needs to be done to avoid these job losses in future?

DEL DUCA - One of the sectors that is growing the quickest in terms of employment opportunities is, in fact, Ontario's agricultural sector. We see whether it is within the supplied managed ecosystem or the non-supplied managed ecosystem, there is a

ton of opportunity right now in the industry. We are investing on a regular basis through a whole series of programs. ... There is a ton of growth. When we see the year over year economic growth in each of these sectors, it is actually quite substantial. There are challenges. Whether it is ag, auto or chemical sector, some of the challenges relate for example to NAFTA and the NAFTA negotiations. ... I was in Montreal a few weeks ago for NAFTA round six, so was (Leal). I was in Mexico this past weekend with (Leal) for round seven. It is so important for (Leal) from a rural ag standpoint to be there on the front lines standing up for Ontario's ag sector and he is. In my case, it is important to be there to defend the chemical sector, the auto sector because combined, ag and auto for example alone, we're talking about something like 1.6 million Ontarians that directly or indirectly rely on jobs in both of those sectors. I believe, and (Leal) will tell you, that there are tons of opportunity in the ag or rural, local food, agri-food sector. A number of months ago, the premier issued a challenge for a certain number of jobs she felt could be created in the sector. I think we are well on our way to that. We're going to keep working hard. There is not a farmer anywhere in the province of Ontario who should be nervous because Jeff Leal is an extraordinary champion for the sector."

GORDANIER - "If you have four or five fellows working for you and you innovate on some piece of equipment ... well, sometimes we do lose jobs on that. I also think that processing could play a bigger part in Dufferin County agriculture. That's not easy either, because you have to have the supply. Talking about the potato industry here, it is a fantastic industry and they have a great product here in the riding. Maybe we need to be doing more processing of that product. ... We need to have more processing of the products that we're actually producing in the area. We'll use potatoes as an example. We need to be making frozen French fries, potato chips instead of just selling potatoes."

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329194089

Six Nations invests \$12.5M in hydro line

Brantford Expositor - Tue Mar 6 2018

Byline: Michael-Allan Marion

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Six Nations elected council has approved a proposal by the Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corp. to invest \$12.5-million in a hydro transmission line.

The investment in what is known as the Niagara reinforcement line is the first use of money that Six Nations gained from an agreement reached last December with the Ontario government concerning the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp's privatization of the Brantford casino.

The 76-kilometre power line was never completed due to the 2006 Douglas Creek Estates protests in Caledonia. It was meant to strengthen power ties between New

York state and Ontario, with a capacity to import - or export - as much as 800 megawatts of electricity.

Last October, a tentative deal was reached with the the Ontario Ministry of Energy and Hydro One that would complete the final five kilometres of the line along the Highway 6 bypass in Caledonia. In exchange, Six Nations would receive "long-term value" in the form of ownership and capacity for renewable energy projects.

The development corporation said it expects to get a \$46-million return over the 48-year useful life of the project, and it will keep a residual value well into the future.

According to the proposal, the investment will allow an unfinished portion of the line through Caledonia and along the Grand River to be completed by the spring of 2019. The line will be energized by A6N Utilities.

"This investment is a forward step for our community," said Six Nations elected Chief Ava Hill.

She said that surplus profits generated from the development corporation's investments in renewable energy and now the Niagara reinforcement line are used by the economic development trust fund to invest in community priorities, such as emergency services, waterline expansion and future housing developments.

The elected council approved on Feb. 20 the recommendation of the development corporation and an advisory committee to pursue the business opportunity along with the corporation's approach on how to address community concerns, Hill noted.

Forty-one written submissions were received about the hydro proposal, says a report. Of them, 22 per cent were positive and 12 per cent were negative. The rest contained no definitive opinion.

According to the proposal, the development corporation will acquire a 25-per-cent equity interest in the line on behalf of the Six Nations community, says development corporation president Matt Jamieson.

"The corporation sought the allocation to address community concerns identified through community engagement, related to incurring long-term debt," a statement released by the corporation says.

"By entering into the investment debt-free, it will result in about \$8.4 million in interest savings."

The results of a community engagement report and the NRL Path Forward, along with all motions and resolutions, are posted to www.snfuture.com.

OLG announced last December that it chose Great Canadian Gaming Corp. and Clairvest Group Inc. to operate and develop its GTA west gaming bundle, which includes the Brantford casino and OLG Slots at Mohawk Racetrack, Flamboro Downs and Grand River Raceway. That deal gives the companies the exclusive right to operate the casino assets for a minimum of 20 years.

Six Nations has been pushing for years to get money from the province for the Brantford casino, which sits on property known as the Nathan Gage Tract for which Six Nations says it was never compensated.

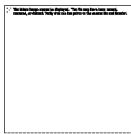
"The acceptance of these funds will not prejudice in any way Six Nations' claim against the Crown to the Nathan Gage property, upon which the Brantford casino is situated," Chief Hill said at the time.

"Rather, this agreement is a demonstration of the province's ongoing efforts toward reconciliation with Six Nations."

The Niagara reinforcement line has sat idle since 2006 when the protests at the reclamation site flared up in February of that year. Hydro One abandoned the project at the time.

The line currently runs from the Allanburg transfer station in Niagara to just outside of Caledonia. MMarion@postmedia.com @expMarion

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329169123

[Hydro One stays confident in bid BY CARL CLUTCHEY NORTH SHORE BUREAU Hydro One says it's confident]

The Chronicle Journal - Tue Mar 6 2018

Hydro One stays confident in bid

BY CARL CLUTCHEY

NORTH SHORE BUREAU

Hydro One says it's confident its plan to put a second high-voltage power line through Pukaskwa National Park will be met with approval by both Parks Canada and affected Indigenous groups.

"We've been in discussions (with Parks Canada) and they have been going well," Hydro One customer care and corporate affairs vice-president Ferio Pugliese said Monday.

Going through the park is a key part of Hydro One's plan to get the bid to build a new 230 kilovolt line between Thunder Bay and Wawa called the East West Tie.

The utility claims it can cut the project's cost by \$100 million by using its existing hydro corridor along Lake Superior, rather than constructing a longer route that bypasses the park.

Though many have assumed that the Ontario Energy Board will give NextBridge Infrastructure the nod to build the East West Tie project, that company has yet to receive approval.

Pugliese said Hydro One became re-interested in the East West Tie last fall after the province signalled it was concerned about the \$777-million price tag for NextBridge's plan, which would require the construction of a separate hydro corridor.

Hydro One's plan would use the utility's existing corridor on upgraded transmission towers - including the 35-kilometre portion that already goes through Pukaskwa.

Parks Canada didn't say Monday if it approves of Hydro One's plan, but issued a statement:

"It should be noted that Hydro One has not requested that any additional lands be added to the existing licensed area within the park."

The statement added: "Previous requests involving additional land use for transmission line development through the park have not been approved."

The East West Tie has not been a priority for Hydro One in the past few years. But the company has reconfigured itself and came to believe the new line would be a good fit after all. The province remains the utility's largest shareholder.

"We thought: Why wouldn't we take another look at this," said Pugliese.

NextBridge is calling on the OEB to dismiss Hydro One's bid, calling it "not achievable." A hearing date has yet to be set.

Under Hydro One's plan, the new line would be in service by 2021, a year later than NextBridge's proposal and what was originally requested by the province.

Though some have said the 230 kV line needs to be on a separate corridor for safety and long-term reliability, Hydro One says a single corridor for the existing and new high-voltage lines won't be any less reliable.'

"We're not concerned about that," Pugliese said.

NextBridge has managed to reach an agreement with a consortium of six Lake Superior First Nations, giving them a 20-per cent stake in the East West Tie project.

Said Pugliese: "There's no reason we couldn't honour a similar arrangement."

Pugliese said Hydro One is confident it has the experience and contacts to negotiate with First Nations and other interests under a tight timeline.

"They know who we are," he said.

An OEB spokesman said it would take about seven months to review Hydro One's bid to build the line.

Later this month, Hydro One is to host open houses about its East West Tie proposal. All sessions are to take place between 5-7:30 p.m., except for the one to be held in Marathon.

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Stacks demolition a bittersweet day for Haldimand

The Sachem - Mon Mar 5 2018 Page: 1

It was a bittersweet day for Haldimand, Norfolk and Ontario as the smoke stacks at what was Ontario Power Generation's Nanticoke Generating Station came tumbling

down.

On Feb. 28, the stacks that stood as a staple of the eye line across the southern end of Haldimand came down as part of the province's shift toward cleaner energy.

"The phase out of coal generation in Ontario represents North America's single largest action to date to combat climate change," said Mike Martelli, president of Renewable Generation with Ontario Power Generation.

The Nanticoke Generation Station opened in 1972, running continuously until its closure at the end of 2013. At its peak, the plant provided 15 per cent of electricity in the province, about 4400 megawatts.

"So many of us can remember the day in 1968 when they announced this project," said Toby Barrett, MPP for Haldimand-Norfolk. "We knew this was going to change a lot."

And it did. The number of well-paying jobs that the station brought to the area was a significant boost to the local economy. It not only provided people in the area with opportunity, but brought many families into the area, many of which remain a part of communities in both Haldimand and Norfolk.

For Haldimand County Mayor Ken Hewitt, it was a bittersweet day.

"This is a significant staple in Haldimand County; it was a large employer and a large taxpayer," Hewitt said. "It's a sad day for people in Haldimand to see this come to an end from the perspective of jobs and taxes. It's a good day to see coal being brought out of the electricity program because we do know what it did to the air."

In its place will be the Nanticoke Solar Project, which will produce 44 MW of renewable energy upon its launch in 2020.

"In the coming months, the site of this station will undergo major transformation, reflecting the province's move away from coal to renewable, clean power generation," Martelli said.

Both Hewitt and Barrett shared optimism for what could be to come in Nanticoke, not only with the renewable energy source being installed on the Nanticoke Generation Station lands, but for the other acres upon acres of land that are accessible.

"There's significant opportunity here; there is a transmission corridor that can provide electricity to the province," Hewitt said. "I still see opportunity in terms of electricity, I see opportunity in terms of the lake with trade and bringing in different dry goods."

Barrett agrees. "We have a tremendous asset with the industrial land that are here, along with the dockage facility. There is tremendous potential remaining here of international calibre."

The building behind which the stacks were placed is expected to come down in May 2019.

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