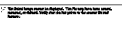


Message

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Sent: 2017-11-30 6:13:18 AM
Subject: Today's News - Thursday, November 30, 2017



Today's News

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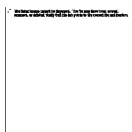
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2017
Edited by: John Cannella (John.Cannella@ieso.ca)

Contact Editor

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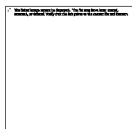


307287917

Hydro One unveils simplified electricity bills

thestar.com - Wed Nov 29 2017
Byline: Rob Ferguson

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Next Major Phase of Darlington Refurbishment Begins

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307329658

Parry Sound's new generating station up and running

Parry Sound North Star - Wed Nov 29 2017 Page: 1

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Full Articles



307287917

Hydro One unveils simplified electricity bills

thestar.com - Wed Nov 29 2017

Byline: Rob Ferguson

Hydro One has come out with simpler, easier to read electricity bills (www.hydroone.com) in a move that could soon be copied by other utilities like Toronto Hydro.

Instead of a statement with a lot of fine print (www.thestar.com), customers receiving the new bills will see boxes with headlines clearly stating "what do I owe?" and "when is it due" with more detailed explanations on the back page.

The change, prompted by complaints from customers that bills were difficult to understand, follows more than a year of research through surveys of 5,000 customers and testing with focus groups.

"Thirty-five per cent of the calls into our call centre are people phoning in to have their bills explained to them," customer service executive vice-president Ferio Pugliese said Wednesday.

"It occupies a lot of time, not always leading to the best customer experience."

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said his department has a bill redesign team that is working with the Electricity Distributors Association that will come out with recommendations and guidelines early next year.

Local electric utilities will be free to adopt them.

"Why wouldn't you want to make it as clear as possible for ratepayers?" Thibeault said.

Toronto Hydro said it is considering next steps, noting that Hydro One got special permission from the ministry for the revamped bills.

"Currently, electricity bills in Ontario are heavily regulated and there's been little opportunity to make changes," Toronto Hydro spokesperson Mallory Cunningham said in an emailed statement.

"We had actually started a bill re-design exercise of our own recently, as we know some components of our bills can be difficult to understand. However, this was put on hold when the Ministry of Energy began a bill design consultation process that has resulted in some proposed amendments to bill regulations," she added.

"We're now focused on making the necessary changes to our bill that will align with the regulation amendments and after this is done, we'll determine if it makes sense to do a full-scale re-design of our bill.

The new Hydro One bills were revealed after the utility has been under fire for days over concerns it is seeking permission from the Ontario Energy Board to install prepaid meters (www.thestar.com), which critics say will hurt low-income customers.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath accused Hydro One of "trying to skirt the ban in wintertime hydro disconnections" and said customers "need a guarantee prepay

meters will not be coming to Ontario."

Thibeault said Hydro One officials have said "none of this will be forced onto any customer . . . it will be at the customer's discretion."

Progressive Conservative MPP Todd Smith, his party's energy critic, said he remains suspicious.

"This looks like a way for the utility, Hydro One, to ensure that high-risk customers pay their bills."

Smith, however, praised the simpler hydro bills, which Pugliese said would be easier to send by email - saving the utility money that could be passed back to consumers.

About 200,000 of Hydro One's 1.3 million customers across the province now get their bills electronically.

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307215053

Next Major Phase of Darlington Refurbishment Begins

Targeted News Service - Tue Nov 28 2017 Page: n/a

Ontario Power Generation issued the following news release:

Canada's largest clean energy project remains on time and on budget as the refurbishment of Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Darlington Nuclear Generating Station starts its next major phase - the removal of the reactor components of Unit 2.

The new phase will continue to June 2018, and includes removing vital reactor components from Unit 2, such as end fittings, pressure tubes and calandria tubes. The work on Unit 2 is now 40 per cent complete and up to now has included successfully defueling and separating the unit from the rest of the station, and preparing the reactor for disassembly.

The Darlington Refurbishment project and the subsequent operation of Darlington Nuclear for thirty years will have a positive \$90 billion impact on Ontario's economy, and create 14,000 jobs per year to 2055. The Darlington Refurbishment is a made-in-Ontario project, with 96 per cent of the project's budget invested in this province, supporting hundreds of Ontario companies.

Last week, the Financial Accountability Office (FAO) released a report examining the cost and impact of the Darlington Refurbishment. The independent report concluded that, "There are no alternative scenarios that are comparable to refurbished nuclear generation in terms of both cost and emissions."

Learn more about the progress of Canada's largest clean energy project:

* Darlington Refurbishment update by Dietmar Reiner, OPG's Senior Vice President of Nuclear Projects

* Darlington Refurbishment, Q3 Performance Report

OPG generates safe, clean, reliable, low-cost power for Ontario. More than 99 per cent of this power is free of smog and carbon emissions. OPG's power is priced 40 per cent lower than other generators, which helps moderate customer bills.

This document was posted showing the date: Nov. 27, 2017.

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307214905

Financial Accountability Office (FAO) Confirms That Ontario's Nuclear Refurbishment is Clean and Cost-Effective

Targeted News Service - Tue Nov 28 2017 Page: n/a

The Canadian Nuclear Association issued the following news release:

The Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) welcomes the work done by the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario on the Nuclear Refurbishment Plan which highlights the significant contributions the nuclear industry makes to the people of Ontario by providing one of the lowest cost, emissions-free sources of power in the province.

The FAO's report validates that refurbishing Ontario's Bruce and Darlington nuclear generating stations is the best option to keep costs low for electricity customers and to protect the environment. In fact, the FAO estimates the average cost of nuclear at \$80.70 per megawatt-hour (MWh) through to 2064 will be lower than Ontario's current average overall cost of electricity of \$115/MWh (Page 18). It is also priced lower than electricity sourced from wind, solar, gas or bio-energy. The report points to the significance of the long-term commitment to the refurbishment plans that will see nuclear power supplying over 50 percent of the province's electricity for the next several decades: "There is currently no portfolio of alternative low-emissions generation which could replace nuclear generation at a comparable cost."

OPG and Bruce Power are working together to share best practices and lessons learned on their refurbishment projects. By sharing this knowledge, both companies are reducing their respective risks on both budget and schedules, while boosting economies of scale. Together, these two projects are delivering tens of thousands of jobs through hundreds of companies across the province.

CNA President and CEO, Dr. John Barrett states: "Nuclear technology is an integral part of any advanced economy. It supports medicine, materials science, advanced manufacturing, food safety and clean energy production. While nuclear generating station refurbishments require significant upfront capital investment, their long life and low costs for fuel, operations and maintenance lead to low power costs in the long run as identified in this report."

In its analysis, the FAO views the Nuclear Refurbishment Plan as the least risky means of producing very low emissions and reliable and low-cost electricity for the foreseeable future, while supporting an industry employing tens of thousands of people in Ontario and contributing to strong economic growth.

This document was posted showing the date: Nov. 21, 2017.

Contact: Paul Hebert, director of communications, 613/292-2876, hebertp@cna.ca

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Paul Hebert, director of communications, 613/292-2876, hebertp@cna.ca

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307295821

A power Brown-out

National Post - Thu Nov 30 2017

Byline: Tom Adams

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Ontario Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown's election platform presents his "guarantee" that his party "will fix Hydro." His plan's core is to reverse the PCs' longstanding rejection of Premier Kathleen Wynne's "Fair Hydro Plan," which shifts 25 per cent of current household rates to taxpayers and future consumers.

Wynne's electricity-rate deferral and cost-shifting program had been roundly criticized by both the legislature's auditor general and financial-accountability officer. The PCs had hammered the government with this analysis. Just weeks ago, the PC's energy critic, Todd Smith, attacked the Fair Hydro Plan, saying "It is deceitful, it's dishonest and it's shady."

Now, the new PC position is that the only problem with Wynne's program is that it does not go far enough.

Brown's Ontario PCs are promising they will "save" households 12 per cent on their rates over and above Wynne's existing 25-per-cent cut. All the big-ticket items Brown calls cost "savings" are merely more cost shifting - removing costs from the ratepayer's left pocket by taking from the taxpayer's right pocket.

Brown's largest cost shift - \$433 million per year to until 2022 at least - is to move conservation costs to taxpayers. Electricity demand in Ontario has been falling since 2005, ratepayers are burdened with a massive surplus of power sold to neighbouring utilities for prices close to zero, and generators are being paid massive but undisclosed amounts to not generate any power. Oblivious to all this, the PCs declare all existing conservation programs to be "worthwhile."

Driving off the PCs' longstanding opposition to the privatization of Hydro One, where they are aligned with the NDP, the other big-ticket cost-shifting item on Brown's list is to rebate Hydro One's dividends to households. The problem is that customers already receive every penny of Hydro One's dividend payments to the government, albeit by way of the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation (OEFC). In the Brown plan, taxpayers will keep OEFC whole for its foregone revenue.

These new taxpayer costs will put pressure on the deficit. Until weeks ago, the PCs endorsed the auditor general's criticism that the Fair Hydro Plan losses belong in the calculation of the deficit. Now, the PCs have endorsed Wynne's deficit calculation with the Fair Hydro Plan losses excluded.

Another key to Brown's plan to is to implement more direct political involvement in

the power system. He promises that a legislative committee will take over the review of any future energy plans. He declares the last vestiges of public utility regulation the Liberals have not yet absorbed within the Ministry of Energy to be "red tape."

Brown's platform document makes some noises about addressing structural factors driving up rates. The PCs put numbers to promised cost savings from reviews of existing power generation contracts, but those numbers appear speculative.

The PCs also promise to repeal former premier Dalton McGuinty's legacy Green Energy and Green Economy Act, much loved by renewable-energy developers for its rich subsidies. But now that it's deeply threaded into the administrative legal structure of Ontario's power situation, simply erasing the Green Energy Act is not an option. The PCs are silent on what they will replace the Green Energy Act with. Particularly given their recent flip-flop on Wynne's Fair Hydro Plan, there is no way to know what their alternative might be.

Wynne's justifications for her electricity policies are a flock of canards that the PCs have never been able to effectively shoot down. The Liberals just keep repeating that Ontario's power exports and conservation programs are profitable and that wind and solar succeeded in getting rid of coal power. Compared to Brown's electricity plan, Wynne's suddenly look honest and responsible by comparison.

Tom Adams is a Toronto-based energy consultant.

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307329658

Parry Sound's new generating station up and running

Parry Sound North Star - Wed Nov 29 2017 Page: 1

PARRY SOUND - The Cascade Street Generating Station is up and running.

Aside from a few minor items to complete including its testing phase, the facility is ready to produce electricity.

Fully computerized, the \$17.5 million station can be controlled in Parry Sound, or remotely.

"We have the ability to control it in manual (setting), or by kilowatt set point, or level," said Bryan Ingram, Bracebridge Generation Ltd. operations manager. "Where we're running at right about now is about 92 per cent efficient in extracting the potential energy into kinetic energy. And at peak, which is about two thirds of what it's capable of producing ... at the peak efficiency is about 94 per cent."

Instead of guess work and trial and error, the system can take a number of factors into account and make changes immediately.

"It's pretty neat to see that the whole Parry Sound Seguin system was kind of run by driving around and looking at the water level and making a change. The old facility was all manual and basically the guys would stop in the morning, look at the water level, adjust the machine based on instinct - trying to balance the water level with the machine output and then at the end of the day checking in and see where they were," Ingram said. "This automated system basically keeps this system right where

it needs to be and it will open and close the gates, if there's a disturbance on the grid like a power outage a protection system sees it and turns off the machine and sends us an email."

Ingram said for those living along the waterways upstream and downstream of the facility, they will likely see more consistent water levels with the new station.

"During a rainstorm - for example - the system will automatically see it and start to increase and use the water that comes down the system. It's highly efficient in using what water is there."

Performance testing of the station should be complete within the next month with landscaping finished in the spring of 2018 and an official grand opening in the summer.

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