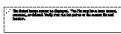


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Subject: Today's News - Friday, September 22, 2017



Today's News

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Date: Friday, September 22, 2017
Edited by: John Cannella (John.Cannella@ieso.ca)

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Solar project proposed for Sarnia airport land; It could occupy up to five acres leased from the airport and take two years to develop

Sarnia Observer - Fri Sep 22 2017
Byline: Paul Morden
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Plans for a solar power project at the Sarnia Chris Hadfield Airport have taken a step forward. A potential project by Torontobased Soventix Canada on land to be leased from the city airport is one of 390 contracts representing about 150 megawatts ...

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Turbine project put to rest; Wpd Canada decides not to appeal Environmental Review Tribunal ruling

Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin - Fri Sep 22 2017
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Northumberland Today.com - Fri Sep 22 2017
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Wynne government still approving wind projects

Ottawa Sun - Fri Sep 22 2017
Byline:Jim Mcpherson
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The war of residents against industrial wind turbines is being fought by rural communities in many countries. Their common enemy is the financially-powerful wind industry, which is failing miserably in its efforts to deliver affordable and reliable ...



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Canadian Press - Thu Sep 21 2017

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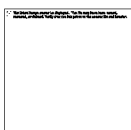
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7 Nations opposes plan; Want Ontario to extend consultation period and more oversight over its proposed benefits

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Uxbridge council reiterates stance on nuclear waste

Uxbridge Times Journal - Tue Sep 19 2017 Page: 1

UXBRIDGE - Councillors are still looking for clear answers on radioactive nuclear waste routes. At a meeting on Sept. 18 councillors discussed a letter from Ontario Power Generation (OPG) received in response to ...



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Puerto Rico's electric company was already billions in debt before storms struck

Toronto Star - Fri Sep 22 2017

Byline: Steven Mufson The Washington Post
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Hurricane Maria has dealt a new blow to Puerto Rico's bankrupt electric company - causing widespread power outages and imposing costly repairs on a utility that was already struggling with more than \$9 billion (U.S.) in debt, poor service and ...



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MISO price tops \$1,500/MWh on conservation, maximum generation alerts

Energy Monitor Worldwide - Fri Sep 22 2017, 9:28am ET
Byline: Energy Monitor Worldwide

Midcontinent Independent System Operator power prices spiked Thursday as the footprint region was under a conservation operation notice and a maximum generation alert due to hot weather expected across the ...

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290559400

Solar project proposed for Sarnia airport land; It could occupy up to five acres leased from the airport and take two years to develop

Sarnia Observer - Fri Sep 22 2017
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Plans for a solar power project at the Sarnia Chris Hadfield Airport have taken a step forward.

A potential project by Torontobased Soventix Canada on land to be leased from the city airport is one of 390 contracts representing about 150 megawatts of small-scale renewable energy generation offered by Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) under the latest round of the province's Feed-in Tariff program.

Michal Porzuczek, a project manager with Soventix, said the offer of a contract by the IESO is just a first step for its proposal.

"We're basically going to be going through all of the necessary permitting and steps that need to be done to actually make sure the project is viable," he added.

"The real work starts once we get the contract."

The contract is for a 500-kilowatt solar panel project on land that would be leased at the airport.

The size of the project will depend on the type of solar technology selected, Porzuczek said.

He estimated it could occupy between three and five acres, cost approximately \$1 million and take two years to develop.

"We'll do a more detailed environmental screening, we'll need to get in touch with the local utility to get a clear idea of what the interconnection costs are going to be," Porzuczek said.

"Now, we're going to dig deeper."

Airport manager Clare Webb said the proposal with the solar company has been in the works for several years.

The solar project won't impact operations at the airport.

"That was well looked at," Webb said.

"It shouldn't be any problem finding a space for that," he said about the amount of land the project is expected to need.

Income from leasing land to the solar company will help to make the city's airport more financially viable, Webb said.

Contracts the IESO announced this week were the fifth round of the Feed-in Tariff program.

Porzuczek said Soventix received contract offers for 25 projects in this round.

He added the company is still building projects from the third round of contract offerings, and "we're going full steam-ahead" with 24 projects offered contracts in the fourth round.

Several other proposed projects in Sarnia received contract offers in the latest round of the program.

They include a 500-kilowatt solar project at 1691 Michigan Line by WS Solar Projects LP, and five roof-top solar projects with Gengrow Energy LP at sites on the Aamjiwnaang First Nation.

IESO said the contacts announced this week include 382 solar projects, seven on-farm biogas projects and one municipal landfill gas project. Once completed, projects from the fifth round of the program could provide Ontario with enough renewable energy to power approximately 19,000 homes, the agency said.
pmorden@postmedia.com

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290479193

Turbine project put to rest; Wpd Canada decides not to appeal Environmental Review Tribunal ruling

Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin - Fri Sep 22 2017

Byline: Gisele Winton Sarvis

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Bats and aircrafts can fly without the threat of a collision with a wind turbine now that Wpd Canada will not be building eight wind turbines near the Collingwood Regional Airport.

Wpd Canada decided not to appeal the Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) ruling that its provincial renewable energy application (REA) permit be revoked.

"Wpd's board of directors has decided not to proceed with the Fairview project. Wpd won't be making additional comments regarding its decision," stated Kevin Surette, manager of communications.

Conservative MPP for Simcoe-Grey Jim Wilson is "thrilled" that the project will not go ahead. He has been fighting against the project to build eight, 500-foot wind turbines near the airport since the start, including introducing a private members bill in the legislature to stop the proposal.

"The whole idea was absurd from the start. You don't build massive wind turbines near airports," said Wilson.

"Why did the government approve it in the first place and why were they so stubborn to stick with it and not listen to the municipal governments and the pilot associations?" he asked.

"I hope they have learned their lesson that they never should have given the approval in the first place."

Wilson added he wants to congratulate local residents and communities for their hard work in appealing this project. "I want to thank everybody who signed the petition and participated in the appeal before the tribunal."

In an appeal hearing, the ERT ruled against the project on Aug. 16 and the period to file an appeal expired Sept. 15.

The tribunal decision by chair Dirk Vander Bent with panel member Hugh Wilkins of Aug. 16 read "Considering all the above factors, the tribunal accepts that the margin for error posed by introducing the proposed wind turbines at their proposed locations would be inadequate to prevent collision with a wind turbine."

The tribunal's decision upheld a previous ruling that the Fairview Wind project posed a significant risk to human health due to its proximity to both the Collingwood Regional Airport and the Stayner Aerodrome.

The tribunal's decision is a victory for local residents and the local community who knew from the beginning that the location of this project was inappropriate, said Wilson.

"This is another example of the Liberal government's mismanagement of the hydro system. They tried to force our community to accept industrial wind turbines where

they didn't belong. This is proof municipal planning approval authority for these projects must be restored."

Stayner Aerodrome owner and commercial pilot Kevin Elwood has spend a large sum of money fighting the proposal since he first heard about it eight years ago.

He was one of six appellants in the ERT that also included his wife Gail Elwood, John Wiggins, the municipalities of Collingwood and Clearview and the County of Simcoe.

"I feel relieved that the community, Ontario and Canada as a whole is now free from the negative impacts and harms that this project would have resulted in," Elwood said.

Elwood, who is a Clearview councillor, said he is appreciative of the unwavering support from residents, Wilson, Clearview Township, Collingwood and Simcoe County.

Clearview Township has also spent a significant sum of money to fight the turbine project.

"This marks the end of a long effort to protect the township's natural landscape and aviation industry at the Collingwood Regional Airport," explained Mayor Christopher Vanderkruys.

"It's unfortunate that the province and this process forced the municipality to contribute such significant resources towards an issue that could have been addressed through proper consultation and deliberation," stated Vanderkruys.

"On behalf of Clearview Township, I would like to extend my gratitude to the County of Simcoe, Town of Collingwood, Preserve Clearview, John Wiggins, Kevin and Gail Elwood and all other involved parties for their effort, expertise, and commitment throughout the process".

The REA has been approved Feb. 11, 2016 by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for a green energy project.

Appeals were filed eight days later on both allowable reasons; that turbines could cause harm to human health and serious or irreversible harm to animal or plant life or the natural environment.

At the ERT appeal hearing in March, bat biologist and citizens scientists provided evidence that there is a population of the little brown bat, which is an endangered species, in habitat close to where the turbines would have been placed and that the spinning blades causes bat mortality.

Vander Bent and Wilkins also heard that the blades could be slowed at night to mitigate bad and bird mortalities.

But the risk to human health from a possible collision between an aircraft and the turbines was determined to be the primary risk and reason for the REA to be revoked.

The ERT decision was made in the public interest to safeguard pilots and passengers from harms caused through the unnecessary creation of obstacles in

airspace utilized by aircraft taking off and landing at aerodromes, said Elwood.

The decision is having wide ranging effects because it proves that safety risks can be evaluated early in a projects development.

"All levels of government and policy advisors can learn from his case."

Information regarding the revocation of the Renewable Energy Approval is available on the Environment & Land Tribunals website at ([elto.gov](http://elto.gov.on.ca/tribunals/ert/decisionsorders/))
on.ca/tribunals/ert/decisionsorders/. giselewintonsarvis@yahoo.com
Twitter.com/GiseleSarvis

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Land too good for solar?; Opponents to solar farm near Bewdley have meeting with Leal, Rinaldi at Queen's Park

Northumberland Today.com - Fri Sep 22 2017

Byline: Jason Bain

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Opponents of a solar farm planned for the Bewdley area, who say they had been trying to get a meeting with Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal since last February, met with the agriculture, food and rural affairs minister at Queen's Park on Wednesday.

Members of Rural Representation, who oppose GreenLife Solar 19 - a 500-kilowatt ground-mounted installation planned for a four-acre site at 6330 Ganaraska Rd. - met with Leal, Northumberland-Quinte West MPP Lou Rinaldi and government officials.

The group, which was accompanied by Ontario Federation of Agriculture president Keith Currie, has sought a response its 30-page report, titled Solar by Stealth, in which land use specialists say errors and discrepancies in the project application are cause to have it axed.

They didn't get the project cancellation they seek, but the group does feel like it has been heard and that officials know they are not going away, farmer John Kordas said. "We're certainly optimistic and hope that common sense and sensibilities prevail."

Leal said in public life, he has always tried to be a facilitator - to bring people together to have a conversation like that which was had on Wednesday.

He said he encouraged Kordas and other group members to continue the engagement, while providing them with the information they needed.

The solar project is one of 42 by the company taking part in the Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) program within Ontario's Green Energy and Green Economy Act, which allows developers to fast-track works by bypassing the municipal planning application process.

A representative from the Ministry of Energy has asked the group to lay out discrepancies between the FIT program methodology and the work that has actually been done, which they plan to complete as soon as possible, said Kordas, who lives

next door to the site.

"We have no reason to protract it," he said.

"We're addressing it with urgency and zest."

Leal stressed that solar farms are not permitted on class one, two and three soils - the three that are considered prime agricultural farmland. Beyond three is acceptable.

Kordas went as far to call the solar farm, which was approved in 2013, "illegal" because its soil may actually fit into those classifications.

Initially, the agriculture ministry deemed it as class six, but has since said that more investigation is needed before verifying what land class it is.

"It's as clear as mud," Kordas said, adding that the group has sought new soil mapping since February and that the government is relying on outdated information.

The land, which was one part of the one of the largest potato farms in Hope Township, now yields three cuts of hay per season, which the farmer who harvests it would not be able to get if it was not prime land, Kordas said.

Work has not started at the site, but could at any time, he said.
jabain@postmedia.com

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290517374

Wynne government still approving wind projects

Ottawa Sun - Fri Sep 22 2017

Byline: Jim Mcpherson

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The war of residents against industrial wind turbines is being fought by rural communities in many countries.

Their common enemy is the financially-powerful wind industry, which is failing miserably in its efforts to deliver affordable and reliable electricity. It survives because its revenues are government-contracted.

In Ontario, Premier Kathleen Wynne's government won't let local residents win this war.

While I'm not comparing the two in scale, Ontario's wind war does have some things in common with World War II. Both were (and are) multinational with long-lasting effects.

Both have been waged over basic human rights and freedoms, with easily-identifiable villains and heroes.

Both have been costly. Precious heritage assets, and wildlife, have been lost forever in turbine-ravaged communities.

Industrial wind turbines are driving up electricity prices, while driving down real estate values. Out of phase with demand, wind energy is inherently unreliable and inefficient. Much of it is exported at a loss.

Many rural residents oppose industrial wind turbines because they destroy neighbourhoods, kill birds and bats and bulldoze wildlife and habitats.

Many people say their lowfrequency sound radiation makes them sick.

The Wynne government has already admitted it doesn't need any more big, industrial wind projects because Ontario has an energy surplus.

Nevertheless, "Big Wind" fights on and continues to devastate rural Ontario landscapes.

In Prince Edward County, a wind farm development was originally proposed in 2008 as a 75-turbine project that would supposedly help Ontario's "green energy" program.

After being acquired by another company, it was downsized to 27 turbines.

Earlier this year, following very costly appeals by local citizens, 18 of these turbine sites were disallowed by an Environmental Review Tribunal, leaving nine to be built.

Then, without public consultation, the Wynne government reduced the proponent's contracted deliverable energy contract, so the deal could go forward.

It could have and should have been terminated it, in the view of many local residents.

Which raises the question of why does the Wynne government keep stubbornly supporting Big Wind? The wind developer has announced it intends to begin construction of its severelydownsized, nine-turbine project surrounding the community of Milford.

Milford adjoins an internationally-designated "Important Bird Area" (IBA) on a multispecies migration flyway.

Colonies of vulnerable Little Brown Bats help Milford farmers protect their crops from insects. Turbines are dangerous to bats.

The wind developer, based in Germany, is a respected world leader in energy technology.

At a recent packed town hall meeting, Milford residents explored ways to save their community from more wind turbine industrialization.

One resident suggested the government of Germany might not want to inflict environmental harm in Canada more severe than that allowed in Germany.

Like Prince Edward County, Bavaria is a bucolic, tourism destination.

In Ontario, industrial wind turbines can be located 550 meters from residences, even though Health Canada reports this can cause sleep disturbance and severe annoyance.

In Bavaria, the legal setback for giant wind turbines is a much safer two km.

To protect wildlife, most European governments keep turbines away from IBAs.

In 2011, the Canadian Senate unanimously backed a motion calling on the province to institute a moratorium on wind-farm development along eastern Lake Ontario.

Six years later, the Wynne government continues to allow the wind industry to further its desecration of rural Ontario, despite the fact we have an energy surplus. Why?

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Energy savings are available: Thibeault

Fort Frances Times - Thu Sep 21 2017

Programs are available for both businesses and residents to cut their hydro bills—but the province has to do a better job promoting them.

Energy minister Glenn Thibeault made that admission to the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce during its "Business After Hours" event Friday evening at the Copper River Inn.

The Sudbury MPP said the Fair Hydro Plan, unveiled in March, provides a myriad of ways to benefit hydro customers.

But he added the government still is working at making sure small- and medium-sized businesses can take advantage of these energy cost-savings programs.

"We've established a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to make sure that every small business, that every member of any Chamber across the province, knows about the programs that are out there that will actually help you reduce your costs," Thibeault noted.

Thibeault was in Brant, Ont. recently, where a small business received an award from Brant Hydro.

That business had changed all of its lighting from regular bulbs to LED, which cost \$30,000 but it got about \$8,000 to help pay for the switch.

"They were getting an award for signing up for this program, but what they didn't know were the other programs available to them that can actually help them save a third of their bill," he explained.

"So we get out there and try to talk as much about these programs as we can to let you know that these programs exist," he stressed.

Thibeault urged business owners either to contact their local utility or local Chamber office.

They, in turn, can get hold of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, where a special representative has been hired, through funding from the Ministry of Energy, to work with Chamber members and advise them of the programs available to help reduce their hydro rates.

"So if it's signing up for the 'Save on Energy' program and looking at ways you can get money to help you change your lighting, help you increase your insulation, there's many things that they will actually help you do," Thibeault said.

"You can actually work with your local utility and actually make some of those savings.

"You're blessed here in Fort Frances, specifically, with a very good local utility," Thibeault added. "I met with the mayor and many of those folks earlier today.

"You have a great utility here, they've been doing great work," he lauded.

"But if we can continue to help you save, then let's utilize that."

Thibeault said one of the things people overlook is if the province can get everyone conserving energy, it saves us all money in two ways.

"It saves you directly because, if I am talking about at home or at the business, if you can conserve some of the energy and save yourself money, and not use as much, that's great news for you individually," he remarked.

"But when we take that overall as a collective, that means we're saving more energy together as a province, using our system more efficiently, and that means we don't need to build more generation.

"When we don't need to build more generation, that means we don't have to put those costs into the Global Adjustment [line item on bills]," Thibeault noted.

"When we don't have to put those costs back into the system, we all save from that."

Help available

As of July 1, electricity bills have been reduced by 25 percent, on average, for residential consumers across Ontario, with as many as half-a-million small businesses and farms also benefitting from reductions.

But there also are several programs available to help further cut costs.

On the business side, there's the Save on Energy for Business ones. With these, businesses can:

- get help completing energy audits to reduce their building's operating costs and improve its performance (they can save up to 50 percent on the cost of the audit);
- get funding, tools, and resources to help identify, implement, and validate energy efficiency projects from start to finish (this is for complex systems

and processes such as frequency drivers, air compressors, refrigeration, and lighting controls);

- get assistance replacing inefficient equipment with high-efficiency equipment to improve their building's operations (they can save up to 50 percent on lighting, motors, and heating, and for the installation of new control systems);
- get help identifying energy-efficiency opportunities, developing energy management plans, and completing "Save on Energy" incentive applications; and
- get a free on-site lighting assessment and up to \$2,000 in eligible energy-efficient lighting upgrades.

Programs such as the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) and the Industrial Accelerator Program (IAP), as well as the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program, also may benefit qualifying large northern industrial consumers.

On the residential side, the Ontario Electricity Support Program can provide further savings for customers who live in an eligible rural or remote community, or have a low income, have electric heating, use certain medical devices that use a lot of electricity, or a family member living in your household who is indigenous.

Northern Ontario residents also may benefit from the Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit and the Northern Ontario Energy Credit.

There's also the Save on Energy Home Assistance Program, which provides free, energy-efficient devices and products (e.g., LED light bulbs and advanced power bars) to qualified homeowners, tenants, and organizations that provide social and assisted housing.

Under this program, residents also may be eligible for a new, energy-efficient refrigerator or other appliances (e.g., a window air conditioner), a programmable thermostat, weather-stripping around their doors and windows, and extra insulation in their attic or basement, if they live in a home that's heated by electricity.

And under the Home Energy Incentive Conservation Program, residents can get an assessment of their home to identify best ways to reduce energy use, increase energy efficiency, and get rebates for "Energy Star" electric appliances.

They also can get up to \$4,000 to install an air source heat pump if their home is electrically-heated.

Residents are urged to contact their local utility, such as the Fort Frances Power Corp. or Hydro One, for more information on these programs, Thibeault said.

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Public meetings set as Dufferin Wind Power proposes REA changes to improve efficiencies

Orangeville Banner - Thu Sep 21 2017 Page: 1

A series of public information sessions have been scheduled as Dufferin Wind Power Inc. seeks to upgrade software and add a 472-metre grounding line to its existing operations in Melancthon.

Dufferin Wind Power recently applied for an amendment to its Renewable Energy Approval (REA) to the province. The company says the software upgrades and new grounding line will help in capturing electricity more efficiently.

"It is not changing what the wind farm is doing, just how it is going to collect the energy and transmit it. There are no new turbines," Dufferin Wind Power spokesperson Connie Roberts told The Banner, noting the new line that would be added to the wind farm's existing grounding grid will not carry any voltage.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) granted Dufferin Wind Power approval to build the 49-turbine project in 2013. The wind farm was then granted approval to construct a 230-kV transmission line running from Melancthon to Amaranth.

Roberts said testing of the new software, which took place over several months, along with all other assessments and measurements such as noise and archaeological studies, were completed in August.

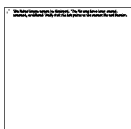
Dufferin Wind Power reports the proposed upgrades will aid in increasing energy production when necessary wind resources are available. Roberts said the proposed changes comply with MOECC noise standards.

"The goal is to capture the electricity as efficiently as possible," Roberts added. "It is about improving the efficiency of how the electricity is gathered and put forward to the substation."

A series of three public information sessions have been scheduled to solicit public feedback on the proposed changes. They will be held at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne on Oct. 16, the Amaranth Banquet Hall on Oct. 17, and the Horning's Mills Community Hall on Oct. 19. Each session will be held from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information, or to view more details about the proposed changes, visit dufferinwindpower.ca.

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290444890

CUPE appealing dismissal of lawsuit over partial Hydro One sale; CUPE appealing Hydro One lawsuit dismissal

Canadian Press - Thu Sep 21 2017

TORONTO - The Canadian Union of Public Employees is appealing a court decision that tossed its lawsuit against the Ontario government over the controversial partial sale of Hydro One.

The lawsuit alleged the sale of shares in the utility was motivated by improper and ulterior purposes, namely to reward benefactors of the Ontario Liberal Party.

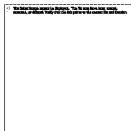
It alleged the Liberals inappropriately mixed government and party business by holding fundraisers with cabinet ministers, such as a \$7,500-a-ticket event that was attended by bankers who profited from the privatization of Hydro One.

But the court dismissed the lawsuit last month, calling it an impermissible attack on a core policy decision taken by the ministers.

CUPE's notice of appeal says the court erred by finding that the facts of the case failed to support the allegation that ministers acted in bad faith or for an improper purpose.

The union is asking Ontario's Court of Appeal to set aside the dismissal or let it amend the statement of claim "to correct any deficiency the court may find."

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290301914

7 Nations opposes plan; Want Ontario to extend consultation period and more oversight over its proposed benefits

Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Thu Sep 21 2017

Byline: Alan S. Hale

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The Seven Nations of Canada, a group that represents Akwesasne's small Iroquois minority, has come out against the Chiefs of Ontario's plan to buy a 2.5 per cent stake in Hydro One using money loaned to it by the provincial government.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) has until the end of the month to decide if it will buy into the plan which Grand Chief Abram Benedict helped negotiate. But the Seven Nations are calling the proposal's looming deadline a "shotgun wedding."

"It's short notice without enough community consultation," said Tamra Cook, a Seven Nations member. "I think the best thing to do would be to tell the Ontario government to put it off. What's the rush?" Although the Standard-Freeholder did not report about the deal to buy the Hydro One shares until this month, the MCA has actually been holding public consultation meeting inside Akwesasne about the proposal since at least June, and the negotiations to get to this point have been ongoing for years.

The deal being offered to all of the member First Nations of the Chiefs of Ontario is that the provincial government would give them 15 million shares the Liberals have decided to sell on the private market.

Not only are the shares technically being sold to the First Nations at 75 per cent of their market value, but the communities don't need to put any money up front. Instead, they will be able to pay off the \$268-million price tag over the next 25 years

as though they had received a loan to buy the shares. The interest being charged will be only marginally higher than the rate Ontario gets when it borrows money.

The Chiefs of Ontario have also devised a corporate structure that would shield the First Nations from liability if for some reason they default on that loan.

When asked why they would oppose the community getting effectively free shares that would produce dividends for First Nations across Ontario, they gave a few reasons. The first of which is they do not feel the money from the shares will be managed competently or free of corruption.

Cook argued that the MCA has a poor track record when it comes to transparently managing community trusts. She pointed specifically to Community Settlement Trust set up to invest money from an agreement with Ontario Power Generation.

"Why are they spending \$340,000 in administration fees," she asked. "Why is the community still suffering when it pays out this much money."

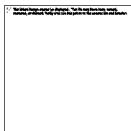
The MCA would not be the one managing the money from the Hydro One deal, however. The Chiefs of Ontario will be setting up corporations that it would oversee to do that, although their structure will be based on those used by the MCA to manage its casino revenues.

Seven Nations is also worried about the potential for nepotism and corruption, especially when it comes to people given jobs at the corporations.

"That's a scary thought. When you see someone who benefits personally from an agreement, and it's not the collective ... we've got a problem. We're concerned is whether one of the chiefs will offer to cover someone's ass if they sell this to their community," said George Adams, another Seven Nations member.

The deal can only go forward if 106 First Nations in Ontario decide to accept it this fall. This does not include the Seven Nations of Canada, which is not recognized by the MCA and is not a member of the Chiefs of Ontario. ahale@postmedia.com
twitter.com/alan__S__hale

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290254850

Uxbridge council reiterates stance on nuclear waste

Uxbridge Times Journal - Tue Sep 19 2017 Page: 1

UXBRIDGE - Councillors are still looking for clear answers on radioactive nuclear waste routes.

At a meeting on Sept. 18 councillors discussed a letter from Ontario Power Generation (OPG) received in response to questions on the routes taken by trucks carrying radioactive nuclear waste to a permanent storage site in Kincardine.

"The routes taken currently by OPG's radioactive material transportation vehicles for any one particular shipment are confidential," the letter reads.

"However, the routes selected typically follow along Ontario's well-travelled public

highways and the 400 series highways from Darlington and Pickering to the Bruce site, and back. Some of the roads taken would include highways 20, 9, 10, 80 and highways 400, 401, 410 and 407."

Coun. Pat Molloy suggested a followup letter asking specifically whether the route travels through Uxbridge, which was supported by fellow councillors.

"It's interesting they don't tell us they don't come through Uxbridge," Molloy said.

"I don't know if we can ask them specifically, they're saying it's confidential, but I want to emphasize they really didn't answer our question. I'm concerned, I don't want them coming through our town."

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Puerto Rico's electric company was already billions in debt before storms struck

Toronto Star - Fri Sep 22 2017

Byline: Steven Mufson The Washington Post

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Hurricane Maria has dealt a new blow to Puerto Rico's bankrupt electric company - causing widespread power outages and imposing costly repairs on a utility that was already struggling with more than \$9 billion (U.S.) in debt, poor service and sky-high rates.

And that means more hardship for residents, whose electric rates are already more than twice the U.S. average.

Even before it was hit by hurricanes Irma and now Maria, the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) said it needed more than \$4 billion to overhaul its outdated power plants and reduce its heavy reliance on imported oil. The company filed for bankruptcy July 2.

Now, with Maria toppling transmission lines and knocking out power for most of Puerto Rico's 3.4 million residents, PREPA faces hundreds of millions of dollars more for hurricane repairs.

The utility's problems are a key part of the commonwealth's struggles to restructure about \$74 billion in debts, overhaul its economy and stem the outflow of Puerto Rican citizens for the U.S. mainland.

The path of the storm suggested there could be heavy damage to the electric power lines that connect the big power plants on the southern coast of Puerto Rico with the more populous northern part of the island.

It is too soon to know whether Maria inflicted damage on the power plants, the biggest being a pair that burn heavy fuel oil to generate 900 megawatts each, together enough to power 1.3 million homes. The median age of PREPA's power plants is 44 years old.

Repairing the transmission lines alone could take weeks.

PREPA has also lost 30 per cent of its employees since 2012 due to steady migration out of the commonwealth and retirements. The areas hit hardest have been skilled jobs, including the linemen needed to repair transmission lines.

"PREPA's current weak financial condition will affect the utility's ability to quickly repair and restore service after this natural disaster, highlighting the challenges faced by PREPA, including its reliance on an aging electric infrastructure in need of significant capital improvements," said a Sept. 11 report by Moody's about the damage from Irma.

The utility has a poor safety record. An explosion last year knocked out power in many places for four days. Newspapers run photos of poor maintenance, rusting control panels and outmoded controls.

There is little in the commonwealth budget for emergencies. The government set aside just \$20 million for disaster relief, forcing it to rely on the Trump administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funds and manpower.

The hurricanes could "force the energy department and federal government to come in with massive aid to rebuild new plants quickly.

"You could imagine all the things that get in the way of building infrastructure, such as permitting, would get waived in an emergency," said one executive who has been involved in debt talks.

"People fear the worst, but also recognize that it might lead to much greater sense of urgency on the part of the federal government."

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MISO price tops \$1,500/MWh on conservation, maximum generation alerts

Energy Monitor Worldwide - Fri Sep 22 2017, 9:28am ET
Byline: Energy Monitor Worldwide

Midcontinent Independent System Operator power prices spiked Thursday as the footprint region was under a conservation operation notice and a maximum generation alert due to hot weather expected across the region, forced generation outages and higher-than-expected load. Michigan Hub on-peak real-time prices topped \$1,500/MWh as of 2:10 pm EDT Thursday, while the Indiana Hub price was over \$1,400/MWh and Illinois Hub was over \$1,100/MWh. In comparison, on-peak real-time prices across the region have averaged in the low \$30s/MWh this month and averaged in the mid-\$30s/MWh in September 2016. MISO issued a conservation operation notice around noon Thursday for its entire balancing authority area, effective from 11 am to 8 pm Thursday, calling for maintenance on all transmission and generation resources to be suspended and that outage plans for current or scheduled maintenance be deferred or canceled. MISO also declared a maximum generation alert from noon through 8 pm Thursday for its entire footprint due to higher-than-forecast load, above-normal temperatures and forced outages, according to the alert declaration. The National Weather Service issued hazardous a weather outlook for portions of central, east-central, southeast and west-central Illinois, cautioning heat index approaching 100 degrees Thursday afternoon. High

temperatures in Indianapolis were expected at 89 on Thursday, 15 degrees above normal, while lows were expected at 70, 17 degrees above normal, according to CustomWeather data. The ISO projected peakload to reach 107 GW at 4 pm Thursday, compared with the to-date September average of 85 GW and the September 2016 average of 93 GW. For the hour ending 2 pm Thursday, load was coming in at about 102 GW, below the expected level at 104 GW. Outages were estimated to reach around 30 GW Thursday and range between 28-32 GW from Friday to September 27, compared with the average of 25 GW this month and year-ago level of 27 GW.

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