

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 30, 2017
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Ontario Wasted More Than \$1 Billion Worth of Clean Energy in 2016, Enough to Power 760,000 Homes

Ontario Society of Professional Engineers - Thu Jun 29 2017

Following a detailed analysis of year-end data issued by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and Ontario Power Generation (OPG), the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) is reporting that in 2016, the province wasted a ...

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Powerless Premier; Expert Say Provide Wasted \$ 1B On Clean Energy

Toronto Sun - Fri Jun 30 2017
Byline:Shawn Jeffords
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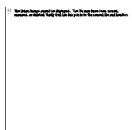
Ontario wasted \$1 billion worth of clean electricity in 2016, according to the province's professional engineers. The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, a nonpartisan body, which represents the province's ...



Energy minister in Milton to discuss impending hydro bill cut

Milton Canadian Champion - Wed Jun 28 2017 Page: 1

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Energy debate heats up

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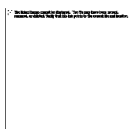
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Continued opposition; EDP Renewables moves through steps for large wind farm as many in community continue to fight

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Ontario Wasted More Than \$1 Billion Worth of Clean Energy in 2016, Enough to Power 760,000 Homes

Ontario Society of Professional Engineers - Thu Jun 29 2017

Following a detailed analysis of year-end data issued by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and Ontario Power Generation (OPG), the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) is reporting that in 2016, the province wasted a total of 7.6 terawatt-hours (TWh) of clean electricity — an amount equal to powering more than 760,000 homes for one year, or a value in excess of \$1 billion.

"This represents a 58 per cent increase in the amount of clean electricity that Ontario wasted in 2015 — 4.8 TWh — all while the province continues to export more than 2 million homes-worth of electricity to neighbouring jurisdictions for a price less than what it cost to produce," said Paul Acchione, P.Eng., energy expert and former President and Chair of OSPE.

OSPE shared these findings with all three major political parties, and will be at Queen's Park this morning to speak to media regarding the importance of granting professional engineers more independence in the planning and designing of Ontario's power system.

So why is Ontario wasting all this energy? "Curtailment is an industry term that means the power was not needed in Ontario, and could not be exported, so it was dumped. It's when we tell our dams to let the water spill over top, our nuclear generators to release their steam, and our wind turbines not to turn, even when it's windy," said Acchione.

"These numbers show that Ontario's cleanest source of power is literally going down the drain because we're producing too much. Speaking as an engineer, an environmentalist, and a rate payer, it's an unnecessary waste of beautiful, clean energy, and it's driving up the cost of electricity."

In addition to curtailment, surplus hydroelectric, wind, and nuclear generation was exported to adjoining power grids in 2014, 2015, and 2016 at prices much lower

than the total cost of production. This occurs because Ontario produces more clean electricity than it can use, so it is forced to sell off surplus energy at a discounted rate. Total exports in 2016 were 21.9 TWh compared to 22.6 TWh in 2015, and a significant portion was clean, zero-emission electricity.

"Taken together, those total exports represent nearly enough electricity to power every home in Ontario for an entire year," said Acchione. "OSPE continues to assert that the government must restore the oversight of professional engineers in the detailed planning and design of Ontario's power grid to prevent missteps like this from happening."

Engineers have solutions Because Ontario is contractually obligated to pay for most of the production costs of curtailed and exported energy, OSPE believes it would be better to find productive uses for the surplus clean electricity to displace fossil fuel consumption in other economic sectors. In the summer of 2016, OSPE submitted an advisory document to the Minister of Energy and all three major political parties detailing 21 actionable recommendations that would deliver efficiencies and savings, including reducing residential and commercial rates by approximately 25 per cent, without the creation of the subsidy and deferral account under the Ontario Fair Hydro Act.

OSPE also recommended the establishment of a voluntary interruptible retail electricity market in order to make productive use of Ontario's excess clean electricity. This market would allow Ontario businesses and residents to access surplus clean power at the wholesale market price of less than two cents per kilowatt-hour (KWh), which could displace the use of fossil fuels by using things like dual fuel (gas and electric) water heaters, and by producing emission-free hydrogen fuel.

Ontario is currently in the process of finalizing its 2017 Long Term Energy Plan (LTEP), a multi-year guiding document that will direct the province's investments and operations related to energy. This presents a key opportunity for the government to reduce Ontarians' hydro bills by making surplus clean electricity available to consumers.

"It is imperative that we depoliticize what should be technical judgments regarding energy mix, generation, distribution, pricing and future investments in Ontario," said Jonathan Hack, P.Eng., President & Chair of OSPE. "We are very concerned that the government does not currently have enough engineers in Ministry staff positions to be able to properly assess the balance between environmental commitments and economic welfare when it comes to energy."

Professional Engineers must be given independence in planning and designing integrated power and energy system plans, which will in turn benefit all Ontarians."

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Powerless Premier; Expert Say Provide Wasted \$ 1B On Clean Energy

Toronto Sun - Fri Jun 30 2017
Byline: Shawn Jeffords
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Ontario wasted \$1 billion worth of clean electricity in 2016, according to the province's professional engineers.

The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, a nonpartisan body, which represents the province's engineers, says it has crunched government hydro numbers from 2016 and they show that 7.6 terawatt-hours of clean hydro went down the drain that year. That's equal to the amount required to power 760,000 homes - or \$1 billion worth of electricity - said the group's past president Paul Acchione.

"This represents a 58% increase in the amount of clean electricity that Ontario wasted in 2015 which was 4.8 terawatt hours," he said. "All while the province continues to export more than twomillion homes'worth of electricity to neighbouring jurisdictions for a price less than it costs to produce."

Acchione said the province is wasting the power through a practice called "curtailment." It means that when the province's hydro generators produce power consumers don't need, and it can't be exported, they have to dump it.

"It's when we tell our dams to let the water spill over the top, our nuclear generators to release steam to their condensers and our wind turbines not to turn even when it's windy," he said. "The numbers... show that Ontario's cleanest source of power is literally going down the drain because we're producing too much of it."

Jonathan Hack, the president and chairman of the OSPE board, said the group provided the analysis to all three parties at Queen's Park. They'd like to see engineers more intimately involved in policy creation, because at the moment, technical decisions about the province's hydro system have been politicized, he said.

"We need to involve engineers in policy making decisions," Hack said. "Engineers right now are being asked to be involved only when the implementation occurs on these policies and that is too late."

Progressive Conservative energy critic Todd Smith, who hosted the group at Queen's Park Thursday, said the government has been ignoring experts on the file for years.

That led to the creation of the Green Energy Act, he added.

"The first thing that they need to do is stop having politicians design our energy and our electrical system and allow experts to provide their input," he said.

Smith said the Tories will introduce a plan to address the systematic problems in the hydro system later this year or "in early 2018."

Colin Nikolaichuk, spokesman for energy minister Glenn Thibeault, slammed the Tories for voting against the government's 25% hydro rate reduction plan and not having a plan of their own.

He did not address the analysis of the OSPE in a statement to the Toronto Sun. "As OSPE acknowledged in the media studio this morning, our government works closely with their organization and other stakeholders, and takes their input seriously," Nikolaichuk said. sjeffords@postmedia.com

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Energy minister in Milton to discuss impending hydro bill cut

Milton Canadian Champion - Wed Jun 28 2017 Page: 1

Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault spent the several hours in Milton Wednesday (June 28) to spread the word about the hydro bill reduction set to take effect this weekend.

The provincial politician was joined by Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris in speaking about the previously announced Fair Hydro Plan, which is being implemented in steps.

The pair first visited Milton Hydro and then attended a Milton Chamber of Commerce lunch event at the Teatro Conference and Event Centre, informing those in attendance that as of July 1, Milton households will see an average 25 per cent reduction on their hydro bills as a result of the plan.

"It was through the advocacy of our individual MPPs like Indira, who were bringing forward the concerns of their constituents to myself and the Premier, that we realized we had to act more," Thibeault told the Champion. "There were many people saying, 'I'm concerned about the price of electricity, what's the government going to do about it?' That's when we went to work and we've come forward with the Fair Hydro Plan."

In addition to residential hydro customers, the minister said the 25 per cent reduction - which includes the eight per cent rebate that was introduced in January - will also benefit 500,000 small businesses and farms across the province.

The plan will hold rate increases to the rate of inflation for four years.

"Many Ontarians are concerned about the price they pay for electricity and the impact it has on their household budget," said Naidoo-Harris. "Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan will significantly lower the monthly hydro bills of all residential consumers and help the most vulnerable."

Thibeault went on to explain the Liberal government's rationale behind overhauling the province's electricity generation, transmission and distribution system at a cost of \$50 billion - a price tag that has driven hydro rates.

It all started after the blackout of 2003.

"This happened because of decades of underinvestment in the energy system by governments of all stripes and all colours," he said.

So the government began investing in "green" energy and chose to close coal plants, he said.

"Ontario's elimination of coal remains the single largest climate change initiative undertaken in North America," he said, explaining that it's equivalent to taking seven million cars off the road.

The measures helped reduce smog days from 53 in 2005 to none last year, noted Thibeault.

"That's improving the health care of all Ontarians, especially children and our elderly who are most impacted by air pollution," he said.

While the overhaul has come at a hefty cost, the minister said it's all worth it when he gets to meet children like 10-year-old Matthew, who suffers from asthma and often couldn't venture outside to play or even to school due to air quality making his condition worse.

The boy recently went to Queen's Park to thank politicians for the changes they've made to the province's energy system, telling them that he hasn't had visit to the hospital in over a year.

"That's when you go, 'We've made the right decision,'" he said. "We've changed his life for the better, and that's why you get into politics."

He went on to acknowledge that hydro costs "did increase too much, too fast," so that's when the government decided to launch the Fair Hydro Plan and 25 per cent reduction.

"We know this was the relief families here in Milton were asking for," he said. "It's a promise that our government is delivering on."

To accomplish this, he said the government is refinancing the global adjustment - a tool that pays for the electricity system upgrades - and setting a new term that stretches payments out over 30 years, instead of the original plan of 20 years.

"Over time it will cost more and it will take longer to pay off, but it will be fairer because it doesn't ask one generation, our generation, of electricity ratepayers alone to pay the freight for everyone before and after," he said. "There's no question that these changes were the right thing to do."

At the chamber lunch, Thibeault fielded a mix of technical and general questions on energy and encouraged those in attendance to contact Milton Hydro to discuss further savings that could be offered through the Save on Energy program.

This summer, the Province will also launch an affordability fund for customers who don't qualify for low-income conservation programs and are unable to make energy-efficient improvements to their home without financial assistance.

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Energy debate heats up

Sudbury Star - Thu Jun 29 2017
Byline: Keith Dempsey
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Energy minister and Liberal MPP Glen Thibeault did not attend the Ontario Energy Board hearing in Sudbury on Wednesday, but he did have a rebuttal to Vic Fedeli, the Tory MPP for Nipissing (North Bay).

When reached by The Star prior to Wednesday's hearing, Fedeli said Thibeault needed to justify why he won't direct the Ontario Energy Board to reject an application from Hydro One for a \$141-per-year hydro rate hike.

"That is particularly unfair for hard-working families," Fedeli said.

Fedeli is also upset Hydro One gave their CEO a nearly \$4-million raise.

"How can you justify giving him a raise to four-and-a-half million dollars in a year and then come to us for a rate increase?" Fedeli said. "And when you consider the fact that Hydro Quebec and BC Hydro pay their CEOs in the \$400,000 range, that makes it even more upsetting for Ontario families."

Thibeault, for his part, wasn't available for an interview, but did offer a statement in reply.

"While I'm in Milton and Kingston talking about our Fair Hydro Plan today (Wednesday) and tomorrow (Thursday), the Conservatives continue to willfully misinform the public about the Ontario Energy Board's rate application process," Thibeault said in a statement. "It's hard to take (Ontario PC leader) Patrick Brown and Vic Fedeli's grandstanding seriously when it's been more than three months since the Conservatives said they were going to share their plan on reducing electricity rates - we're still waiting."

He said Fedeli's focus on the OEB hearing "is simply a distraction from the fact that the Conservatives have not presented a single credible idea on how to help Ontarians. The icing on the cake is that Patrick Brown, Vic Fedeli and the Conservatives voted against our Fair Hydro Plan - a plan that is delivering a 25-percent-on-average reduction for families and small businesses in Sudbury and across the province beginning July 1."

When Fedeli was asked what the Tory plan is to reduce rates, he told The Star the prime issue, as he worded it, is to stop signing contracts for power that isn't needed.

"That's the first thing you gotta do," Fedeli said. "When you're in a hole, the first thing you should do is stop digging. Here we are, just this week, the government announced 500 megawatts more of wind power is going on line, so on some days we make 30,000 megawatts, on some days we only use as low as 16,000 megawatts. Here we are with the government exacerbating the very problem that got us there. The fact that we're making power we don't need, which means now we're paying the States and Quebec to take that power every night. That's what we have to stop doing."

Thibeault replied by saying in a statement that distribution rates for 800,000 households will be coming down.

The province's move will bring savings "as high as 40 to 50 per cent," Thibeault said. "This includes eligible rural and Northern Hydro One customers in communities like Wanup. Under the Fair Hydro Plan, distribution rates for these customers will no longer be directly impacted by Hydro One's rate applications, even if approved by the OEB." sud.editorial@sunmedia.ca



Continued opposition; EDP Renewables moves through steps for large wind farm as many in community continue to fight

Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Thu Jun 29 2017

Byline: Rachel Faber

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A renewable energy project, aimed at building between 27 and 34 new wind turbines in North Stormont, faces ongoing opposition from locals who will live close to the towers.

At an open-house style meeting Tuesday, the company that won the contract for the project, EDP Renewables Canada, welcomed people to come by and learn about the project and to ask questions.

Talk of the project began in 2011, and the first information session of this kind was held in May 2015. In a couple months time, the project will be brought to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to review, with a goal of having construction start in the first quarter of 2019.

Since the first public meeting in 2015, citizens like Margaret Benke have been trying to stop the project, due primarily to noise and health concerns, she said.

"As soon as I heard about it I thought, 'I've gotta do something,'" said Benke.

Residents also have environmental concerns, said Benke, as a lot of farm vegetation needs to be dug up to make way for the structures. However, all wind turbines will be placed on the land of willing farmers that have entered into rental contracts with EDP Renewables.

"We live too close together, this is a highly populated area," said Benke with concern over how living conditions will change for people who live close to the proposed turbines, "It has been frustrating, there's no question, because there are so many reasons not to do it."

Though Benke and other protesters cite concern over health effects caused by wind turbines, a study was conducted by Health Canada and Statistics Canada that revealed, though turbines may result in annoyed residents, there have been no changes in quality of life and no direct link to any illnesses that residents reported.

North Stormont residents Carole and John Pirnat are also opposing the project, due to fears that the turbine proximity will de-value their home by up to 30 per cent.

"In other areas the property value has gone down... our house is only 10 years old," said John, who will live less than a kilometre away from the proposed turbines.

He said he went to the meeting Tuesday to ask more questions and hopefully get some answers.

Tom LoTurco, director of development for EDPR Canada, said the project has been open to discussion since 2015, and throughout the project there will be a lot of different ways that residents can communicate with a community liaison.

"We have some very supportive people and some that are concerned. They want to understand property values and hydro bills. We address all of that," he said.

As well, LoTurco noted that the turbines will provide jobs and stimulation to the local economy, as 67 per cent of expenditures for the project will be spent within 50 miles of the site.

"There is a silent majority of people who support the project, we just don't hear from them as much," said LoTurco. rfaber@postmedia.com

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Steady stream of residents on hand to inspect Park Hill dam project plan

Cambridge Times - Tue Jun 27 2017 Page: 1

Grand River Conservation Authority officials opened the floodgates to public opinion Tuesday (June 27), holding the first of three open houses inviting feedback on plans to build a \$5.2 million electricity generating station on Galt's Park Hill dam.

The public information event was hosted on the upper-storey of Cambridge Mill restaurant from 4 to 8 p.m. in a room overlooking the picturesque dam, the waters of the Grand River still flowing high and fast following the weekend's dangerously high flood levels.

Halfway through the event, more than 50 people had already turned out to pose questions of conservation authority staff, with inquiries ranging from concerns about the visual impact the station might have on the riverscape, to worries about how the new electricity generating station would affect wildlife.

Lisa Stocco, manager of communications at the conservation authority, said some visitors raised technical questions about the project, which is still in the environmental assessment stage, but reviews were generally positive.

"I think everyone's really excited."

Among the chief concerns raised were questions about how the proposed electricity generating station will affect wildlife in and around the Grand River.

Cambridge resident Jerry Brown pointed to potential disruption to the riverbank's habitat.

"It has an impact any time you change the water's course," he said.

Following conversations with officials on hand for the evening, Brown was satisfied those issues will receive serious consideration as part of the environmental assessment process, which will assess effects the hydro plant's turbine might have on fish species.

Wildlife concerns aside, Brown is impressed more sources of alternative power generation are being explored.

"These kinds of projects have for a long time been needed," he said.

Last year, the Independent Electricity System Operator awarded a 40-year contract to the authority for the generation of 500 kWh of power, enough to supply about 560 homes.

The project, which has been hampered by continuous delays for nearly two decades, will allow the authority to sell electricity at 23.63 cents per kilowatt per hour.

It's anticipated the hydro station could be up and running within five years. The assessment is anticipated to take 12 to 18 months to complete.

Residents of the nearby Waterscape condominium, adjacent to the river, were among those who attended the event, concerned about potential changes to their scenic view.

Stocco, along with other officials from the conservation authority, explained the exterior of the energy-generating station will appear flush with the walls of the riverbank, preventing any disruption to the visual lines of the riverscape.

In fact, one of the residents of the condo towers said the artist's rendition of the project appears to cover an aging metal structure at the edge of the west side of the river.

"It's better than what's there already," said the woman.

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Wasaga mayor won't support sale of electricity utility

Wasaga Sun - Wed Jun 28 2017 Page: 1

Wasaga Beach's mayor says he won't vote to sell the town-owned electricity distribution, and he is urging his fellow council members to follow suit.

Brian Smith said he has all the information he needs from the public to make a decision.

Council will now vote July 18 on a recommendation from the board of Wasaga Distribution Inc. to sell the electricity utility. The intent had been that July 18 would be a final opportunity for public comment, with council making a decision on July 25.

Noting that the last year with this issue on the table has "not been a pleasant road to go down," Smith acknowledged that while he voted in favour of the recommendation to sell as a member of the WDI board, as mayor he had "do what's best and listen to our citizens."

During the discussion, it was Deputy Mayor Nina Bifulchi who suggested the meeting on the 25th was no longer needed, based on how a vote would appear to go based on positions that have been expressed at the council table and in public.

Both Bifulchi and Coun. Sylvia Bray have stated they do not favour a sale, while Coun. Bonnie Smith - who was absent from the June 27 meeting - has said at the council table and on social media she would also not vote in favour.

At the June 27 meeting, Mayor Smith said it was unlikely councillors would hear anything different from the community on July 18, and it was likely the majority would be opposed to a sale.

The town will continue to collect information from an online questionnaire that's live until July 4. The results of a telephone survey were expected to be released on June 28.

"I have said from the beginning that I would listen to the people," Smith told Simcoe.com following the meeting. "At the end of the day, I stand behind the process to make sure that we followed a process that was open and transparent, we did everything we said we were going to do to make sure we got as much information we possibly could to the public.

"I'm not so sure we're making a mistake, time will tell that. But I'm sure that (the utility boards) will move forward to make those corporations as profitable as we can for the people of Wasaga Beach."

Keep Wasaga Hydro Public member Mark Winegarden applauded the comments of the mayor.

"I think the community wins. If there are members of council who have decided, after looking at all of the facts, that (not selling is) the right thing to do, then I'm glad they've come to that decision," he said. "I'm bursting at the seams. I'm still apprehensive because they didn't have a vote tonight and we still have to wait until the 18th."

Winegarden said he's most happy that Wasaga Distribution employees and their families now have certainty.

"They've been worrying about their jobs for a year now. Those families can rest assured that Wasaga Distribution will be retained and grow."

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