Message

**From**: John Cannella [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CD667C6D53774DD0A749783BB02AE89D-JOHN CANNEL]
**Sent**: 2017-07-20 6:10:38 AM
**Subject**: Today's News - Thursday, July 20, 2017

# Today's News

powered by:

Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017
Edited by: John Cannella ( John.Cannella@ieso.ca )

Contact Editor

## IESO Mentions

### News - 5 Results

**Energy project nears launch; Serves Sault Ste. Marie and area 10 to 20 years**

The Sault Star - Thu Jul 20 2017
**Byline:** Elaine Della-Mattia
**Page:** A1 / Front

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**Energy storage plant to open soon**

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# Industry News

## News - 6 Results

### Hydro One flexes power in massive U.S. deal; Avista purchase puts firm in top 20 electric companies

Toronto Star - Thu Jul 20 2017
**Byline:** Robert Benzie Toronto Star
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Ottawa Sun - Thu Jul 20 2017
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Ontario has had the fastest-rising electricity prices and its city dwellers paid some of the highest hydro bills in Canada over the past decade, a new Fraser Institute report found. This year, the Kathleen Wynne government ...

## Fraser Institute News Release: Ontario electricity prices fastest growing in Canada; Toronto bills highest nationwide

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## Reevely: Windmill plant closes, as Ontario's Green Energy Act dies a painful, costly death

ottawacitizen.com - Wed Jul 19 2017
**Byline:** David Reevely, Ottawa Citizen

Siemens is closing its windmill-blade factory in Tillsonburg, kicking one of the struts out of the provincial Liberals' plan to remake Ontario into a manufacturing centre for green-energy equipment. So long, Green Energy Act. That was painful. Not ...

## Decision 'imminent'; City expects to learn soon whether Ontario Energy Board will approve hydro sale

Orillia Packet & Times - Thu Jul 20 2017
**Byline:** Andrew Philips
**Page:** A5

City officials are anxiously checking the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) website these days. That's due to the feeling by staff and councillors a decision on the sale of Orillia Power Distribution Corporation (OPDC) to Hydro One ...

## SaskPower investing in aging power grid, green energy

CBC.CA News - Wed Jul 19 2017, 3:02pm ET
**Byline:** CBC News

SaskPower put nearly $1 billion into the province's electricity system in the 2016-17 fiscal year, according to its annual report. Those dollars went towards the aging power grid, growing demands and environmental commitment, ...

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# IESO Mentions

# Full Articles

### Energy project nears launch; Serves Sault Ste. Marie and area 10 to 20 years

The Sault Star - Thu Jul 20 2017
**Byline:**Elaine Della-Mattia
**Page:** A1 / Front

Sault Ste. Marie will soon have an energy storage system online that will allow the province's Independent Electricity System Operator a chance to study new technology designed to make the power grid more efficient and cost-effective.

Convergent Energy has completed construction on its 7MW energy storage project, located on PUC property in the city's east end at Trunk and McNabb streets.

It's adjacent to a transmission substation. A seven megawatt battery project would be equivalent to the storage of about 70,000 light bulbs. The project can balance 60 megawatts of photovoltaic solar capacity and 150 megawatts of peak load at the end of a 115 kV radical circuit.

The system is noiseless and emits no emissions. Convergent CEO Johannes Rittershausen said that over the next three years, different applications from the area will be piloted and the data will be monitored. But the facility was planned to be a 20-year asset and "it was designed so that over time, it will be providing stability services to the Sault Ste. Marie area for the next 10 to 20 years," he said.

Rittershausen said that Convergent sees this type of facility as one that will provide a much faster response and more reliable system to provide support for the electricity grid in Ontario. Data from the pilot project will be collected by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and evaluated over the next few years.

Ritteshausen said that this facility, with a price tag of between $5 million to $10 million, can be replicated and created across the province to provide better and more cost-effective energy across the grid over time.

"We built this for the IESO to study what is needed, how the batteries charge and when it goes back into the grid," he said.

The facility itself contains 2,100 batteries, each about 60 pounds. High-tech monitoring systems allow the IESO to monitor the battery operation system and how it is able to collect, store and release energy when needed for the grid. The technology even allows for troubleshooting mechanisms to help users identify and repair problems with the system itself.

Sault Ste. Marie's facility can "charge" the battery plant with unused energy in one hour. The system then turns the direct current to alternating currents and returned to the system at the PUCs substation when needed.

It's about electricity flowing in both ways, said Convergent Energy chief operating officer Frank Genova.

The city's unique situation with an abundance of renewable energy, and large heavy industrial energy users with intermittent generation, are expected to create unique energy patterns of storage and distribution, he said. Energy storage is growing to be a critical component in the reliable, cost-efficient, grid of the 21st century.

For utilities, energy storage is a utility-grade tool that can provide targeted capacity and load relief in congested areas by utilizing cost-effective and environmentally-friendly technologies. Ritteshausen said the IESO is trying to balance keeping the lights on with low costs. "They want to do it in the most efficient and cost-effective manner," he said. "This type of technology has the kind of promise that will bring those assets back into balance a little more."

The IESO is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Ontario's power system. It also oversees long-term energy planning, forecasts energy demand, enabling conservation and designing a more efficient electricity marketplace. Mayor Christian Provenzano said he's pleased the project came to Sault Ste. Marie and gave kudos to Coun. Steve Butland for pushing green energy initiatives.

"That's what we need to do in this city," he said.

"We need to make this a city where others will come to and do business in and be happy to be here. We need to be progressive and we need to be forward thinking."

He said thinking outside the box build's Sault Ste. Marie's economy and has helped create jobs for local companies. "This is just one of the areas where Sault Ste. Marie has been on the forefront for green energy and this is the largest energy storage project in Ontario," Provenzano said.

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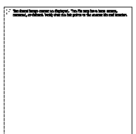

## Energy storage plant to open soon

Soo Today - Wed Jul 19 2017

Convergent Energy and Power officials, joined by Sault Mayor Christian Provenzano, cut the ribbon on the company's new energy storage facility in the city's east end Wednesday.

The facility, located on PUC property beside one of the utility's substations at 915 McNabb Street, is a seven-megawatt battery pilot project, designed to efficiently store energy and release it to Ontario's grid during times of peak electricity use, or during an electricity shortage.

To put the energy storage facility's capacity into perspective, seven megawatts is the equivalent of 70,000 light bulbs.

The project is overseen by Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), which will pay Convergent to store and supply power.

“This is the first in a series of projects the IESO is administering,” announced Johannes Rittershausen, Convergent CEO.

“We see energy resources such as this as being complementary to our grid needs…it's a very exciting time for Convergent, the IESO and the people of Ontario as we inch closer to bringing this asset online,” said the IESO's Nicholas Ingman.

Because the project is located on PUC property, Convergent has a 10-year lease in effect with the utility company, and an option to extend that to a 20-year lease.

"We need to make this city a city people come to and do business in," Provenzano said, welcoming Convergent and thanking the PUC for its role, as well as several firms who took part in constructing the facility.

"Sault Ste. Marie is an incubator for emerging energy grid technologies.  Innovative energy storage projects like this one will ultimately allow for a more reliable, stable energy grid," said Claudio Stefano, PUC vice president of operations and engineering.

Frank Genova, Convergent Chief Operating Officer, told reporters the company expects the facility to be officially operational by mid-August.

Construction on the complex began in December.

Convergent officials did not disclose how much it cost to build the facility, neither how much IESO is paying Convergent to run it.

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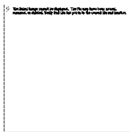

## Kelly McParland: Another wheel flies off Ontario's green energy bus, and lands on 340 workers

National Post - Wed Jul 19 2017
**Byline:**Kelly McParland

When former premier Dalton McGuinty visited the new Siemens Canada plant in Tillsonburg in 2011, he brushed aside protesters (kitchener.ctvnews.ca) and boasted that the plant was part of the Liberal alternative energy plan that would "put us at the forefront in North America."

The plant made windmill blades. Windmills were the future. Clean energy was what McGuinty's two-year-old Green Energy Act was all about. It would free the province of old, dirty manufacturing and introduce new, cutting-edge jobs that would make Ontario the envy of the world.

Just six years later the plant is closing. (nationalpost.com) Management says big changes in the wind industry make it no longer viable. The cutting edge plant that was to help lead Ontario into the Valhalla of a clean energy future can't survive in a market that wants bigger blades.

McGuinty has long since faded into retirement. He chose to step down rather than endure further questioning about an earlier energy fiasco. There was no sign of his successor, Kathleen Wynne, outside the factory, Tuesday, as newly-jobless workers sought an explanation (nationalpost.com) for the closure. "There was quite a bit of anger in there because they shut the place down the other night and never really told anybody about it," one complained to The London Free Press. "It was bang, everything was locked down."

Nathan Denette/ The Canadian Press

Wynne has been busy attending a meeting of the National Governors Association in the U.S., arguing against radical changes to the NAFTA free trade accord. NAFTA is critical to Ontario, particularly given the flow of manufacturing plants leaving the province over high costs, increasing regulation and expensive electricity. At the same time that the Liberals announced a subsidized cut in power prices, they introduced a carbon tax that negates the savings and adds to the difficulties of small industries trying to keep afloat. Wynne also plans to impose a $15 minimum wage on employers, as well as a package of new labour laws, despite predictions companies will be forced to cut staff to absorb the higher costs.

Does anyone remember the last time anything positive emerged from Ontario's electricity industry, battered and bruised from 13 years of Liberal government manhandling? Hydro rates so punitive the Liberals have applied layer on layer of subsidies, borrowing the money or pushing debt onto future generations to do so. An estimated $45 billion extra in future costs so the government can reduce consumer bills now, as it campaigns for re-election. Billions lost selling power at a loss to the U.S., which will now be made easier by approval of a power line under Lake Erie.

Wynne's government has been steadily retreating from a green energy deal with Samsung, even while proclaiming its continued devotion to McGuinty's green vision. In 2013, it cut its planned purchase of electricity (globalnews.ca) from Samsung projects by $3.7 billion, more than a third of the original agreement. In return, Samsung cut its planned investment by $2 billion.

In September, the Liberals ended plans for any new projects, (news.ontario.ca) admitting the power wasn't needed. They had little choice after a report by the Independent Electricity System Operator indicated the province had enough power to last a decade. Characteristically, Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault hailed it as evidence of the government's fiscal prudence, rather than proof of a colossal failure. "By putting our finger on the pause button it allows me to save $3.8 billion for ratepayers, and that's pretty significant in terms of helping ratepayers right across the province," he proclaimed.

Siemens Wind Power chief executive David Hickey was careful not to blame (www.lfpress.com) the Liberal change in plans for the Tillsonburg closing, but plenty of others were happy to. Companies like Siemens come for the subsidies, and when the subsidies disappear, so do they, said independent industry analyst Tom Adams. Ontario has poured so much into its green energy dream the market is saturated, he said. Hickey said the market is shifting west: Alberta and Saskatchewan are "the key opportunities of the future."

Chris Young / CP files

Liberal energy strategy was always predicated on the belief that politicians could dictate to the market and control the outcome. Despite overwhelming evidence that governments do badly when they try to remove the freedom from free enterprise, Wynne and McGuinty ploughed ahead in their determination to impose their vision on Canada's biggest province and most important economy. The result has been a catalogue of disasters. The $2 billion smart meter program that proved a bust (www.cbc.ca) at reducing demand; the gas plant construction projects halted in mid-campaign to protect a few Liberal seats; the doubling of consumer electricity bills; the army of windmills marching across vast expanses of rural Ontario, defacing the landscape while producing pricey, unneeded power.

In September, the Consumer Policy Institute calculated that Ontario had paid $6.3 billion to ship electricity outside of the province (ep.probeinternational.org) , while Ontario's auditor general says hydro customers paid $37 billion more than necessary (www.thestar.com) from 2006 to 2014 due to a catchall "adjustment" charge to cover the costs of past boondoggles. Having brought about the disaster, the Liberals have little choice but to insist that some day, down the road sometime, Ontarians will be grateful for the far-sighted policies they maintain will eventually pay off.

Maybe. And maybe Wynne and her energy minister can put their heads together and devise a way to declare the plant closing in Tillsonburg a blessing in disguise. How about this: without jobs, those 340 employees and their families will have to cut back their budgets, use less electricity, keep the car in the garage. Yet another victory for the Wynne Liberals' far-sighted crusade to reduce energy consumption in Ontario, no matter what the costs to Ontarians.

National Post

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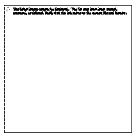

## Public subsidies are not a business model

North Bay Nugget - Thu Jul 20 2017
**Byline:**Peter Epp
**Page:** A4

The abrupt closing this week of Siemens'Tillsonburg plant is hardly surprising, given the fact its business plan was predicated on the government's promise to subsidize windturbine development in Ontario.

The Siemens plant builds wind-turbine blades and has been busy since it began operations in 2010. But the sustainability of its blade production was arguably threatened when Premier Kathleen Wynne announced last September that the province's Independent Electricity System Operator would not be signing a second round of large renewable contracts.

The IESO operates within the structure of the Green Energy Act, which has provided the legislative authority for the development of a substantial wind and solar industry in Ontario. That industry was built on a bedrock of generous public subsidies.

But that bedrock has crumbled. Wynne's announcement was ostensibly made because her government believed Ontario's electricity demands were being satisfied with the existing wind and solar developments. Her decision was also politically motivated, designed to stem the public's rising rage over skyrocketing electricity prices.

As quickly as her predecessor, Dalton McGuinty, in 2009 ushered in the Green Energy Act and the promise of an entirely new market for manufacturers, that same opportunity was undercut by Wynne in 2016.

Ross McKitrick, an economist with the University of Guelph, provided a succinct summation this week: "These plants were only set up because of subsidies and the large (government) procurement programs," he said. "There was an artificial demand for these products. Without those procurement deals, there's no reason to be building these turbines here."

The fallout from Ontario's political retreat from green energy is on display in Tillsonburg. Over 300 jobs will disappear by early 2018, when the plant closes. Observers are suggesting more jobs connected with the domestic manufacture of product for the wind and solar industries will follow.

That's too bad, because green energy is not going to go away. Investment on a global scale is growing, especially in China. It's also growing in Canada and the rest of North America, according to the Pembina Institute, a think-tank that examines energy issues.

That said, it's clear the business model for green energy should be exclusive of government support, be that political or financial. Such is the capricious nature of promises built on politics and public subsidies: They are as reliable and permanent as the politicians who sponsor that activity.

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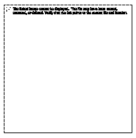

## Part of power costs or waste of money?

Peterborough Examiner - Thu Jul 20 2017
**Byline:**Elizabeth F. Marshall
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It has been reported that Hydro One is applying to the Ontario Energy Board for an increase in the electricity charges. This is on top of the Wynne government's Fair Hydro Plan which will injuriously affect our children through this government's mismanagement of the energy file, up to $93 billion according to the Financial Accountability Officer.

It has also been reported, in various newspaper articles, that, in 2016, Hydro One CEO Mayo Schmidt was paid $4.4 million in salary and bonuses. But this is only the reported costs of one senior executive's wages under the Electricity Act. What about the other entities included in the Electricity Act? There are five, maybe six, different entities/corporations whose senior executives Ontarians are on the hook for wages. The reason I say "five maybe six" is because these various entities/corporations have, now and in the past, been amalgamated, renamed, and in some instances, are private-public partnerships. These entities included in the Electricity Act are: 1. Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

2. Hydro One

3. Ontario Power Authority (OPA)

4. "Smart Metering Entity" -means the corporation incorporated, the limited partnership or the partnership formed or the entity designated, pursuant to section 53.7, to accomplish the government's smart metering initiative and is said to be part of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), 5. Ontario Energy Board and 6. "IESO" means the Independent Electricity System Operator under Part II -5. Amalgamation of IESO and OPA.

Of course we can't forget the renewable energy companies and their input into this. I'm surprised that Samsung, KEPCO (Korea Consortium) and/or Korea (South Korea) aren't also included in this list, considering they have so much input into the FIT/renewable energy projects and the contracts for the affiliations of the Korea Consortium. For now, though, let's look at the entities included in the Electricity Act.

From the March 2016 Sunshine List: CEO of Ontario Power Generation earned nearly $1.2 million and could be paid a maximum of $1.9 million with a $3.8-million compensation package; Hydro One CEO is paid $4.4 million in salary and bonuses (newspaper articles). But good luck finding the salaries of the other entities"¦seems they're buried very deep -funny that, isn't it?

So what are the salaries plus benefits of the IESO and any of the other questionable entities created, amalgamated, de-amalgamated, re-incorporated, re-created with a different name/names under the Energy File? As it stands right now, only the New-Demo-Progressive-Con-Liberal Party can tell"¦so is this just part of electricity costs or a complete waste of money?

Elizabeth F. Marshall

Director of Research Ontario Landowners Association

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# Industry News

## Full Articles

### Hydro One flexes power in massive U.S. deal; Avista purchase puts firm in top 20 electric companies

Toronto Star - Thu Jul 20 2017
**Byline:**Robert Benzie Toronto Star
**Page:** A8

Hydro One is buying a massive U.S. utility in a $6.7-billion deal being touted as a win by the Ontario government, which currently owns 49 per cent of the transmitter.

The Toronto-based company, the majority of which Premier Kathleen Wynne sold off to bankroll transportation infrastructure, announced Wednesday it was purchasing Avista, which operates in Washington state, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

"This marks a proud moment for Canadian champions as we grow our business into a North American leader," said Hydro One president and CEO Mayo Schmidt, who noted it would vault the firm into the continent's top 20 electricity companies.

Schmidt said the transaction "demonstrates the power and value of the transition into an investor-owned utility, by allowing for healthy expansion into new lines of regulated utility business and new jurisdictions, such as the U.S. Pacific Northwest which is experiencing customer and economic growth."

It will have no effect on electricity rates in the province, which are regulated by the independent Ontario Energy Board.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, whose government has taken heat for privatizing Hydro One, said Queen's Park was "pleased" by the acquisition, which is subject to approval by U.S. regulators.

"In particular, we welcome the fact that this proposed acquisition will not impact the rates that Ontario customers pay. Neither will it have any impact on local jobs," he said.

After the deal closes by the middle of next year, the province's stake in the company will drop to about 44 per cent. The Liberals have promised to retain at least 40 per cent of it.

"As the single largest shareholder in Hydro One, the Ontario government would benefit from the company's receipt of additional regulated returns expected to begin in 2019," said Thibeault, stressing those proceeds are "above and beyond" the $9 billion the government has already made from selling off the majority share in the utility.

It's unclear how large those returns would be, but it could be in the tens to hundreds of millions annually.

Avista, based in Spokane, Wash., operates power plants fuelled by hydro, wind, biomass and coal.

It provides electricity to 379,000 customers and natural gas to 342,000 households and businesses.

The company said "no workforce reductions are anticipated as a result of this transaction."

By next year, the expanded Hydro One will be a utility with more than $32.2 billion in assets, serving two million customers.

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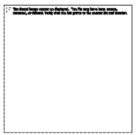

## Ontario hit by fastest-rising prices

Ottawa Sun - Thu Jul 20 2017
**Byline:**Antonella Artuso
**Page:** A10

Ontario has had the fastest-rising electricity prices and its city dwellers paid some of the highest hydro bills in Canada over the past decade, a new Fraser Institute report found.

This year, the Kathleen Wynne government launched its "Fair Hydro Plan" which promises to reduce residential hydro bills by an average of 25%.

Kenneth Green, co-author of Evaluating Electricity Price Growth in Ontario, said the provincial government has just covered up serious problems in the system by shifting the cost onto taxpayers and future hydro bills.

"Problem delayed - what they've done is they basically extended the contracts for power purchases and made them last longer," Green said. "It's much like refinancing your mortgage ... but you're paying for an extra 15 years."

What hasn't changed in the electricity system are the governmentdriven decisions to favour costly wind and solar power purchased at above-market electricity prices, he said.

Those political priorities are the reason that Ontario electricity prices soared by 71% between 2008-17, while the average growth across the country was 34%, Green said.

Last year alone, Ontarians saw a 15% increase in prices over 2015, the report's researchers found.

"As we show in our study, the electricity prices grew two and a half times faster than disposal income from 2008 to 2015, four times faster than inflation and four and a half times faster than the economy," Green said.

"So clearly, this is not about the cost of fuel, it's not about the cost of technology, it's about the cost of choices that were made in the Ontario power system."

The Wynne government has said that the hydro system needed significant updating when the Liberals took it over from the previous Progressive Conservative government in 2003, and that the expense of those infrastructure improvements should have been spread over more time.

Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown has vowed, if elected to govern in 2018, to immediately halt the signing of new energy contracts pending an "evidence-based" review of supply, accusing the Liberals of making "sweetheart green energy contracts" for insiders.

Green said the provincial government should break its existing long-term contracts for renewable power, and allow market forces, specifically cost, dictate how the system generates electricity.

Then the government could fund the research and development of more affordable, greener power sources, Green said. aartuso@postmedia.com Twitter: @SunTooz

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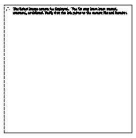

## Fraser Institute News Release: Ontario electricity prices fastest growing in Canada; Toronto bills highest nationwide

Marketwired - Thu Jul 20 2017

TORONTO, ON--(Marketwired - July 20, 2017) - Ontario electricity prices increased twice as fast as the national average over the past decade, and the average Toronto resident now pays $60 more per month than the average Canadian for electricity, finds a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian policy think-tank.

"Electricity is a necessity, and Ontario's high prices pose a serious burden for many families who, after paying their hydro bills, have significantly less money to spend on other important priorities," said Kenneth Green, Fraser Institute senior director of energy and natural resource studies and co-author of Evaluating Electricity Price Growth in Ontario.

The study also finds that electricity prices in Ontario increased 2.5 times faster than Ontario income levels between 2008 and 2015 (the latest year of income data).

In fact, electricity prices rose a staggering 71 per cent (from 2008 to 2016), more than double the national average increase of 34 per cent over the same time.

Consequently, Ontario cities have some of the highest monthly electricity bills in Canada.

For example, residents in Toronto (the city with the highest price anywhere in Canada) pay, on average, $201 per month (including taxes) — an increase of $77.09 over the past six years. Ottawa residents pay $183 per month.

These high rates dwarf monthly electricity bills in Montreal ($83), Calgary and Edmonton ($109), and Vancouver ($114).

The study finds that Ontario's high prices are directly tied to the provincial government's phase-out of coal energy, poorly structured long-term renewable energy generation contracts and other policy choices.

What's more, to address the high costs faced by residents, Queen's Park has recently announced a plan to use debt-financing to artificially lower current electricity prices. However, this plan will result in new charges being added to future bills.

"The Ontario government and its energy policy decisions share a lot of blame for the current crisis in electricity prices," Green said.

"Ontario residents need real policy reform to help make electricity affordable again, not just short-sighted shell games that borrow from future ratepayers to subsidize current bills."

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kenneth Green, Senior Director, Natural Resource Studies

Fraser Institute

Taylor Jackson, Senior Policy Analyst

Fraser Institute

To arrange media interviews or for more information, please contact:

Bryn Weese, Media Relations Specialist, Fraser Institute

Tel: (604) 688-0221 ext. 589

E-mail: bryn.weese@fraserinstitute.org

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Bryn Weese

Media Relations Specialist

Fraser Institute

Tel: (604) 688-0221 ext. 589

E-mail: bryn.weese@fraserinstitute.org

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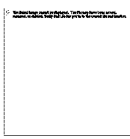

## Reevely: Windmill plant closes, as Ontario's Green Energy Act dies a painful, costly death

ottawacitizen.com - Wed Jul 19 2017
**Byline:**David Reevely, Ottawa Citizen

Siemens is closing its windmill-blade factory in Tillsonburg, kicking one of the struts out of the provincial Liberals' plan to remake Ontario into a manufacturing centre for green-energy equipment.

So long, Green Energy Act. That was painful.

Not least for the 350 or so workers at the plant near London, most of whom are out of work immediately. Some will stay on for a few months to wind the operation up, but it'll be fully shuttered in 2018, Siemens says. They're just not selling enough of the 50-metre-long windmill blades the factory makes to stay in business.

The Tillsonburg factory was one of four children of the Green Energy and Green Economy Act of 2009 (the full title, though the second part usually gets dropped) and the province's multibillion-dollar deal with Samsung to kickstart Ontario's wind- and solar-power industries. The government overpaid for electricity, on purpose, expecting the extra money to build the foundations of a permanent green-energy industry that would supply not only our domestic needs but others' as well. If someone in Ohio was building a wind farm, they'd be able to buy turbines from Ontario.

So Samsung did deals with partners such as Siemens to manufacture parts in Ontario for wind and solar farms it opened here: windmill towers in Windsor, blades in Tillsonburg, solar panels in London, inverters in Toronto. The Tillsonburg operation moved into a defunct car-parts plant and quickly became the town's biggest employer.

Siemens boasted what a great thing it had in Tillsonburg in a 2014 marketing document it called a "trusted partner case study." (www.siemens.ca)

Wind powered turbines spin on a wind farm in Port Burwell, a town near London, Ontario.

"When we decided on Tillsonburg, we could have just parachuted in many ex-pats and moved forward," it quoted Jacob Andersen, the Dane in charge of Siemens' Canadian wind-power arm. "But from the beginning, we wanted to do things differently than that. We are an integrated part of the community - a local factory with local employees, making a major local contribution. We have invested a lot in employee training and education to make sure we could do it that way, and I know it has paid off."

That year, the plant signed a major deal to supply 420 blades for a third-party wind farm (www.siemens.ca) on Lake Huron near Goderich. The future had arrived.

And then, close on its heels, so did reality.

Most of Ontario's wind farms have been resented as eyesores in the rural towns where they've been built; the Green Energy Act took away a bunch of local authority to resist them. Paying extra for the power they generate added injury to insult as electricity bills shot up, especially in those same rural areas.

Ontario has built a lot of wind farms. We could get nearly 4,000 megawatts of power out of them, at a theoretical maximum output, though it's never actually that windy. Even if it were, wind would still be just 11 per cent of our power supply, which really depends on nuclear plants (13,000 megawatts), oil and gas (10,000 megawatts) and hydro (8,400 megawatts).

But the building boom is pretty much over. We have more electricity available than we need and now all the politicians care about is stomping down prices.

Toronto Sun","camera":"Canon EOS-1D X","caption":"Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy announces he will suspend large renewable energy procurement in Toronto, Ont. on Tuesday September 27, 2016. Dave Abel\/Toronto Sun\/Postmedia Network","created_timestamp":"0","copyright":"Postmedia Network","focal_length":"19","iso":"2000","shutter_speed":"0.00625","title":"<>","orientation":"1"}" data-image-title="092916-<>-0930_letters-W.jpg" data-image-description="

Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy announces he will suspend large renewable energy procurement in Toronto, Ont. on Tuesday September 27, 2016. Dave Abel/Toronto Sun/Postmedia Network

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Glenn Thibeault, minister of energy, announces he will suspend large renewable energy procurement on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2016. Postmedia Network

The Liberals scrapped a big round of planned new contracts for renewable electricity last fall (making Tory Leader Patrick Brown's repeated promise to do the same thing silly, if not disingenuous). They show no signs of allowing wind farms in the Great Lakes, which could have meant a ton of business for parts makers. Also, Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says Ontario will change its basic approach to buying power in the future to what are called "capacity auctions," the most important feature of which is that they're agnostic about how the power is generated. No coal, but other than that, whatever's cheapest wins.

You can damn the Liberals for losing their nerve or for taking up this misbegotten plan in the first place. The facts support either case. Let's take stock of where we are.

We have a lot more wind and solar farms than we used to. So there's that.

We've made windmill parts here for our own use, in foreign-owned factories. Never enough to create a self-sustaining domestic industry, let alone one that could compete internationally.

We have several hundred people trained in the blade-making business suddenly looking for work; maybe they'll go on to bigger things. Though the Tillsonburg plant didn't lose out to other Ontario blade factories that sprung up and learned to outcompete it - it's just closing, because making blades in Ontario only made sense when the government insisted on it and backed that demand with cash.

We have the three other factories born of the Green Energy Act, at least for now. The windmill-tower factory in Windsor is already down to one shift a day from three (windsorstar.com) and is abruptly losing a major strategic partner. But it persists.

Not nothing. Not a lot to show for the billions of dollars we've spent.

dreevely@postmedia.com(mailto:dreevely@postmedia.com )

twitter.com/davidreevely (twitter.com)

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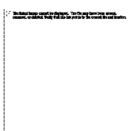

**Decision 'imminent'; City expects to learn soon whether Ontario Energy Board will approve hydro sale**

Orillia Packet & Times - Thu Jul 20 2017
**Byline:** Andrew Philips
**Page:** A5

City officials are anxiously checking the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) website these days.

That's due to the feeling by staff and councillors a decision on the sale of Orillia Power Distribution Corporation (OPDC) to Hydro One could occur any day.

"We are expecting that the initial OEB decision's imminent," Mayor Steve Clarke said following a corporate planning session at the city's new waterfront centre Wednesday.

City CAO Gayle Jackson offered a similar take.

"The city is hopeful that the OEB decision regarding the sale of Orillia Power Distribution Corporation will be sometime this summer," she said.

"We hope its soon. It's taken a little longer than we were expecting."

Clarke noted while the negotiations with Hydro One took nearly 14 months to complete prior to last summer's sale of OPDC to Hydro One for $26.35 million, many staff are still busy working on the project.

Under terms of the deal, the city will retain the generation arm of Orillia Power and will continue to benefit from its annual dividend. An Orillia "legacy fund" has been set up to take in the $26.35 million and another $10 million in OPDC debt picked up by Hydro One.

Jackson provided council with an overview of the complex sale process that not only requires an OEB decision on the initial sale but also a second OEB application relating to the back-up Ontario grid control centre/integrated systems operation centre (ISOC).

That project will be constructed on the 16.41 acres of the Horne Business Park Hydro One purchased for $3 million as part of the deal to bring the hub to Orillia, which also included the sale of the distribution arm of Orillia Power, for approximately $26 million.

According to an outline, the ISOC will be a multi-storey office building, featuring a gross-floor area of more than 100,000 square feet, a secondary guard house and, potentially, a helipad.

There is an option for Hydro One to purchase more property in the Horne Business Park, approximately 20 acres where a warehouse and operations centre could be built.

Jackson said the approval of the ISOC facility is completely separate from the OEB decision relating to the OPDC sale.

"There are two approval processes for the ISOC facility, one being a TX Rate (Transmission) approval, following the TX Rate approval, is the OEB DX Rate (Distribution) approval," she said. "This process is underway for the ISOC facility."

In her report, Jackson noted Orillia Power and Hydro One officials are also working on transitional issues.

The next steps, according to Jackson's report, involve Hydro One also conducting due diligence and appraisals on parcels for a future warehouse facility and operations centre.

Jackson also noted staff are working with officials from the Association of Municipalities of

Ontario and Municipal Finance Officers'Association of Ontario to "define the parameters of the Legacy Fund in anticipation of an early fall closing of the sale." andrewphilips@live.ca

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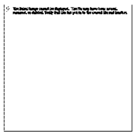

## SaskPower investing in aging power grid, green energy

CBC.CA News - Wed Jul 19 2017, 3:02pm ET
**Byline:**CBC News

SaskPower put nearly $1 billion into the province's electricity system in the 2016-17 fiscal year, according to its annual report.

Those dollars went towards the aging power grid, growing demands and environmental commitment, a press release says.

It also highlights the launch of the "competitive process for up to 200 megawatts of wind generation, with service scheduled to begin in 2021."

And also for a "utility scale" solar project, that ? if built?could be the first Canadian project of that scale outside of Ontario.

SaskPower raked in $46 million in profit in the last fiscal year, up from $26 million for the 15-month period from January 2015 to March 2016.

Over the past two years, SaskPower has saved $73 million in budgeted operating, maintenance and administration spending, according to the release.

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