

From: John Cannella [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CD667C6D53774DD0A749783BB02AE89D-JOHN CANNEL]
Sent: 2017-10-27 6:22:27 AM
Subject: Today's News - Friday, October 27, 2017



Today's News

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Date: Friday, October 27, 2017
Edited by: John Cannella (John.Cannella@ieso.ca)

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299488365

Ontario Energy Association Comments on Ontario's 2017 Long Term Energy Plan

globenewswire - Fri Oct 27 2017

TORONTO, Oct. 26, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The Ontario Energy Association (OEA) congratulates the Government of Ontario on the release of its 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP), Delivering Fairness and Choice. As noted by ...

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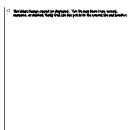


299505774

Electricity rates to stay stable over next 4 years; Liberals say hikes will be held to inflation rate, prices will be lower than predicted

Toronto Star - Fri Oct 27 2017
Byline: Robert Benzie Toronto Star
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Ontario electricity rate hikes will be held to the rate of inflation over the next four years, according to the province's latest Long-Term Energy Plan. In the first energy blueprint since 2013, the Liberal government said prices will ...



299474655

Ontario household electricity prices to rise 52 per cent from 2017 to 2035

Financial Post - Thu Oct 26 2017
Byline: Geoff Zochodne

The cost of electricity in Ontario for homes and businesses will keep on rising over the next 20 years - albeit not quite as high as once predicted - as the effects of the provincial Liberal government's plan to lower power bills kick in ...



299486823

Ontario hydro bills to rise after initial cut, as detailed in energy plan; Ontario hydro plan details increasing bills

Canadian Press - Thu Oct 26 2017
Byline: Allison Jones

TORONTO - Ontario's Liberal government is aiming to keep hydro bills, a source of widespread public anger, lowered through next year's election, but its long-term energy plan released Thursday details how they will then rise again over the next two ...



299507582

Paying More; While; Using Less; Hydro bills set to skyrocket - after next year's election

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Byline: Antonella Artuso
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Ontario households are using less electricity but will still see their monthly bills rise steadily over the next decade to \$186 a month or \$2,232 a year. According to the Ontario Long-Term Energy Plan released Thursday, the ...



299476089

Reevely: Hydro prices to keep rising, just a bit more slowly, Ontario government says

ottawacitizen.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Byline: David Reevely, Ottawa Citizen

The average Ontario household's electricity bill will reach nearly \$200 a month before levelling off in 2030, the provincial government predicted as it released its latest long-term energy plan Thursday morning. This is the first ...



299512659

Tour the \$13-billion overhaul of the Darlington nuclear plant; Meet six Ontario companies that are going nuclear

theglobeandmail.com - Fri Oct 27 2017, 5:00am ET
Byline: Judith Pereira

At the 65,000-square-foot training facility in Bowmanville, Ontario, workers in radiation suits do drills in a mock-up of a Candu reactor to get ready for the actual overhaul. It can also serve as a simulator where workers can hash out ...



299507539

Why 'green' energy efficiency subsidies fail

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Byline: Kenneth Green
Page: A15

Premier Kathleen Wynne's government continues to offer energy cost-reduction programs that are little more than distractions from what the province would actually have to do to bring down skyhigh electricity prices. In the newest ...

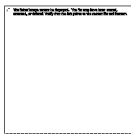


299497334

Council votes to sell utility; Agreement enacted by previous council prevented public input on matter

Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin - Fri Oct 27 2017
Byline: J.T. McVeigh
Page: A1 / Front

Town council voted 7-2 in favour of selling its remaining 50% share of the town's power utility Monday night. Collingwood sold 50% of the utility to PowerStream (now Alectra) in 2012 and over the past five years, some members ...



299486325

Clean energy can advance Indigenous reconciliation; Clean energy can advance Indigenous reconciliation

Canadian Press - Thu Oct 26 2017
Byline: Jatin Nathwani, Professor and Ontario Research Chair in Public Policy for Sustainable Energy, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo

This article was originally published on The Conversation, an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. Disclosure information is available on the original site. ____ Author: Jatin Nathwani, Professor ...



299509488

Hamilton sees higher dividends and opportunities in proposed Alectra merger with Guelph, says Mayor Fred Eisenberger

Stoney Creek News - Thu Oct 26 2017 Page: 1

Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger expects Hamilton council would look favourably upon Alectra Utilities Inc. merging with Guelph Hydro. "There are great synergies," said Eisenberger, who along with Paul Benson represents Hamilton on the Alectra ...



299470536

Nuclear called key to Ontario power, prosperity

TheRecord.com - Thu Oct 26 2017

Ontario's nuclear industry is an important economic engine in this province. Our nuclear power plants provide thousands of Ontarians with high-paying, stable employment; generate billions of dollars in economic activity; and power our homes and ...

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299488365

Ontario Energy Association Comments on Ontario's 2017 Long Term Energy Plan

globeonewswire - Fri Oct 27 2017

TORONTO, Oct. 26, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — The Ontario Energy Association (OEA) congratulates the Government of Ontario on the release of its 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP), Delivering Fairness and Choice. As noted by Duncan Hawthorne, CEO of Horizon Nuclear Power UK at the OEA ENERGYCONFERENCE17, Ontario is fortunate to have a long-term planning process in place for its energy system.

The OEA is pleased that a number of elements from its Energy Platform are reflected in the 2017 LTEP, such as maximizing the use of Ontario's existing energy assets, promoting transportation fuel switching, removing barriers to innovation (e.g. barriers to storage), reaffirming a commitment to the Independent Electricity System

Operator's (IESO) Market Renewal initiative, continuing support for expanded access to natural gas, and working to remove regulatory barriers to utility innovation so that they can offer more efficient and cost-effective solutions.

"The OEA is pleased to see a number of elements of its Energy Platform reinforced in the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan," said Vince Brescia, President & CEO of the Ontario Energy Association. "The key to its success will be in its implementation. The OEA looks forward to working with the government, Independent Electricity System Operator and Ontario Energy Board as they implement the components of the LTEP."

About the OEA

The Ontario Energy Association (OEA) is the credible and trusted voice of the energy sector. We earn our reputation by being an integral and influential part of energy policy development and decision making in Ontario. We represent Ontario's energy leaders that span the full diversity of the energy industry.

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299505774

Electricity rates to stay stable over next 4 years; Liberals say hikes will be held to inflation rate, prices will be lower than predicted

Toronto Star - Fri Oct 27 2017

Byline: Robert Benzie Toronto Star

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Ontario electricity rate hikes will be held to the rate of inflation over the next four years, according to the province's latest Long-Term Energy Plan.

In the first energy blueprint since 2013, the Liberal government said prices will actually be lower than forecast four years ago, thanks to the 25-per-cent rebate known as the Fair Hydro Plan, which took effect this past summer.

The average monthly residential bill this year is \$127, down from \$170 predicted in the last Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP).

In 2027, that monthly bill is anticipated to be \$181, lower than the \$200 estimate from the 2013 plan. By 2035, it should be \$193 a month.

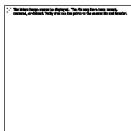
"The projected residential price for electricity will remain below the outlooks in the 2010 and 2013 LTEP," the government said in the 155-page outlook. "Projected electricity prices for large consumers will, on average, be in line with inflation over the forecast period," it said.

Between 2021 and 2027, rates are expected to rise gradually, by an average of 5 per cent annually.

"The 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan outlines our investments to date and how we plan to continue building an energy system with fairness and choice for people across the province," Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said Thursday.

Facing widespread outcry over rising hydro prices, and with an election set for June 7, 2018, the government launched the so-called Fair Hydro Plan earlier this year. Thibeault said it spreads the costs of \$70 billion in electricity infrastructure improvements from the past decade over a lengthier repayment period.

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299474655

Ontario household electricity prices to rise 52 per cent from 2017 to 2035

Financial Post - Thu Oct 26 2017
Byline: Geoff Zochodne

The cost of electricity in Ontario for homes and businesses will keep on rising over the next 20 years - albeit not quite as high as once predicted - as the effects of the provincial Liberal government's plan to lower power bills kick in and then wear off.

The government released an update to its long-term energy plan Thursday, projecting the average monthly residential bill for electricity in Ontario will dip to \$127 in 2017 from \$158 in 2016, helped by savings from the Liberals' so-called "Fair Hydro Plan."

The projections also show, however, that the average power bill will ultimately rise from \$127 this year to \$193 by 2035, a 52 per cent increase.

"Certainly the measures brought forward in our Fair Hydro Plan have an effect, but it is well known that our government has taken major steps to remove costs from our electricity system, now and in the future," Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault

told reporters Thursday in Toronto, according to a copy of his remarks.

Meanwhile, large industrial customers in southern Ontario will see the price per megawatt hour they pay for electricity increase from \$83 this year to \$116 by 2035, according to the projections. The government sees this as rising in line with inflation, but the cost still ends up nearly 40 per cent greater than that of today.

For industrial consumers in Northern Ontario, the price of power will rise from \$63 per megawatt hour in 2017 to \$96 by 2035, another 52 per cent jump, according to the long-term energy plan.

Industrial consumers have complained about pricey energy costs, with a recent Fraser Institute study finding that nearly 75,000 of the manufacturing jobs lost by the province from 2008 to 2015 could be chalked up to the increased expense.

Electricity prices overall in Ontario are a contentious political issue, prompting the Liberal government's plan to reduce electricity costs by 25 per cent on average. The plan was rolled out in full this summer and will have a net cost of \$21 billion over 29 years, according to the province's financial accountability office. It includes an 8-per-cent rebate for customers enacted in January, in addition to a "refinancing" of some power costs that will see the government and Ontario Power Generation Inc. take on billions of dollars of debt.

Customers will ultimately pay back that debt via their power bills, which the new long-term energy plan takes into account. Premier Kathleen Wynne has said the Fair Hydro Plan would end up costing more, but ease the burden on today's electricity customers.

The Liberals and the province's auditor general have clashed over the financing structure of the Fair Hydro Plan, with the watchdog calling the government's proposed accounting "wrong." What's more, the next provincial election is set for June 2018, creating the possibility of a new party taking power and crafting its own energy plans.

"Clearly, the government is not interested in doing the heavy lifting to remove costs from the system," said Todd Smith, energy critic for the Progressive Conservatives.

But the government's latest price projections are still lower than those made in long-term energy plans in 2013 and 2010. The 2013 long-term energy plan had predicted the average monthly residential bill would be \$170 this year, and the 2010 plan estimated \$178.

The 2017 plan boasts that the current electricity price for industrial consumers in Ontario remains below the average price in the Great Lakes region. The lower projected prices also include the elimination of nearly \$28 billion in costs, including the deferral of the construction of two new nuclear reactors and the suspension of the second round of the province's large renewable energy procurements.

The outlook also includes the benefits of expected changes that would inject more competition into the province's electricity market, where generators sell their power. Part of the "market renewal," as it is called, will usher in auctions that would see power producers bid for the rights to backstop the market, rather than just be awarded long-term contracts.

The long-term energy plan says market renewal will help shore up a shortfall in

electricity capacity in the mid-2020s, when OPG's Pickering nuclear power plant is anticipated to be shut down and reactors at two other nuclear power plants are overhauled. Savings of up to \$5.2 billion between 2021 and 2030 are expected as well, the plan says, helping reduce prices.

The government says it has spent nearly \$70 billion on the electricity system since 2003, with the money going to fix up the grid, improve reliability and provide more sources of renewable or lower-emission energy. Ontario has also shut down its coal-fired power plants, reducing the percentage of the province's greenhouse gas emissions coming from the electricity sector to a predicted two per cent or so in 2017 from about 20 per cent in 2003, according to the long-term energy plan.

The new outlook also shows demand as relatively flat going forward, yet assumes there will be approximately 2.4 million electric vehicles in the province by 2035 (up from more than 10,000 today).

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299486823

Ontario hydro bills to rise after initial cut, as detailed in energy plan; Ontario hydro plan details increasing bills

Canadian Press - Thu Oct 26 2017

Byline:Allison Jones

TORONTO - Ontario's Liberal government is aiming to keep hydro bills, a source of widespread public anger, lowered through next year's election, but its long-term energy plan released Thursday details how they will then rise again over the next two decades.

Electricity bills had roughly doubled in the last decade, helping send Premier Kathleen Wynne's approval ratings to record lows, when the Liberals decided to introduce a 25 per cent cut earlier this year.

The move - which involved a complex borrowing scheme that will cost Ontarians billions in extra interest - has led bills to drop by an average of \$31 this year, just ahead of the 2018 general election.

In its long-term plan, the government said that for most of the next two decades, it aims to keep increases gradual, rather than lower or freeze rates.

Average hydro bills are projected to rise to \$197 in 2032. That's a slower progression than the government's previous long-term plan in 2013, which expected bills to hit that mark by 2026. But much of that is due to the 25 per cent rate cut, the energy minister admitted.

"We're starting from a lot lower place than where we would have in 2013," said Glenn Thibeault.

The front-loaded decreases in electricity costs prompted the opposition parties to decry the government's energy plan as a political document.

"This was written for the election," said NDP critic Peter Tabuns. "This is not a planning document."

Thibeault said he would have loved to have announced rates were being frozen, but Progressive Conservative critic Todd Smith said this plan essentially does freeze rates, just in the very short term.

"This is all about getting Kathleen Wynne re-elected next year," he said. "They're freezing rates to get us through the next election period because they know how detrimental this whole energy crisis is for Ontario."

Wynne denied that the energy plan was about the election, saying it was about giving people relief now in the form of the 25 per cent cut, but also trying to slow the rise in prices after that.

"The long-term energy plan demonstrates that we will hold those costs down, that there will be increases but that the trajectory of increases is flatter than it was in the last long-term energy plan," she said.

The government said it plans to avoid sharp increases to bills through initiatives including only securing new power when it's needed and allowing more people to produce their own green energy to power their homes.

From 2021 to 2024 bills are projected to rise by around \$10 or \$12 a year, which is for the most part much higher than annual increases projected in the last long-term energy plan.

The plan projects a shortfall in electricity supply starting a little after 2020, when one nuclear generating station reaches the end of its life, others are removed from service for refurbishment and some supply contracts expire.

But that doesn't mean the government is anticipating widespread blackouts. New generation for that time period just hasn't been selected yet. Ontario plans to close that supply gap largely through moving away from 20-year contracts, instead trying to procure new electricity supply through more competitive processes which could help save up to \$5.2 billion between 2021 and 2030.

"That means that any time we need to secure new supply resources, we will choose the most cost-effective option," Thibeault said.

Another potential \$1.2 billion in savings exists if more of the province's utilities amalgamate, Thibeault said. The government is also looking at ways to reduce regulatory barriers to energy storage, used for example to provide solar power throughout the day rather than just when the sun is shining, he said.

The demand for electricity is expected to rise toward the end of the plan, partly due to an increase in electric vehicles - which the government assumes there will be 2.4 million of by 2035. There are currently fewer than 15,000 registered electric vehicles in the province.

The increased demand is expected to be offset by energy efficiency improvements and better conservation initiatives.

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299507582

Paying More; While; Using Less; Hydro bills set to skyrocket - after next year's election

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017

Byline: Antonella Artuso

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Ontario households are using less electricity but will still see their monthly bills rise steadily over the next decade to \$186 a month or \$2,232 a year.

According to the Ontario Long-Term Energy Plan released Thursday, the lowest electricity bills - less even than this year's bills - will be in 2018, an election year, when the average residential monthly bill is projected to be \$123.

After that, prices will rise by about 2%-3% a year until 2022, when the annual increases will be in the 7%-8% range.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said the Fair Hydro Plan has reduced electricity bills for families by an average of 25%, and keeps increases to the rate of inflation for four more years.

"Following this period, our long-term energy plan lays out a path for predictable, affordable electricity prices," Thibeault said.

PC MPP Todd Smith said the Liberals are borrowing billions of dollars to keep electricity bills artificially low during an election period.

"We know that the cost of electricity is going to spike after the next election and this document shows that," Smith said. "They're not doing anything to actually take costs out of the system."

NDP MPP Peter Tabuns said the report, titled "Delivering Fairness and Choice," is more politics than plan.

"This is written for the election - this is not a planning document," he said.

The Conservatives and the NDP have criticized "every aspect" of the government's handling of the energy file, but offered little in terms of their own plans, Thibeault said.

"The Conservatives would take us down a road where we would spend millions of dollars on legal fees to tear up contracts and dial back on money - and energy-saving conservation programs," the minister said. "The NDP opposes nuclear power ... and would like to spend \$10 billion to nationalize Hydro One."

The Wynne government sold off a majority share in the previously 100% publicly owned Hydro One.

The utility has since gone on to buy a U.S. coal plant, without a peep from the Wynne government, even as the Long-Term Energy Plan brags about getting out of coal in Ontario, Tabuns said.

Long-term energy plans are critical tools for the electricity system, estimating how much power will be needed going forward.

However, they're not always bang on when it comes to predictions.

As Thibeault noted, previous plans projected higher electricity costs and consumption than is now expected.

The 2007 version did not anticipate the dramatic downturn in electricity use due to the 2008-09 recession that killed manufacturing jobs across the province.

The 2010 long-term plan stated that the province's Green Energy Act would create 50,000 new jobs and that by 2020 about one in 20 cars on the road would be electric - and neither goal is in sight. aartuso@postmedia.com ESTIMATED MONTHLY HYDRO BILLS (based on average 750 kWh) 2017: \$127 2018: \$123 2019: \$125 2020: \$128 2021: \$132 2022: \$142 2023: \$152 2024: \$164 2025: \$171 2026: \$176 2027: \$181 2028: \$186 Source: Ontario Long-term Energy Plan 2017

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299476089

Reevely: Hydro prices to keep rising, just a bit more slowly, Ontario government says

ottawacitizen.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Byline: David Reevely, Ottawa Citizen

The average Ontario household's electricity bill will reach nearly \$200 a month before levelling off in 2030, the provincial government predicted as it released its latest long-term energy plan Thursday morning.

This is the first overhaul to the province's electricity forecast in four years, which means it's the first one since the Liberal government got seriously spooked by Ontarians' fury over constant hydro price hikes.

It promises more options for people who are willing to change their habits to cut their costs, more rewards for innovations that cut consumption or generate power more cheaply, and more competition among power companies to meet Ontario's needs. But also, in spite of all of that, prices that continue rising.

"I'd love, as an MPP and minister of energy, to come out and say we're going to freeze rates," said Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault. "We know where that got us. We remember the rolling brownouts. We remember the blackout. We know that rebuilding the system cost us \$70 billion. We're not going to do that again."

His history is a bit sketchy. The vast blackout of 2003, the worst case for a power system, covered much of northeast North America, started in Ohio (www.cleveland.com), and had nothing to do with weakness in Ontario. Also, the \$70 billion we've spent on the power grid includes obviously needed, unsexy renovations to transmission wires and transformers, but also a wholesale move away from coal generating stations and a very expensive excursion into wind farming that didn't produce the great green-powered economy it was supposed to.

Put that background aside, though. What does the new long-term energy plan do that's different?

The increase is less than the government promised in 2013, when the average bill

was supposed to hit \$200 a month a few years earlier in 2027. An even earlier forecast had bills at \$200 a month by 2020.

The hikes on the average household will be smaller at first, thanks to all the money the government is borrowing to pay electricity bills over the next few years, then we'll see sharper price increases starting in 2022.

The plan also assumes that we'll use less power at home - 750 kilowatt-hours a month in the average household instead of the 800 the government has previously assumed - thanks to conservation and more efficient appliances. That's part of why the forecast prices have dipped.

On one hand, if we care about what Ontarians will actually pay, that's fair. On the other, it's a trick: If you cut your food expenses by not eating, that doesn't mean food gets cheaper.

Millions of electric cars will take up the power we don't use in our houses and apartments, along with heavy-duty electric transit systems like Ottawa's light-rail lines. The government forecasts it'll be pretty much an even balance, leading to almost flat demand for power for the next 20 years.

But it'll also change the patterns of electricity demand. Charging an electric car takes a lot of juice at once. Charging is usually done at night, which is good because that's when provincewide demand is usually low, but also potentially stressing the power supply to residential neighbourhoods that haven't previously needed industrial quantities of electricity.

Local distribution companies like Hydro Ottawa might have to spend heavily to beef up their systems, and charge customers more to pay for the improvements.

Some companies, at the province's urging, are already experimenting with more flexible supply plans for consumers to try to smooth out demand. If you charge an electric car at night, maybe you pay less for a kilowatt-hour after 9 p.m. but agree to pay a lot more during the day, for instance. Or vice versa.

Of course, we've heard this before. Smart meters were supposed to make it easier for us to take control of our electricity use. They sort of did, but the benefits of shifting your electricity use to cheaper times haven't been huge, and the base price of power kept going up no matter what we did.

This time, it's different, Thibeault said. This time, we really mean it. We haven't used smart meters as well as we could have, but we're doing it now.

London Hydro, for instance, is experimenting with a program called Green Button, which collects masses of information on household power use so people can compare themselves to neighbours and relatives, understand how much electricity different appliances really use, and potentially be rewarded for saving electricity when it matters the most.

"We're going to continue to utilize innovation and utilize the data that we are going to get from smart meters to help consumers innovate and lower their bills," Thibeault said.

The provincial government is doing away with long-term contracts for power generation, which it once figured were essential for getting companies to invest the

tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars it takes to build a large power plant.

When a contract expires or it's time to close an old nuclear reactor or something, the province wants more bidding, more competition among would-be suppliers, more risk pushed onto them instead of guaranteed payments in decades-long deals.

All of this is, still, about slowing the rate of increase to people's power bills. There's no prospect of lowering them, unless you have a roof you cover with solar panels or can install windmills in your yard.

"The Wynne Liberals are untrustworthy, especially when it comes to Ontarians' electricity bills," Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown said in response. "Despite Liberal spin, it's clear: rates will continue to skyrocket to the highest they've ever been after the next election."

"It's shocking to see a government doubling down on overpriced private contracts when the people of Ontario have said clearly that they are against privatization of the hydro system, and when we know it will mean higher prices and less control over our hydro bills," New Democrat energy critic Peter Tabuns said.

Prices will indeed keep going up, and Ontarians are against privatization and the Liberals have done it anyway. They spent \$1 billion on moving two gas plants whose construction they'd previously approved. They've screwed around endlessly with wind power, using our money and are locked in lawsuits over their faithlessness.

But these are criticisms, not alternatives.

"I'd like to challenge both Patrick Brown and Andrea Horwath to finally tell the people of Ontario what they would do differently and what impact their plans would have on electricity bills," Thibeault said as he released his plan, anticipating both the Tories' and the New Democrats' attacks.

Brown would look to get out of generating contracts we've already signed and apart from that has basically no hydro plan of his own and none on tap for his party's policy convention next month (convention.ontariopc.ca) .

The NDP's Horwath has a plan to renationalize the Hydro One transmission utility, at a cost of billions and to no obvious benefit other than the satisfaction of public ownership. The party's "plan" for reducing prices is to get an expert panel to sort it out (www.ontariondp.ca) , which is not a plan.

So, real talk: One party has a plan for Ontario's electricity system that's worthy of the label. It increases what consumers will pay, year in and year out, arguably for good reasons like cleaner power and more resilience, but definitely our prices go up.

Ontarians will be better served with conservative and progressive options for the province's second-biggest challenge after health care, but we need our conservative and progressive parties to provide them. It's the opposition's job to oppose and to criticize, which they're doing. But with an election imminent in the spring, it's now also their job to offer real alternatives.

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299512659

Tour the \$13-billion overhaul of the Darlington nuclear plant; Meet six Ontario companies that are going nuclear

theglobeandmail.com - Fri Oct 27 2017, 5:00am ET

Byline: Judith Pereira

At the 65,000-square-foot training facility in Bowmanville, Ontario, workers in radiation suits do drills in a mock-up of a Candu reactor to get ready for the actual overhaul. It can also serve as a simulator where workers can hash out problems if things go wrong during the refurbishment. "It's like in Apollo 13, when the astronaut in the simulator was able to help those on the spacecraft," says OPG's Scott Berry.

Ontario's 18 nuclear reactors provide 60% of the province's electricity. The two most prolific power plants (whose Candu reactors run on natural uranium, which can't be used in bombs) are getting up there in age. The Bruce Nuclear Generating Station's first reactor came online in 1977, Darlington's in 1990.

Last year, Ontario Power Generation embarked on a 10-year, \$12.8-billion refurbishment of Darlington's four reactors—which provide enough juice for two million people. It's the largest clean-energy project ever undertaken in Canada (at least until the Bruce's 15-year upgrade begins in 2020) and should ensure the reactors in Bowmanville, Ontario, run for the next 30 years.

Some 96% of the work will be done by local companies, six of which are profiled on the pages that follow. Many of these suppliers helped build Darlington and then switched focus to what was at that time a booming automotive sector. The tide has turned again, and many companies are shifting back to nuclear, hiring skilled tradespeople who've been thrown out of work in the oil patch.

For the past year, those workers have been honing their skills in a \$38-million full-scale mock-up of the Candu reactor. "It's the first of its kind in the world, and we can do numerous tests on what could go wrong and see what works and what doesn't," says OPG's Scott Berry. "It also gives employees who've never worked in a radioactive environment confidence before they go into a real reactor."

Inside the reactor core, natural uranium atoms are split into neutrons (helped and moderated by heavy water), a process that generates heat. That heat produces steam, driving a turbine and creating electricity

Nu-Tech Precision Metals

Arnprior, Ontario

Employees: 50

Rick Kwiatkowski, who has worked at Nu-Tech for 42 years, uses a borescope—a sort of periscope with slight magnification—to visually inspect each tube for microscopic scratches in the special oxide coating. The company uses ultrasonic and eddy-current testing, as well, but nothing beats the human eye for peering inside the tubes.

A reactor's 480 zirconium pressure tubes hold the uranium fuel that splits into neutrons during fission. The tubes run horizontally through the core of the reactor (a.k.a. the calandria) and move the neutrons through hot, pressurized heavy water to a steam generator. George Legate, president of Nu-Tech Precision Metals, likens all that pressure to "the weight of a Jeep Grand Cherokee carrying two tons of cargo rolling over your foot." And the water is hot-about 300 C.

Over the decades, all that heat, pressure and radiation have caused the tubes to sag and stretch, and they need to be replaced. Nu-Tech has built every eight-metre-long tube for every Candu reactor since 1954. Some of Legate's employees built the original tubes for Darlington three decades ago, and he credits them for helping Nu-Tech stay competitive. "These tubes are expensive-the raw material is 100 times the price of stainless steel-so we need to minimize the number of tubes that have to be scrapped," says Legate. "We rely on a high degree of tribal training." That means employee retention and painstaking documentation of each process is key. The tubes are melted in a vacuum four times (compared to once for aircraft parts) to ensure they're uniform and to eliminate impurities. Any flaw larger than a human hair renders the tube useless.

BWXT Canada Ltd.

Cambridge, Ontario

Employees: 850

These two shutdown coolers are waiting in BWXT's clean room, ready to be shipped to Darlington. Each of the plant's four reactors requires two coolers.

Roughly every 36 months, a reactor has to be shut down for maintenance. That's where BWXT's shutdown cooler comes in. It pumps water from Lake Ontario through its tubes to cool the so-called decay heat while the reactor is offline. That warm water is then returned to the lake. The cooler, which looks like an eight-metre-long horizontal cylinder filled with hundreds of high-nickel-alloy tubes and support components, is built at BWXT's 275,000-square-foot Cambridge facility. Final assembly of the 39-tonne cylinders is done in BWXT's "clean room"-the largest one in North America for the assembly of nuclear components. It takes roughly two years to get from design to delivery, and BWXT has been modernizing its manufacturing facilities to deal with increased demand created by the Darlington and Bruce refurbishments.

In late 2016, BWXT acquired GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Canada, which supplies fuel for Candu reactors. BWXT is also making 7,680 new feeder pipes that will bring coolant into the four reactors, ensuring they don't overheat. The pipes vary in length between 10 and 38 feet, and each must be bent at precise angles to ensure it fits exactly into its corresponding fuel channel.

Some of the 7,600-odd feeder pipes BWXT is manufacturing to bring coolant into the reactors.

Triumph Gear Systems

Toronto

Employees: 200

Pasquale Abbruzzese, who has worked for Triumph for 35 years, is setting an end fitting so the computer-run machine knows exactly where to cut. Triumph still employs 23 people who worked on earlier nuclear projects, and they're training 30 new hires to help with the refurbishment.

End fittings might not sound like the sexiest product, but inside a nuclear reactor, they play a crucial role. Triumph Gear Systems' end fittings are found at the end of each fuel channel, and allow for the transfer of new fuel into the reactor and removal of the used stuff. The end fittings-Triumph is making almost 3,500 for the Darlington overhaul-also connect to the coolant-filled angled feeder pipes.

A worker at Toronto's Triumph Gear Systems crafts shield plugs for end fittings.

The high-quality American stainless steel is forged at Patriot Forge in Brantford, Ontario. The process takes 12 weeks, during which time the metal is continuously checked to ensure its chemistry and grain structure remain consistent and there are no bubbles or cracks. After the ingots arrive at Triumph, it takes 20 more weeks to make one end fitting. The company (which was known as Donlee Nuclear Inc. back when it built 3,840 end fittings for the original project) also makes the shield plugs that go into the end fittings and prevent radiation from escaping the reactor core.

ATS Automation Tooling Systems Inc.

Cambridge, Ontario

Employees: 600

ATS Automation helped develop the bellows cut tool, which will help remove the reactor's fuel channels.

Since it was founded in 1978, ATS Automation has worked on more than 100 nuclear projects. At its Cambridge headquarters (it has 23 manufacturing facilities in North America, Europe and Asia, with a total of 3,500 employees), ATS helped design and build more than 150 automated tools and systems for the Darlington project. The bellows cut tool, developed in partnership with SNC-Lavalin and Aecon, has a very specific job: to precisely cut off the irradiated chunks of metal (called bellows) that attach the reactor's end fittings to the fuel channels, which are the key component in the core that's being replaced. The cut tool finds the right place on the joint to cut, and then pulls and rotates the end fitting into the correct position for the next step in the removal process.

Promation

Oakville, Ontario

Employees: 200

At the mock-up facility, workers put Promation's loading table through its paces. Its job is to shove 13 fuel bundles into each fuel channel, which is then loaded into the core.

Darryl Spector likens loading uranium-pellet-packed fuel bundles into the reactor's fuel channels to loading bullets into a rifle. Workers hoist each 50-pound bundle onto a trough on the aptly named fuel-loading table, where it slides into the fuel channel. The 500-pound adjustable table was designed by engineers at SNC-

Lavalin and built by Promotion. The first one took 14 weeks to make, with the remaining three (one is required for each reactor) taking just 10. "This isn't like an instruction model kit from China," says Spector, Promotion's general manager of operations. "We had challenges with the first design, but then you figure it out and the next one is easier."

Promotion started out in 1995, making auto components. But when that sector crashed, it refocused on nuclear, which now accounts for about 60% of its revenue. "Nuclear has a lot more quality assurance and safety tests-we have to audit our suppliers every one to three months to ensure they're meeting standards," says Spector. "A lot of the new guys who come into this business find that the biggest barrier is procedural compliance and quality assurance."

Promotion is also building other tools and components for the Darlington refurbishment, and it anticipates getting further work on the Bruce overhaul. Its tables are also being used by SNC-Lavalin on a Candu reactor in Argentina.

BC Instruments

Schomberg, Ontario

Employees: 145

The material for the yoke, stud and nut in each positioning assembly (which clamps onto the end fittings) comes from North American steel mills, though some of it is custom-made in Germany. BC Instruments sent its quality-assurance manager to the German mill to oversee the process.

Pressure tubes are constantly bombarded by neutrons, and as the years go by, all that radiation adds atomic particles to the tubes that cause them to grow. The yoke, stud and nut in each positioning assembly act as a "glorified clamp and clothespin, and support the growth of the pressure tube," says BC Instruments president Roger Conzellman. The stud is even threaded so it can be adjusted as the entire tube shifts. Conzellman's father, Bruno, started the company in his one-car garage in 1971, producing parts for the aerospace industry and, eventually, working with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. Today, BC Instruments has six Ontario plants-four in Schomberg and two in Orillia-and makes parts for the aerospace, medical, plastic-injection moulding and electronics industries. Nuclear accounts for roughly one-fifth of its business. "While the machining for nuclear is not more difficult than aerospace or injection-mould components, the administration, traceability, testing and certifying is what needs to be overseen meticulously," says Conzellman. "We still have our files from the late 1970s."

One of BC Instruments' positioning assembly yokes-which company president Roger Conzellman calls "a glorified clamp and clothes pin."

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: Tour the \$13-billion overhaul of the Darlington nuclear plant (www.theglobeandmail.com) The viewing of this article is only available to Globe Unlimited subscribers.

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299507539

Why 'green' energy efficiency subsidies fail

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017

Byline: Kenneth Green

Page: A15

Premier Kathleen Wynne's government continues to offer energy cost-reduction programs that are little more than distractions from what the province would actually have to do to bring down skyhigh electricity prices.

In the newest program, just announced, the province will put \$100 million in an "Affordability Fund" to help Ontarians "improve the energy efficiency of their homes, while reducing their electricity bills and carbon footprints."

How? Why, by subsidizing sales of LED light bulbs, power bars, home insulation and energy-efficient air conditioners, of course. What could go wrong? Well, let's look at the experience of other jurisdictions that have chased after the everelusive "efficiency" improvements.

In the most comprehensive study on home-efficiency programs to date, researchers Meredith Fowle, Michael Greenstone, and Catherine Wolfram at UC Berkeley looked at 30,000 homes participating in the largest U.S. energy efficiency program, the federal Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Each household received an average of US\$5,150 worth of home improvements, at no cost to the participants.

The study came to two major conclusions.

First, though the programs were aggressively marketed to the public (via phone calls and home visits), participation rates were low - only 6% of households encouraged to participate in the program actually did.

Second, researchers found consumer savings were below what was projected, and came at higher costs. While the WAP energy efficiency investments lowered monthly energy consumption by 10% to 20% on average, the upfront investment costs were 2.5 times higher than the savings.

The study concluded that, "Across a variety of metrics, the WAP energy efficiency investments appear to be poor performers on average."

While the households involved didn't pay for their improvements, the study authors estimate if they had, their rate of return on the investments would be -2.2%. In other words, they'd have lost money.

Finally, the study calculated the cost of greenhouse gas reductions under the WAP was approximately US\$329 per ton, "an order of magnitude larger than the U.S. government's estimate of the social cost of carbon of roughly \$38/ton (at the time of the study)."

Here's the reality. The problem with energy efficiency programs comes down to a fundamental characteristic of economic behaviour - if you really make something cheaper for people, they will most likely use more of it, rather than less.

This phenomenon is called "rebound," and it can negate most or all of the benefits

of improving efficiency.

Another problem, from an economic perspective, is that even if the programs work as advertised, they are inherently wasteful, since they target energy consumption rather than greenhouse gas emissions, which in many provinces are only weakly related.

The way to make policies efficient is to make sure they directly target the desired outcome.

Energy efficiency programs fail to do this. What's worse, ample empirical evidence shows these programs do not work nearly as well as their promoters claim they will.

The only sustainable path to lower electricity costs for Ontario is the unwinding of the 2009 Green Energy Act price guarantees to renewable power producers, the preservation of low-cost, clean-coal and natural gas-base power, and importing low-cost hydro power from Quebec.

Programs such as the 25% electricity price cut - or so-called "Affordability Funds"- are costly Band-Aids that only hide the problem, rather than fix it.

Green is senior director of the Centre for Natural Resource Studies at the Fraser Institute @KennethPGreen

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299497334

Council votes to sell utility; Agreement enacted by previous council prevented public input on matter

Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin - Fri Oct 27 2017

Byline: J.T. McVeigh

Page: A1 / Front

Town council voted 7-2 in favour of selling its remaining 50% share of the town's power utility Monday night.

Collingwood sold 50% of the utility to PowerStream (now Alectra) in 2012 and over the past five years, some members of council have questioned the efficiency of the partnership.

In a presentation breaking down the process made by energy lawyer Mark Rodger on Monday night, the sale of the town's shares could bring in between \$12.5 million and \$13 million, considerably more than the \$8 million paid by Alectra for its share of Collus five years ago.

A request-for-proposals process to sell the shares began in September 2016, with nine parties responding, but only two submitted a bid, one of which was EPCOR.

In the shareholders agreement with Alectra, there was a clause for first right of refusal to purchase the remaining shares. Alectra made an offer that Collingwood council refused. Coun. Tim Fryer was the first to suggest that he has been disappointed.

"From my perspective, the past five years have not achieved desired outcomes

specifically to grow on a regional utility basis and provide high dividends," said Fryer.

The absence of dividends was a sticking point for a number of the councillors with Coun. Cam Ecclestone mentioning that since the beginning of the deal, the town has only received about a 2% return annualized.

Not everyone thought that selling the utility was a good idea.

"If council agrees to sell our share of 50% in Collus/PowerStream it will be a sad day for Collingwood," said Coun. Kevin Lloyd. "This is, in my opinion, not in the best interest of taxpayers. I have never seen such a closed process."

Lloyd complained that since last year there has been no public engagement, no consultation to speak of.

"So here we are, two-and-a-half years later with hundreds of thousands of taxpayer money trapped in the sales agreement. What happened to testing the waters and kicking the tires?" asked Lloyd.

The unanimous shareholders agreement (USA) proved to be the cause of considerable tension for council, said Rodger.

USAs are used extensively in the private sector, but are unusual and restrictive for a municipal government to work with because there is an expectation of transparency by the public into town business.

Council was instructed to keep all details of discussions confidential because of the nature of the agreement, which was enacted when the initial 50% of the town's shares in the utility were sold in 2012. This is why there was no public engagement on the issue.

"It couldn't be avoided," said Rodger.

A principal element of a buy/sell clause is the element of surprise and that's important because neither shareholder knows when a buy/sell tender will be put forward, Rodger explained.

"An offer can be presented at any time and Alectra and the town have lived under this arrangement for five years," said Rodger.

"No responsible shareholder would announce to the world what price and terms they would include in the buy/sell offer before it was issued because the other party could negate those terms which could contain less desirable conditions than you desired," said Rodger.

If Alectra opts to buy the town's shares at the same price as EPCOR has offered, Alectra will become the sole owner of the utility. If Alectra opts to sell the shares, EPCOR becomes the sole owner.

"Shotgun offers are unusual in a municipal sphere because there is a tension," said Rodger. "On the one hand council has the goal of being open and transparent, but at the same time is restrained by the realities of basically the mechanism of private sector methods."

Other terms of the sale include a 25-year lease of the Collus PowerStream property and operations centre from the town, job and location guarantees for Collus PowerStream employees, and a contribution of \$150,000 toward the Waterfront Master Plan, one of the community's biggest priorities as identified in the Community Based Strategic Plan.

Under the USA, Alectra must advise the town within 20 days whether it wishes to sell its shares, or purchase the town's shares.

At that time, the Ontario Energy Board will be asked to approve the transaction, something that could take between three months and a year, according to Rodgers.

Collingwood council will hold a public session to provide further details of the agreement, once Alectra's decision is known.

Rodger assured residents that their rates are protected by the OEB during this process.

In a recorded vote, council passed the bylaw 7-2, with Mayor Sandra Cooper and Lloyd voting against the sale.

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299486325

Clean energy can advance Indigenous reconciliation; Clean energy can advance Indigenous reconciliation

Canadian Press - Thu Oct 26 2017

Byline: Jatin Nathwani, Professor and Ontario Research Chair in Public Policy for Sustainable Energy, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo

This article was originally published on The Conversation, an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. Disclosure information is available on the original site.

Author: Jatin Nathwani, Professor and Ontario Research Chair in Public Policy for Sustainable Energy, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo

Canada's remote communities need reliable and affordable energy to operate their schools and businesses and heat their homes. But the current situation is woefully inadequate.

Of the 279 active remote communities not connected to the electric grid, 239 of them rely on diesel fuel for electricity and oil for heating, which must be flown, barged or trucked in. Nearly two thirds of these are Indigenous communities.

If the government of Canada removed the barriers and impediments to clean energy development in these rural and remote communities, it would signal a bold commitment to Indigenous peoples and action towards reconciliation.

Why? Because rapid deployment of clean energy projects that deliver tangible benefits to a community's well-being are more credible than framework agreements

with good intentions with no fixed outcomes.

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission provided recommendations for change and imbued hope that past injustices and hurt would fade with action. Reconciliation via access to plentiful clean energy is a pathway that has been largely overlooked.

Based on our recent work at the Waterloo Global Science Initiative (WGSi), we have seen how communities facing a variety of disadvantages can improve their quality of life when they have better access to energy.

A growing body of evidence shows that energy access must not only be reasonably priced and reliable, but it must be of sufficiently high quality and quantity to spur economic growth and social development in communities strangled by energy deficits.

Large-scale, rapid improvements to energy access can have positive influences on economic, social, educational and health outcomes. They are an investment in the future that becomes the backbone to support a community's needs and growth.

Clean energy projects based on local resources have the most potential to enhance community cohesion and economic well-being, and to move the needle towards reconciliation and trust.

No room to grow

Unfortunately, inadequate energy services are the norm in many communities in Nunavut, Ontario and British Columbia. In 25 per cent to 50 per cent of these communities, diesel plants operate close to their maximum capacity during on-peak times, when demand is highest.

On the surface, this suggests that these communities can meet their energy needs. But in reality, these constraints translate into a cascade of negative consequences. Without an adequate and reliable supply of energy, communities cannot build new housing and health-care facilities, create businesses or upgrade essential water and sewage treatment plants.

One of the challenges to installing clean energy solutions in Indigenous communities lies in the way investments for specific projects are approved. Initiatives often get bogged down in endless discussions about how different levels of government will share the cost and who will be accountable.

In addition, the stakeholder consultation process too often fails to arrive at a decision, leaving the community's essential needs unmet. Initiatives are more likely to get to "yes" when Indigenous communities actively participate as "owners" of the solution. Without meaningful community engagement, centrally dispatched initiatives are unlikely to be effective.

Better quality of life

However, there is room for optimism. The dropping costs of clean energy technologies and recent innovations in distributed energy systems - how energy is taken from and added to the local grid - are helping community-based ownership models emerge.

Communities can now choose from several options to find the right power solution for their needs. Low-cost solar cells, run-of-the-river hydropower, wind turbines, geothermal power stations and energy-from-waste facilities can be installed in remote communities. For example, solar cells, which convert sunlight into electricity, are already being used successfully in Behchoko, N.W.T.

By combining these technologies with smart devices and sensors, communities can create smart microgrids - small-scale versions of the centralized energy systems that supply electricity to most Canadians. These microgrids, which are not connected to the main grid, can manage a variety of energy-generation sources, and distribute and control the flow of electricity locally.

When a community has greater control over energy demand and supply, it can improve energy efficiency, store excess energy, save money and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

But how do we get there?

The first step is for the government of Canada to develop a new accord that affirms the centrality of Indigenous leadership, and then to couple it to economic innovation.

Joint partnerships between Indigenous communities and project developers, with the government acting as enabler and mentor to the process, could over time lead to a co-ownership model that has better prospects for success.

Investments and good will

Establishing such a strategy for Canada's remote Indigenous communities is relatively straightforward.

It starts with developing and strengthening the skills of people living in these communities. Governments can also align their policies on land use and environmental impact assessments so that they fully integrate Indigenous communities' values and interests as to how natural resources should be used.

Taking these steps would recognize that Indigenous communities must be the ones to decide what constitutes a fair price for energy efficiency and which renewable energy sources are suitable replacements for diesel.

We'll also need to see a meaningful investment to spark the transition from fossil fuels to low-carbon energy - from tens of millions of dollars to, perhaps, a billion dollars or more.

The 2017 federal budget committed \$50 million to help remote communities reduce their dependence on diesel fuel. Given the high cost of even a small hydroelectric project - one in Inukjuak, Quebec was expected to cost about \$100 million - the scale and scope of the ambition must be re-visited.

None of these recommendations is insurmountable. We can transform the energy systems in Canada's remote communities, but it will require good will and solid connections among people, technology and information. Communities, private businesses and public institutions will need to focus on the end goal and share their knowledge collaboratively.

Good will can break a historical logjam of acrimony and distrust between Indigenous

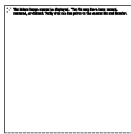
and non-Indigenous people in Canada.

Why would anyone argue against such an investment? A reliable energy system that meets the needs of those living in the most remote parts of Canada will generate innumerable positive outcomes for community infrastructure, health care, education and economic development - now and for future generations.

This article was originally published on The Conversation. Disclosure information is available on the original site. Read the original article:

(theconversation.com)

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299509488

Hamilton sees higher dividends and opportunities in proposed Alectra merger with Guelph, says Mayor Fred Eisenberger

Stoney Creek News - Thu Oct 26 2017 Page: 1

Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger expects Hamilton council would look favourably upon Alectra Utilities Inc. merging with Guelph Hydro.

"There are great synergies," said Eisenberger, who along with Paul Benson represents Hamilton on the Alectra Utilities Inc. board of directors. "It would give Alectra a foothold in that market. There would be increased benefits and reduced pressure on costs."

Alectra recently announced it will be negotiating with Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. officials to merge their operations with the recently created Alectra Utilities. Guelph council is scheduled to vote on a proposed merger offer at its Dec. 13 council meeting.

Brian Bentz, president and chief executive officer of Alectra Utilities Inc., said he expects Alectra's municipal shareholders would be "supportive of the benefits of this merger."

He said discussions with Guelph Hydro began soon after Alectra was formed in January, when the Ontario Energy Board approved the merger of Enersource, Powerstream and Hydro One Brampton.

There had been a plan to merge the former Horizon Utilities with Guelph Hydro in 2008, but Guelph's politicians at the last minute voted 8 to 5 against the deal. Hamilton and St. Catharines councils had already approved the merger proposal.

"The majority of the council supported the Alectra process," said Eisenberger. "We'll see when (the merger details) comes out."

Eisenberger said absorbing Guelph Hydro wouldn't impact the Alectra board composition and there would only be a "marginal" change in terms of asset value to less than one per cent.

Guelph Hydro has about 55,000 customers, including in nearby Rockwood, which would join Alectra's estimated 1 million customers. Guelph would also get an operations centre and the creation of a Green Energy and Technical Centre. Guelph Hydro has about 130 employees.

Alectra is the second-largest municipally-owned utility in North America behind the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

"There would be additional opportunities for increased dividends," said Eisenberger. "I think it's a good news story."

Bentz said if Guelph council approves the deal in December, Alectra's shareholders - the various municipalities such as Markham, Barrie, Mississauga, St. Catharines and Hamilton - would soon follow with votes scheduled on the deal.

If all the shareholders approve the deal, then Alectra officials would seek approval from the Ontario Energy Board, which could take place sometime in mid to late 2018.

Bentz said Alectra has no further plans to seek out merger plans with other utilities. But Alectra is considering whether to buy the 50 per cent share of Collus Powerstream, which it co-owns with the Town of Collingwood.

The municipality announced Oct. 23 it was preparing to sell its share of the utility company. Under a 2012 agreement, Collingwood has a requirement to offer the shares to Alectra. The potential cost to the municipality is upwards of \$13 million.

"The town is reviewing its options there now," said Bentz.

Alectra officials promised Hamilton councillors in 2015 the merged company would be able to cut hydro rates by six per cent over the next 25 years, resulting in savings of about \$40 for the average homeowner and increased dividends.

But Alectra officials acknowledge those dividends to municipalities, including Hamilton, are potentially more than forecast. For instance, Hamilton was projected to receive about \$4 million in the first year of the merger. This year city officials are budgeting for about \$6 million.

"I said at the time (Horizon officials) were conservative in their projections," says Eisenberger. "This will benefit not only Hamilton but all across the municipalities. They will provide additional dollars for what municipalities want to do."

Hamilton is using about \$3 million of its dividends this year to help pay for the mayor's 10-year, \$50 million poverty reduction plan that involves building and maintaining affordable housing.

"Some people were saying we were taking the majority of the dividends," he said. "Not even close. Only half."

Bentz said the higher dividends are the result of the "synergies" of merging four utilities together. He said the forecast now is for the utility company to provide larger dividends to shareholders over the next few years.

"We are working very diligently to activate those synergies to all the municipalities," said Bentz.



299470536

Nuclear called key to Ontario power, prosperity

TheRecord.com - Thu Oct 26 2017

Ontario's nuclear industry is an important economic engine in this province. Our nuclear power plants provide thousands of Ontarians with high-paying, stable employment; generate billions of dollars in economic activity; and power our homes and businesses with safe, clean, reliable and low-cost electricity.

Our nuclear industry is thriving thanks to the life extension programs at Bruce Power and Ontario Power Generation (OPG)'s Darlington station. These refurbishments will inject billions of dollars annually into Ontario's economy through direct and indirect spending on operational equipment, supplies, materials and labour income. These projects are the largest clean-technology investments in the country and work is already underway. OPG officially disconnected Darlington Unit 2 from the grid in October 2016 and Bruce Power is set to replace the major components on Bruce Units 3-8 starting in 2020, which will extend the plant's operational horizon to 2064.

The nuclear industry directly and indirectly employs about 60,000 people in Canada. Most of these jobs are located right here in Ontario where the industry generates \$2.5 billion in economic activity every year. Renewal of our nuclear fleet will create and sustain about 18,000 additional direct and indirect jobs in the communities in which the utilities operate and across the province through the companies that make up the vast nuclear supply chain. At BWXT Canada, we have operations in Cambridge, Toronto, Peterborough, Amprior and Dundas, and provide high-value employment to over 850 skilled workers in everything from engineering and project management to skilled trades and manufacturing.

We are already feeling the real and tangible benefits of Ontario's prosperous nuclear industry. Last year we announced that Bruce Power awarded BWXT Canada with the contract to supply eight replacement steam generators for the refurbishment of the Bruce station in a deal worth about \$130 million. In August, we announced that another \$48 million was added to that contract for the addition of steam drums. This year, we were also awarded a feeder supply contract from OPG valued at approximately \$55 million.

But it isn't just jobs we are talking about. Nuclear energy is fundamental to Ontario's clean energy objectives. In fact, nuclear generates about 60 per cent of the province's power and our use of nuclear energy helped to enable Ontario, in 2014, to become the first jurisdiction in North America to eliminate the use of coal-fired power generation.

Of all the different energy sources available - hydro, natural gas, wind, biofuel and solar - nuclear delivers the biggest advantage because it provides year-round reliable, non-greenhouse gas emitting clean power, while providing more jobs than other energy sources.

Nuclear also plays a key role in the affordability of power, which is important for the economic viability of our province. For example, Bruce Power provides 30 per cent of Ontario's power, greenhouse gas emissions-free, at a price 30 per cent lower than the average cost to generate residential power, and Darlington Nuclear

Generating Station provides 20 per cent of the province's power, also greenhouse gas emissions-free. By investing in our nuclear fleet, Ontario will continue to benefit from low-cost energy. The cost of Bruce Power nuclear today is approximately 6.8 cents per kilowatt hour and once the refurbishments are complete, it will be in the range of 7 to 8 cents per kilowatt hour.

Not only does nuclear provide stability in price and jobs, it provides a constant, reliable source of energy that ensures people and businesses can continue to power their lives. As we look toward Ontario's energy future, it is important that we have a diverse, dependable, low-carbon, low-cost energy mix made up of the right balance of sources that contribute to both our environmental goals and economic prosperity. The province's Long-Term Energy Plan was released on Oct. 26 and provides a critical path forward for Ontario's energy portfolio for decades to come.

By investing in nuclear, we are committing to powering our province year-round with clean, safe, and affordable energy that contributes to our economy through billions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs right across the province. Now that's powerful.

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