Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: October 27, 2017 8:05 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Friday, October 27, 2017

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Friday, October 27, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 31 Results

Power plan or power ploy?; Opposition decries it as an election gambit as Wynne Grits unveil longterm energy strategy

London Free Press - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Allison Jones

Ad Value: $3,105
Reach: 70995 **Page:** A6

Ontario's Liberal government is aiming to keep **electricity** bills, a source of widespread **public** anger, lowered through next year's election, but its long-term **energy plan** released thursday details how they ...

Ontario household electricity prices to rise 52% from 2017 to 2035; Effects Of Plan

National Post - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Geoff Zochodne

Ad Value: $3,895
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP7

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 ...

Average hydro bill to reach $181 over next decade: Ontario

The Globe and Mail - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $4,281
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A11

Ontario's long-term energy plan projects that electricity ratepayers will see their hydro bills rise to an average of $181 a month in 10 years. That's lower than the $200 a month the previous ...

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
Tone: Positive
Byline: Robert Benzie Toronto Star

Ad Value: $5,872
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A7

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 ...

Get Ready For A Jolt; Liberals insist this time power price hikes will be different

Ottawa Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Davidreevely

Ad Value: $2,893
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A6

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 longterm energy plan Thursday ...

Hydro rates are Liberals' fault

The Belleville Intelligencer - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Louis Desjardins

Ad Value: $384
Reach: 9723 **Page:** A6

Do the clowns running this province into the ground have an ounce of shame between them? Hydro rates have increased by more than 100 per cent on their watch and now they are trying to bribe us by temporarily reducing that ...

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

Stoney Creek News - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $58
Reach: 31639 **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 ...

Ontario Liberals introduce $100 million fund to help homeowners reduce hydro bills

Stoney Creek News - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $43
Reach: 31639 **Page:** 1

There could be thousands of people who will use the recently created Affordability Fund to help pay for their high **hydro** bills. Brian Bentz, president of Alectra **Utilities** Inc. said the fund, announced Oct. 24 at the ...

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

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $3,817
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A6

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** ...

Ontario hydro bills to rise over next 10 years in government's energy plan - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

In ten years, Ontario's electricity ratepayers can expect to pay an average of $181 a month — $54 more than the current provincial average.

Ontario hydro bills to rise over next decade in government's energy plan | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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 ...

Playing fast and loose; Auditor's report shows Grits not to be trusted

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ricknicholls

Ad Value: $3,455
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A7

In the world of ordinary people, there are consequences when you break the **rules**. But Kathleen Wynne's Liberal Party doesn't think they should be held accountable for their lies and abuses. Last week, Ontario's auditor general tabled a ...

Sudbury bribery trial hurt Liberals, poll finds; Despite case being thrown out, survey finds 39 per cent less likely to vote for party next election

Toronto Star - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Robert Benzie and Kristin Rushowy Toronto Star

Ad Value: $21,539
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A10

The verdict was not guilty, but the court of public opinion is still out on the Sudbury byelection trial, a new poll suggests. Top Liberals Patricia Sorbara and Gerry Lougheed were acquitted Tuesday after Judge Howard ...

Not illegal, but wrong

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,850
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

We have a right to expect a higher standard of conduct from Ontario's Liberal government than the fact a senior aide to Premier Kathleen Wynne, and a Liberal fundraiser, have been acquitted of bribery charges in connection with the 2015 ...

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

globenewswire.com - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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.

Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown on the release of the 2017 Long Term Energy Plan | The Asian Connections Newspaper

www.theasianconnectionsnewspaper.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

“The Wynne Liberals are untrustworthy, especially when it comes to Ontarians’ electricity bills. Every single time they’ve played games with the electricity sector it has left families working harder, paying more, and getting less.

Ontario hydro bills to remain largely unchanged past election, then rise slowly | National Newswatch

www.nationalnewswatch.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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.

Newsroom : Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan Delivers Fairness, Affordability and Choice

news.ontario.ca - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Today, Ontario released the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) that focuses on energy affordability, innovation and customer choice.

Hydro rates to remain stable through 2020: energy plan | Toronto Star

www.thestar.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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.

When will Canada hit 'peak oil?'2019 ... but it's nothing to worry about, says National Energy Board

National Post - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Mia Rabson

Ad Value: $9,878
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP1 / Front

The National **Energy** Board says Canada's addiction to fossil **fuels** will peak in two years, but the change won't affect economic growth. For the first time, the board's annual **energy** futures report says that with ...

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
Tone: Positive
Byline: Judith Pereira
Reach: 1188000

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 ...

Nuclear industry called key to Ontario power, prosperity

Waterloo Region Record - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: John MacQuarrie

Ad Value: $2,976
Reach: 63465 **Page:** A7

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 ...

Canadian Nuclear Association Welcomes Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan

www.newswire.ca - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

Permalink

The Canadian Nuclear Association is pleased with the content and direction of Ontario's latest Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP).

Why 'green'energy efficiency subsidies fail

Ottawa Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Kenneth Green

Ad Value: $1,060
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A19

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 ...

TransCanada selling Ontario solar projects for $540M - Kallanish Energy News

www.kallanishenergy.com - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

TransCanada is moving away from renewable energy to focus on its planned $24 billion near-term capital program, Kallanish Energy learns.

Editorial: Quebec can do more to get pipelines built | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

It's encouraging that Quebec has reached out to Alberta after the Energy East pipeline's proponent shelved the $15.7-billion project.

Energy minister counters NDP over Fair Hydro Plan - My North Bay Now

www.mynorthbaynow.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof is mistaken with his comments over the Fair Hydro Plan.

Ontario's Auditor General Highlights the Cost of the Fair Hydro Plan - Lexology

www.lexology.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

On October 17, 2017, Ontario Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk released a special report titled The Fair Hydro Plan: Concerns About Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Value For Money.

The Fuse | Cancellations, Delays of Capital-Intensive Projects Pose Long-Term Risks - The Fuse

energyfuse.org - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, October 26, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

Limited investment in the oil sector over the past few years has coincided with major projects getting canceled or delayed and costly exploration ventures failing to produce any hydrocarbons at all.

Alberta 'not our enemy,' says Quebec minister after Energy East opposition - Calgary - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

A politician from Quebec says his province is not the enemy of Alberta. Jean-Marc Fournier, Quebec's minister responsible for Canadian relations, says the two provinces can work together on trade and industrial projects, despite the recent ...

Politics - Wall cites Dief in pipeline battle

www.yorktonthisweek.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The notion that our nation is a bilingual mosaic has never gone down any better in rural Western Canada than it has in Quebec.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Power plan or power ploy?; Opposition decries it as an election gambit as Wynne Grits unveil longterm energy strategy

London Free Press - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Allison Jones

Ad Value: $3,105
Reach: 70995 **Page:** A6

Ontario's Liberal government is aiming to keep **electricity** 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 during 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 lowered bills by an average of $31 this year, just ahead of the 2018 general election. in its long-term **plan**, the government said for most of the next two decades, it aims to keep increases gradual, rather than lower or freeze **rates**.

average **electricity** bills are projected to rise to $197 in 2032. that's a slower progression than the government's previous longterm **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 green **energy** to **power** their homes.

From 2021-24, bills are projected to rise by around $10 or $12 a year, which, for the most part, is 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 also is 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, of which the government assumes there will be 2.4 million by 2035. there currently are 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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Ontario household electricity prices to rise 52% from 2017 to 2035; Effects Of Plan

National Post - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Geoff Zochodne

Ad Value: $3,895
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP7

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 said Thursday.

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.

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 eight 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.

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Average hydro bill to reach $181 over next decade: Ontario

The Globe and Mail - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $4,281
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A11

Ontario's long-term energy plan projects that electricity ratepayers will see their hydro bills rise to an average of $181 a month in 10 years.

That's lower than the $200 a month the previous long-term energy plan expected bills to increase to by 2027, but significantly up from the current average of $127 a month.

The Liberal government says it plans to avoid sharp increases during that time 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.

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.

Government officials say their plan is to close that gap largely through moving away from longterm, 20-year contracts and diversifying the supply mix. The demand for electricity is expected to rise toward the end of the 16-year plan.

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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
Tone: Positive
Byline: Robert Benzie Toronto Star

Ad Value: $5,872
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A7

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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Get Ready For A Jolt; Liberals insist this time power price hikes will be different

Ottawa Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Davidreevely

Ad Value: $2,893
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A6

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 longterm 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, 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 lightrail 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.

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, 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 secondbiggest 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. dreevely@postmedia.com twitter.com/davidreevely

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The Intelligencer

Hydro rates are Liberals' fault

The Belleville Intelligencer - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Louis Desjardins

Ad Value: $384
Reach: 9723 **Page:** A6

Do the clowns running this province into the ground have an ounce of shame between them? Hydro rates have increased by more than 100 per cent on their watch and now they are trying to bribe us by temporarily reducing that increase in time for an election, while the cost of said reduction will end up taking an amount greater than those savings out of our pockets down the road. I'm guessing that's why the opposition parties voted against it.

And those rates hadn't gone up by 100 per cent only "because of investments we made in our electricity system," but also to finance the billions of dollars the Liberals flushed down the drain for their green energy and gas-plant relocation schemes. Also, it isn't only those investments that freed us "from the brownouts and blackouts of the early 2000s," it's also the reductions in demand for electricity caused by the exodus of manufacturing facilities due in part to, you guessed it, that 100 per cent increase in hydro rates.

The energy minister wrote; "The Fair Hydro Plan operates under a financial and accounting framework that is appropriate for its intended purpose," which is undoubtedly true if the intended purpose is to try and bamboozle voters into re-electing his government. But Ontario's auditor general says "The accounting proposed by the government is wrong," and our local MLA says "It is deceitful, it's dishonest and it's shady."

I believe Bonnie Lysyk and Todd Smith.

Louis Desjardins

Belleville

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

Stoney Creek News - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $58
Reach: 31639 **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.

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Ontario Liberals introduce $100 million fund to help homeowners reduce hydro bills

Stoney Creek News - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $43
Reach: 31639 **Page:** 1

There could be thousands of people who will use the recently created Affordability Fund to help pay for their high **hydro** bills.

Brian Bentz, president of Alectra **Utilities** Inc. said the fund, announced Oct. 24 at the Alectra **Utilities** Inc. John Street office in Hamilton, will assist low-income people who continue to deal with high **hydro** bills.

"It's a really important initiative for consumers who don't qualify for the traditional low-income grants," said Bentz, who was joined at the news conference with **Ontario Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault**, Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale Liberal MPP Ted McMeekin and Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger.

The $100-million program will give residents LED lights, heat pumps and **energy**-efficient appliances to reduce their **energy** costs.

Homeowners will also qualify for home **energy** kits, which include light bulbs, **power** bars and faucet aerators residents can install themselves. Residents can also qualify for in-home visits and possibly **energy**-efficient appliances, such as air conditioners and refrigerators, thermostats and even heat pumps.

The program is available to those individuals who don't already qualify for low-income **energy** conservation programs.

Officials say residents can save about $10 on their annual **electricity** costs, while an **energy** efficient refrigerator can help save about $90 in annual **electricity** costs.

Ontario residents, including in Hamilton, have condemned the skyrocketing **electricity** **rates** over the last year and a half.

Hamilton Mountain NDP MPP Monique Taylor, who was at the announcement, agreed low-income residents need help in cutting their high **electricity** costs.

"We will look at the plan further," said Taylor. "Do families need support? Absolutely."

But the reason for the high hydro costs is because of the Liberals' failed plan and they are complicating the issue by borrowing money to cut rates.

"It does nothing to address (the cost) of the Liberals borrowing $40 billion," said Taylor. "What will it look like in a generation?"

To get those rates reduced, Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals introduced their Fair Hydro Plan - which began July 1, 2017 - that is projected to cut the average Ontario household electricity bill by 25 per cent from the peak energy costs that were seen in the summer of 2016. Hamilton's average household electricity bill will see a 28 per cent reduction, said Bentz.

The Liberals also introduced the 8 per cent HST rebate on electricity bills that kicked in January.

In a report this month Auditor General of Ontario Bonnie Lysyk questioned how the Fair Hydro Plan is being financed in a special 53-page report, saying the province is "improperly" accounting for the $26 billion in debt it's taking on to cut hydro bills in the short term. Lysyk stated the plan will cost residents an additional $4 billion in interest charges over the next 30 years.

The Liberal plan, though, will cost the province about $45 billion over the next 29 years, while saving ratepayers $24 billion for a next expense of $21 billion.

The government has justified borrowing the money to pay ratepayers by comparing it to refinancing a mortgage to enjoy lower payments over a longer period.

But a 56-page KPMG analysis prepared for the Independent Electricity System Operator concluded the government's accounting was fine.

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

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $3,817
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A6

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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Ontario hydro bills to rise over next 10 years in government's energy plan - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

In ten years, Ontario's electricity ratepayers can expect to pay an average of $181 a month — $54 more than the current provincial average.

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Ontario hydro bills to rise over next decade in government's energy plan | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

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.

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Playing fast and loose; Auditor's report shows Grits not to be trusted

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ricknicholls

Ad Value: $3,455
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A7

In the world of ordinary people, there are consequences when you break the **rules**.

But Kathleen Wynne's Liberal Party doesn't think they should be held accountable for their lies and abuses.

Last week, **Ontario**'s auditor general tabled a special report on the government's latest **hydro** scheme.

This past May, the Liberals announced a **plan** to reduce **hydro** bills by an average of 25%.

But the auditor revealed the Wynne government hid the true cost of its **hydro rebate**.

The Liberals deliberately ignored the government's own policy on financial statements.

They built their scheme on Byzantine accounting and finance structures in order to conceal its real cost.

As the auditor wrote, "The government is making up its own accounting **rules**."

Remember the Enron scandal in 2001? Enron used similarly deceptive, confusing and fraudulent accounting practices to make the company seem more profitable than it really was.

Shareholders were defrauded, Enron's stock collapsed, and its top brass, including the CEO and chief accountant, went to jail.

That is what happens in the real world when people play fast and loose with accounting **rules**.

What's worse is that the auditor says the **Ministry of Energy** failed to provide her with all the documents she requested.

Two million e-mails were deemed relevant to the investigation, but the **Ministry of Energy** hired lawyers to sift through those messages and in the end only about 145,000 e-mails were released to the auditor.

All other ministries complied with the auditor's request in full.

Is the Ministry of Energy hiding something? If not, I don't know how to explain why it's withholding e-mails.

When Wynne became premier, she promised to do politics differently.

She promised transparency and accountability after her predecessor's embarrassing resignation amid the gas plant fiasco.

That gas plant scandal involved concealing records and the misrepresentation of costs, so it seems nothing has changed under Wynne, and the Ontario Liberals are up to their usual self-serving tricks.

Facts don't matter for this government.

The only standard of evidence is whatever benefits it.

As the auditor implies, it's very hard to separate reliable information from government propaganda.

What this tells me is that Wynne, her ministers and their insider friends have lost the ability to distinguish between the public interest and the interest of the Ontario Liberal Party.

Worse, the Wynne Liberals have lost the moral authority to govern Ontario.

We can't trust them ever again.

Nicholls is a PC MPP for Chatham-Kent-Essex

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Sudbury bribery trial hurt Liberals, poll finds; Despite case being thrown out, survey finds 39 per cent less likely to vote for party next election

Toronto Star - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Robert Benzie and Kristin Rushowy Toronto Star

Ad Value: $21,539
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A10

The verdict was not guilty, but the court of public opinion is still out on the Sudbury byelection trial, a new poll suggests.

Top Liberals Patricia Sorbara and Gerry Lougheed were acquitted Tuesday after Judge Howard Borenstein dismissed the Election Act case against them for lack of evidence in a rare directed verdict.

A Forum Research poll conducted Tuesday and Wednesday found 39 per cent of respondents would be less likely to vote Liberal in the June 7, 2018 election as a result of the trial. Only 16 per cent said the case made them more likely to cast a ballot for the Grits with 33 per cent saying it wouldn't change their vote and 11 per cent weren't sure.

"The Ontario Liberals could not have asked for a better outcome from the Sudbury trial, but what's clear from the data is that, overall, the result doesn't matter much," Forum Research President Lorne Bozinoff said Thursday.

Bozinoff noted "the damage to the Liberals' brand may already be done" in a case that dates back to early 2015.

"The longer the story stays in the news cycle, the worse it will likely be for them," he said, pointing out 47 per cent of respondents said the trial would have a negative effect on the Liberals with only 6 per cent saying it would have a positive impact and 31 per cent neutral.

Using interactive voice response telephone calls, Forum surveyed 946 people with results considered accurate to within three percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Most - 51 per cent - said they weren't following the trial closely, with 36 per cent saying they were and 14 per cent said they hadn't heard of the case.

Sorbara, the premier's former deputy chief of staff, and Lougheed, a prominent **Sudbury** businessman, had been accused of offering would-be candidate Andrew Olivier jobs or positions in exchange for abandoning his bid for the Liberal nomination in the February 2015 byelection.

That was to make way for Premier Kathleen Wynne's hand-picked choice, NDP MP **Glenn Thibeault**, who defected from the federal New Democrats to the provincial Liberals. Thibeault is now **energy** minister.

Wynne said Thursday that "the acquittal does speak for itself."

"I always believed that once the process unfolded we would see that there had been no wrongdoing and that's exactly what the acquittal says," the premier said, adding she's eager to have Sorbara back in the campaign fold.

But Wynne, who testified at the trial as a Crown witness, said she is continuing to seek an apology from Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown over his comments about her role in the case.

Brown has been served with a notice of libel for erroneously saying that **Ontario** has "a sitting premier sitting in trial" and that she "stands trial" in **Sudbury**.

"Well, if he would like to see a conclusion to this whole situation, all he has to do is apologize and we move on," Wynne said.

The Tory leader has dismissed her libel notice as a "baseless legal threat."

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Not illegal, but wrong

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,850
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

We have a right to expect a higher standard of conduct from **Ontario**'s Liberal government than the fact a senior aide to Premier Kathleen Wynne, and a Liberal fundraiser, have been acquitted of bribery charges in connection with the 2015 **Sudbury** byelection.

On Tuesday, Judge Howard Borenstein dismissed the charges against Pat Sorbara (who stepped down when she was charged) and Liberal fundraiser Gerry Lougheed.

The judge gave a "directed verdict" - before the defence started its case - saying no reasonable jury would convict Sorbara or Lougheed of attempting to bribe would-be Liberal candidate Andrew Olivier not to run in the **Sudbury** byelection, based on **Ontario**'s Election Act.

It states a "candidate" cannot be offered bribes to run or not run for office.

Borenstein found Olivier was never a "candidate" because Wynne had already decided he would not be running for the Liberals, which was her right, before

Sorbara and Wynne spoke to him about possible opportunities within the Liberal party.

Sorbara was also acquitted of attempting to induce former federal NDP MP **Glenn Thibeault**, now Wynne's **energy** minister, to run for the Liberals in the byelection.

The judge said her offer of campaign jobs to two of Thibeault's staff did not amount to bribery.

So, nothing illegal. That said, this whole sorry affair has never passed the smell test.

It started because Wynne decided Olivier, a dedicated, 37-year-old, loyal Liberal, who happens to be quadrapelgic, wasn't good enough for her to run in the byelection as the Liberal candidate.

Olivier was the Liberal standardbearer in the 2014 general election, narrowly losing to the NDP, after the incumbent Liberal MPP retired.

When the NDP victor unexpectedly retired in 2015, Wynne denied the nomination to Olivier, a loyal Liberal with a disability, in favour of a federal New Democrat MP, who had to be cajoled into running for the party.

Wynne's decision was affirmative action in reverse. So much for giving people with disabilities every possible opportunity, which Wynne is constantly lecturing private sector employers to do. And so much for party loyalty.

In the end, Wynne got what she wanted. Thibeault won.

But the way she did it helps to explain why so many people are disillusioned with politics today. And why barely 50% vote.

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

globenewswire.com · Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral

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.

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Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown on the release of the 2017 Long Term Energy Plan | The Asian Connections Newspaper

www.theasianconnectionsnewspaper.com · Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

“The Wynne Liberals are untrustworthy, especially when it comes to Ontarians’ electricity bills. Every single time they’ve played games with the electricity sector it has left families working harder, paying more, and getting less.

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Ontario hydro bills to remain largely unchanged past election, then rise slowly | National Newswatch

www.nationalnewswatch.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

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.

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Newsroom : Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan Delivers Fairness, Affordability and Choice

news.ontario.ca - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

Today, Ontario released the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) that focuses on energy affordability, innovation and customer choice.

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Hydro rates to remain stable through 2020: energy plan | Toronto Star

www.thestar.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

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.

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When will Canada hit 'peak oil?'2019 ... but it's nothing to worry about, says National Energy Board

National Post - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Mia Rabson

Ad Value: $9,878
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP1 / Front

The National **Energy** Board says Canada's addiction to fossil **fuels** will peak in two years, but the change won't affect economic growth.

For the first time, the board's annual **energy** futures report says that with **climate** change policies and growth in clean **energy**, Canada's consumption of fossil **fuels** to run cars and heat homes will max out in 2019, start to decline slightly and then flatline over the next two decades.

"If you look at our forecasts for the last 10 years, the trajectory for fossil fuel keeps coming down and down and down," said NEB chief economist Shelley Milutinovic.

"This is the first time where it's actually peaked and will go down."

Just last year, the report showed fossil fuel use in Canada would be slower than previous predictions but would continue to grow all the way to 2040.

The report looked at three different scenarios, including a base case using existing policies and plans, a case looking at what would happen if the carbon price grows $5 per year after hitting $50 per tonne in 2022, and a case looking at both an increased carbon price and faster adoption of new technologies like **wind** and **solar** **power**.

In all three scenarios, fossil fuel use in Canada peaks in 2019 before declining or standing still.

In the higher carbon price scenario, fossil fuel use declines eight per cent more than in the base case, and in the technology case scenario it falls 13 per cent more.

But in all three, average economic growth is forecast to be around 1.7 per cent a year. That growth projection assumes the carbon price is returned to Canadians in the form of grants or lower taxes and that most other developed nations raise their carbon prices, too.

It also believes oil production will continue to grow despite lower use of oil within Canada as export markets still demand **Canadian** crude.

In any scenario, **wind** **energy** production will at least double and **solar** **energy** production more than triple over the next quarter-century, the board projects.

It also expects **electric** vehicle sales to grow to three per cent of all vehicles sales by 2020 and 16 per cent by 2040.

In 2016, less than one per cent of all vehicle sales were plug-in cars, and 95 per cent of all the **electric** cars sold were in Quebec, **Ontario** and B.C.

Under the high technology scenario, the NEB says **electric** vehicle sales would soar to six per cent in 2020 and to 47 per cent by 2040.

There are some nations, notably Britain and France, that intend to ban the sale of **gas**-powered vehicles by 2040, though even Canada's biggest proponents of **electric** cars believe that's not realistic in this country.

Milutinovic said the report is not a prediction because it's based on certain assumptions that could change depending on both domestic politics and international events, not to mention the arrival of technologies nobody has even imagined yet.

"These forecasts are never going to work exactly as you predict because there are so many things that are going to happen over 25 years that we can't see at this point," she said.

She pointed to fracking technology to extract **natural gas** and oil that 10 years ago nobody knew much about.

"That was a disruptive technology that even two years before that people weren't seeing and it's had a massive effect on both the oil and **gas** industry in **North** America."

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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
Tone: Positive
Byline: Judith Pereira
Reach: 1188000

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 facilty. 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 Promation. 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, Promation's general manager of operations. "We had challenges with the first design, but then you figure it out and the next one is easier."

Promation 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."

Promation 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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Nuclear industry called key to Ontario power, prosperity

Waterloo Region Record - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: John MacQuarrie

Ad Value: $2,976
Reach: 63465 **Page:** A7

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**, Arnprior 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.

John MacQuarrie is president of Cambridge-based BWXT Canada Ltd.

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Canadian Nuclear Association Welcomes Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan

www.newswire.ca - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

The Canadian Nuclear Association is pleased with the content and direction of Ontario's latest Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP).

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Why 'green'energy efficiency subsidies fail

Ottawa Sun - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Kenneth Green

Ad Value: $1,060
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A19

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 Fowlie, 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 socalled "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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TransCanada selling Ontario solar projects for $540M - Kallanish Energy News

www.kallanishenergy.com - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral

TransCanada is moving away from renewable energy to focus on its planned $24 billion near-term capital program, Kallanish Energy learns.

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Editorial: Quebec can do more to get pipelines built | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral

It's encouraging that Quebec has reached out to Alberta after the Energy East pipeline's proponent shelved the $15.7-billion project.

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Energy minister counters NDP over Fair Hydro Plan - My North Bay Now

www.mynorthbaynow.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof is mistaken with his comments over the Fair Hydro Plan.

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Ontario's Auditor General Highlights the Cost of the Fair Hydro Plan - Lexology

www.lexology.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

On October 17, 2017, Ontario Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk released a special report titled The Fair Hydro Plan: Concerns About Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Value For Money.

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The Fuse | Cancellations, Delays of Capital-Intensive Projects Pose Long-Term Risks - The Fuse

energyfuse.org - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

Limited investment in the oil sector over the past few years has coincided with major projects getting canceled or delayed and costly exploration ventures failing to produce any hydrocarbons at all.

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Alberta 'not our enemy,' says Quebec minister after Energy East opposition - Calgary - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

A politician from Quebec says his province is not the enemy of Alberta.

Jean-Marc Fournier, Quebec's minister responsible for Canadian relations, says the two provinces can work together on trade and industrial projects, despite the recent cancellation of the Energy East pipeline.

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Politics - Wall cites Dief in pipeline battle

www.yorktonthisweek.com - Thu Oct 26 2017
Tone: Neutral

The notion that our nation is a bilingual mosaic has never gone down any better in rural Western Canada than it has in Quebec.

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