

John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: November 23, 2017 9:25 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning News Summary - November 23, 2017

d\plainGood morning,

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d\plainHere's the summary of today's news clippings:

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d\plainMain highlight and flagging for discussion:

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[d\plainToronto Sun: Hydro One makes pitch for pre-paid electricity meters](#) (Note OEB mention and mention of winter disconnections ban)

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλα1ν• Column that says Hydro One, in its **distribution rate application before the OEB**, is also seeking permission to install pre-paid meters that would require customers to pay upfront before the utility turns on their power (says it's on page 2,038 of Hydro One's distribution rate application)

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλα1ν• NDP says this would result in vulnerable customers – people on fixed incomes, low-income families – being cut off, and that pre-paid meters could potentially circumvent **winter disconnections ban**

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλα1ν• Energy minister says OEB is reviewing the application

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλα1ν• Hydro One says, "No residential customer will be without power during the winter months, regardless of the type of meter they choose to have in the future."

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• Column also ran in Ottawa Sun

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d\plainSimilar story here:

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[d\plainSault Online: Hydro One's plan to have customers pre-pay for electricity will hurt families: NDP](#)
(Note OEB mention)

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• Says, "Recently, the OEB issued a directive banning licensed electricity distributors from disconnecting homes for non-payment during winter months, but pre-payment meters would allow Hydro One to bypass this rule. Tabuns said the Liberal government is allowing the privatized Hydro One to use harmful Thatcher-era tactics to bypass the OEB directive and stop providing power to families that are unable to pay.

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d\plainAlso in the news:

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[d\plainNational Post: A whole new way to screw up hydro in Ontario and B.C.](#) (Note OEB mentions)

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• Column by Brady Yauch of Consumer Policy Institute that says B.C.'s decision to freeze electricity rates is the latest example of governments "handcuffing" rate-setting energy regulators, citing Fair Hydro Act in Ontario

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• Says, "Prior to the legislation, the province's regulator, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), forecast the cost of generating electricity and then set rates to fully recover those costs. The price consumers paid for power reflected the "real" cost of generating it. The Fair Hydro Plan breaks that relationship and makes the OEB subservient to political whims."

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[d\plainWorld Nuclear News: Report outlines Ontario nuclear refurbishment benefits and risks](#) (Note OEB mention)

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλα1ν• Story about report by Ontario's Financial Accountability Office saying that provincial government's plan to refurbish nuclear reactors at Bruce and Darlington will provide long-term supply of relatively low-cost, low emissions electricity

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλα1ν• One mention of OEB here: The primary method of protection to ratepayers from increases in OPG operating costs is Ontario Energy Board (OEB) oversight.

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[d\plainCentral Hastings Trent Hills News: Havelock natural gas plant will be largest in Canada; Plant will create 50 jobs and be able to process as much as 230,000 tonnes of organic waste](#)

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλα1ν• Says an organic waste processing and renewable natural gas plant – billed as largest of its kind in Canada – could be operating in Havelock within a year

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d\plainFurther stories on report by Ontario Society of Professional Engineers that says the province sold clean electricity outside the province at a loss:

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλα1ν• <https://www.guelphtoday.com/around-the-village/ontarios-excess-green-electricity-sold-at-a-loss-of-500m-a-year-engineers-say-772923>

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλα1ν• <http://www.thesudburystar.com/2017/11/22/hydro-loss-numbers-are-staggering>

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλα1ν• <https://blog.ospe.on.ca/advocacy/ontario-lost-500-million-exporting-clean-energy-2016/>

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainMorning News Clippings

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infomart

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainDate: Thursday, November 23, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain](#) [Contact Editor](#)

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainClippings Summary

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainNews - 20 Results



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain](#) 'Pre-Payment Meters'Not The Answer; Will hurt those already struggling with bills

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOttawa Sun - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: James Wallace

Ad Value: \$2,038

Reach: 45442 **Page:** A11

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainIf it's possible to rub something more painful, infuriating and insulting than salt into the collective wound represented by the mess the Liberal government has made of **energy** policy in this province, surely it is this. **Hydro** ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Hydro One makes pitch for pre-paid electricity meters | Toronto Sun](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plaintorontosun.com - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat14\plainPaul Crawford noted on Thursday, November 23, 2017
OEB is mentioned.

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainIf it's possible to rub something more painful, infuriating and insulting than salt into the collective wound represented by the mess the Liberal government has made of energy policy in this province, surely it is this.



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Hydro One's plan to have customers pre-pay for electricity will hurt families: NDP | SaultOnline.com](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainsaultonline.com - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainIn question period on Tuesday, Ontario NDP Energy critic Peter Tabuns called on the Wynne Liberals to stand up for Ontario families and direct the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to stop the privatized Hydro One's plan to require pre-payment for power.



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain The hot new way to screw up hydro](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainNational Post - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Brady Yauch

Ad Value: \$6,462
Reach: 159480 Page: FP11

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe B.C. government's decision this month to freeze **electricity rates** is the latest move by governments to handcuff the **ratesetting** authority of **energy** regulators. It follows legislation passed this summer ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Here's how Brown must build policy platform](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe Sault Star - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Positive**
Byline: Randall Denley

Ad Value: \$967
Reach: 17077 Page: A8

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainAfter two years of drifting without a policy rudder, the **Ontario** Progressive Conservatives might finally set a new course this

weekend. The party's policy convention will be a real test for leader Patrick Brown, who has steered clear of ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Report outlines Ontario nuclear refurbishment benefits and risks](#)

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.world - nuclear - news.org](#) - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainA new report by Ontario's Financial Accountability Office (FAO) has confirmed the province's plan to refurbish ten nuclear reactors at Bruce and Darlington, and extend the life of six reactors at Pickering will provide the a long-term supply of ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Lakeridge Health hydro costs rose by \\$1 million in six years](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOshawa This Week - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$1,317

Reach: 111985 Page: 1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainDURHAM - Documents obtained by the **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation show the annual cost of **hydro** jumped by more than \$1 million for Lakeridge Health over a six-year period. At hospitals in **Oshawa**, ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Energy relief during the season we need it most](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainNorthumberland Today.com - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$410

Reach: 22777 Page: D7

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainShorter days and chilly weather mean winter is usually a time for higher **energy** bills for most families. While installing weather-stripping, improving insulation and purchasing new appliances can reduce **electricity** bills, the ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Havelock natural gas plant will be largest in Canada; Plant will create 50 jobs and be able to process as much as 230,000 tonnes of organic waste](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainCentral Hastings Trent Hills News - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Bill Freeman

Ad Value: \$411

Reach: 11630 Page: A12

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHavelock - The largest organic waste processing and renewable **natural gas** plant in Canada could be operating in Havelock within the year and has the potential to create 50 jobs. The Kawartha Biogas plant operated by purEnergy ...



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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Ontario's excess green electricity sold at a loss of \$500M a year, engineers say - GuelphToday.com

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.guelphtoday.com - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) wants Queen's Park to take the politics out of energy planning and design.



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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Hydro loss numbers are 'staggering' | Sudbury Star

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.thesudburystar.com - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOntario lost between \$732 million and \$1.25 billion over the past two years selling surplus clean electricity outside the province, an analysis by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) estimates.



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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Ontario lost more than \$500 million exporting clean energy in 2016 • Ontario Society of Professional Engineers

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainblog.ospe.on.ca - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainFollowing a detailed analysis of data issued by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) reports that in 2016, the province exported 14.6 ...



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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Wind turbine

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainTimes -Journal (St.Thomas) - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Peter Epp

Ad Value: \$279

Reach: 8859 Page: A7

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWhen Premier Kathleen Wynne announced 14 months

ago that her government was suspending Ontario's **renewable energy** procurement process, she and her Liberal colleagues were caught in the middle of a **public** backlash ...



d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Wallaceburg Area Wind Concerns seeks financial help

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWallaceburg Courier Press - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Violet Towell

Ad Value: \$304

Reach: 8941 **Page:** A7

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThere are many things vying for our attention and money these days, especially with Christmas around the corner. Few of them will have as lasting and detrimental impact to our area as the proposed turbines in the Otter Creek **Wind** Farm. ...



d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Wallaceburg man blames turbines for water well woes

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d\intbl\itap 3\cbpat7\plainWallaceburg Courier Press - Thu Nov 23 2017

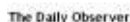
Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: \$478

Reach: 8941 **Page:** A5

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainAt first, Wayne Phillips had no idea why his water well went bad. Phillips had moved down to Wallaceburg to get away from the **Greater Toronto** Area. He moved to the area in the spring of 2017, bought a house just south of town ...



d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Wind turbine woes won't be forgotten

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainDaily Observer (Pembroke) - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$285

Reach: 6045 **Page:** A5

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWhen Premier Kathleen Wynne announced 14 months ago that her government was suspending Ontario's **renewable energy** procurement process, she and her Liberal colleagues were caught in the middle of a **public** backlash ...



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain GUNTER: Notley needs to continue strong pipeline messaging | Edmonton Sun](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainedmontonsun.com - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat14\plainPaul Crawford noted on Wednesday, November 22, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainIn Ottawa on Tuesday, Rachel Notley gave a firecracker of a speech at the Economic Club of Canada.



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Keystone win boosts Canada's U.S. dependence – Finance & Commerce](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainfinance -commerce.com - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat14\plainPaul Crawford noted on Wednesday, November 22, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHere is one thing Keystone XL won't do for Canada: wean the country's oil industry off its dependence on the U.S.



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain New Route One of Many Obstacles Remaining for Keystone XL | NRDC](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.nrdc.org - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat14\plainPaul Crawford noted on Wednesday, November 22, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOn Monday, the Nebraska Public Services Commission (PSC) issued its long-awaited decision regarding a route permit for the zombie Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. Voting 3-2, the PSC decided to issue a route permit, but not for the route that ...



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Canadian drillers expect another sluggish year in 2018 | Calgary Herald](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plaincalgaryherald.com - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat14\plainPaul Crawford noted on Wednesday, November 22, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

Despite rising oil prices, Canadian drillers are headed into 2018 with modest expectations for the new year.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Ottawa Sun
Article Title

'Pre-Payment Meters' Not The Answer; Will hurt those already struggling with bills

Ottawa Sun - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: James Wallace

Ad Value: \$2,038

Reach: 45442 Page: A11

If it's possible to rub something more painful, infuriating and insulting than salt into the collective wound represented by the mess the Liberal government has made of **energy** policy in this province, surely it is this.

Hydro One is seeking permission to install "prepaid" meters across **Ontario** to force consumers - especially those struggling to cover **electricity** bills - to pay up front before the **utility** switches on the juice for heat and lights.

Instead of a coin slot, **Hydro** One's pre-paid **electricity** meters would replace some existing smart meters and could be "topped up" at a corner shop, via a smartphone **application** or online," according to the **utility's distribution rate application** before the **Ontario Energy Board**.

Those who can't pay up front - logically pensioners struggling on fixed incomes; low-income families or new Canadians trying to make ends meet; those scraping by on social assistance - would effectively be cut off and are inevitably among the potential targets of a new "Collection Enhancements" **plan** revealed Wednesday by New Democrat MPP Peter Tabuns.

"Everywhere that prepayment meters have been used, they have hurt struggling families," Tabuns said in the Legislature, and urged the government to "prohibit pre-payment meters."

Meanwhile, on page 2,038 of a **distribution rate application** before the **Ontario Energy Board**, **Hydro** One makes the case that a rising number of "overdue accounts present a financial risk" to the provincial **electricity transmission** and **distribution utility** Kathleen Wynne sold to private interests.

"For customers who are high collection risk, the financial risk will be minimized by rolling out this type of meter," **Hydro** One argues. "With a prepaid meter, **electricity** is paid up-front. Once the prepaid amount is used up, **power** is cut-off until the **customer** is able to load the meter with more credits."

Tabuns points out prepaid meters potentially circumvent the Liberal government's Protecting Vulnerable **Energy** Consumers Act, legislation that prevented **utilities** from cutting off **power** in winter and passed after some 60,000 households across **Ontario** were left in the cold in 2015.

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** had little meaningful to say in response, other than to note the **OEB** was reviewing and had to approve the **application**.

However, **Hydro** One insisted "No residential **customer** will be without **power** during the winter months, regardless of the type of meter they may choose to have in the future," said spokesperson Nancy Clark.

"As a leading **electricity service** provider, we look at best practices across many different jurisdictions and countries," Clark said in a statement to the Sun.

"This is just one of the many options we are exploring to offer our customers more choice on how they manage their **electricity** accounts."

Meanwhile, it ought to be painfully obvious when you waste billions on phony **rate** cuts, overpay for unneeded "clean" **energy** and mismanage **energy** infrastructure to a point that Ontarians enjoy the highest **electricity rates** in the country that paying sky-high **electricity** bills is a growing burden for many.

It ought to be equally clear pay-for-play **hydro** meters are no answer to that problem. jawallace@postmedia.com

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHydro One makes pitch for pre-paid electricity meters | Toronto Sun

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plaintorontosun.com - Thu Nov 23 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainIf it's possible to rub something more painful, infuriating and insulting than salt into the collective wound represented by the mess the Liberal government has made of energy policy in this province, surely it is this.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHydro One's plan to have customers pre-pay for electricity will hurt families: NDP | SaultOnline.com

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainsaultonline.com - Thu Nov 23 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainIn question period on Tuesday, Ontario NDP Energy critic Peter Tabuns called on the Wynne Liberals to stand up for Ontario families and direct the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to stop the privatized Hydro One's plan to require pre-payment for power.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe hot new way to screw up hydro

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainNational Post - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Brady Yauch

Ad Value: \$6,462

Reach: 159480 Page: FP11

The B.C. government's decision this month to freeze **electricity rates** is the latest move by governments to handcuff the **ratesetting** authority of **energy** regulators. It follows legislation passed this summer in **Ontario** that transfers the **power** of setting **rates** to the **minister of energy** and ends one of the last vestiges of regulatory independence in the province's **energy** sector.

BC **Hydro** had requested a three-per-cent increase from the **energy regulator**, the British Columbia **Utilities** Commission (BCUC). The newly elected NDP government has instead decided it will set the **rate** increase - at zero.

While the **rate** freeze will "save" consumers \$140 million over the next year, those savings are an illusion, since that money will be added to what are known as deferral accounts and collected from future **ratepayers**. B.C.'s auditor general has called this practice of kicking billions of dollars in costs to future customers "unsustainable." The AG came to that conclusion in 2011, when BC **Hydro** had \$2.2 billion in deferral accounts. It now has \$5.9 billion.

The move marks further intervention by the province in the regulatory process and further undermines the independence and credibility of the BCUC. The NDP had promised on the campaign trail to improve the regulatory process and restore the independence of the BCUC. Instead, the decision to freeze **rates** - another campaign promise - only makes the situation worse.

In 2013, the government introduced a 10-year **plan** that directed what level of **rate** increases the BCUC was allowed to approve for BC **Hydro** over the first five years. Because those **rate** increases were below BC **Hydro**'s cost to generate and deliver **power**, the difference between **rates** and costs went into deferral accounts. The price that **ratepayers** now pay is largely a political determination.

Undercharging consumers will encourage wasteful consumption and lead to the overbuilding of the **energy** system. Megaprojects like the \$10-billion (and counting) Site C dam - which a recent **review** by the BCUC concluded wasn't needed, even though \$2 billion has already been spent on construction - would be even more unnecessary if consumers paid a **rate** for **power** that reflected the cost of generating it.

And this same story has already been written in **Ontario**. This summer, the province passed the **Fair Hydro** Act, which allows the **minister of energy** to set **electricity rates** as he sees fit. Prior to the legislation, the province's **regulator**, the **Ontario Energy Board** (OEB), forecast the cost of generating **electricity** and then set **rates** to fully recover those costs. The price consumers paid for **power** reflected the "real" cost of generating it.

The **Fair Hydro Plan** breaks that relationship and makes the **OEB** subservient to political whims. The **minister of energy** can now use any number of "methodologies" to set **electricity rates**, regardless of whether **rates** have any relationship to the cost of generating that **power**. Any difference between the price consumers pay for **power** and its actual cost is being deferred to future generations through the issuance of debt. Over the next decade this policy will artificially lower **power** bills by \$26 billion while, over the next two decades, adding \$21 billion - on top of that \$26 billion - to pay it off.

BC **Hydro** is following **Ontario** down a road where the price of **electricity** becomes a political determination and the regulatory agencies, which were explicitly established to prevent this from happening, watch powerlessly from the sidelines. Brady Yauch is executive director and economist, **Consumer** Policy Institute. bradyyauch@consumerpolicyinstitute.org

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHere's how Brown must build policy platform

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe Sault Star - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Randall Denley

Ad Value: \$967

Reach: 17077 **Page:** A8

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainAfter two years of drifting without a policy rudder, the **Ontario** Progressive Conservatives might finally set a new course this weekend. The party's policy convention will be a real test for leader Patrick Brown, who has steered clear of ideas for so long that reasonable people might think he doesn't have any. He can't let that impression persist.

Normally, a policy convention is like a big straw vote on party members' favourite ideas, but it doesn't have much to do with the sharply focused and intellectually coherent work required to put together a solid election platform.

This time, the PCs are trying something different. Members have already voted on a long list of ideas. If Brown and his policy team are on their game, they will have crafted those recommendations into something that looks like a platform.

Part of the platform challenge for any party is finding an attractive theme for its campaign, something that is easy to understand and speaks to voters' real concerns.

The Liberals have grabbed a good one - fairness. Whether the Liberal ideas will enhance fairness or make life fairer for some and less **fair** for others is debatable, but as a sales pitch, it has merit.

The PCs need a unifying theme and four or five key ideas that support it. Having been through this process as part of the PC policy team in the last election, let me be bold enough to offer some advice.

The PCs must combat their image as a party that is more interested in economics than people, one that doesn't understand urban **Ontario**.

Brown needs to zero in on policies that will make real changes in people's lives. He needs to offer a sustainable, affordable, measured approach to government, in contrast to the wild and expensive policy swings of the Liberals.

PCs have always shied away from health care, considering it a Liberal area. That's a mistake. The PCs should make better care for seniors their key health policy. That benefits not just seniors, but the families who support them.

The Liberals talk a good game on home care and long-term care but haven't done much. Brown needs a policy to meet the need in both areas.

Education needs a sharper focus on developing skills required to find a job. **Ontario** already has a high school program that blends work experience with

education, but it's not promoted. It should become the norm.

More attention and money should be devoted to our colleges and their job training function. **Ontario's** economy is not sustainable without skilled workers and young people have no future without appropriate education.

Brown will have to offer a cogent alternative to the Liberals' confusing **cap-and-trade** regime. He has already promised a carbon tax. That makes more sense than trade with California. He should make the tax revenue-neutral and use the proceeds to cut taxes in the lowest bracket.

Our cities are struggling to pay for roads and transit. Brown could help by gradually phasing out the \$6 billion a year the province collects in property taxes. That's more sustainable than big promises of borrowed money.

Finally, the PCs need to show compassion for disabled Ontarians. We expect the disabled to live on a little more than \$1,100 a month in provincial support. Rather than spend years studying a basic income for all, as the Liberals are doing, increase support for the disabled, who need it most.

The Liberals have done a mediocre job for our seniors, **students**, environment, cities and disabled Ontarians. This is Patrick Brown's chance to show he can do better. Randall Denley is an **Ottawa** commentator, novelist and former **Ontario** PC candidate. randalldenley1@gmail.com

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainReport outlines Ontario nuclear refurbishment benefits and risks

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.world](#) - [nuclear-news.org](#) - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainA new report by Ontario's Financial Accountability Office (FAO) has confirmed the province's plan to refurbish ten nuclear reactors at Bruce and Darlington, and extend the life of six reactors at Pickering will provide the a long-term supply of relatively low-cost, low emissions electricity over the period to 2064.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainLakeridge Health hydro costs rose by \$1 million in six years

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOshawa This Week - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$1,317

Reach: 111985 Page: 1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainDURHAM - Documents obtained by the **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation show the annual cost of **hydro** jumped by more than \$1 million for Lakeridge Health over a six-year period.

At hospitals in **Oshawa**, **Whitby**, Port Perry and Bowmanville, Lakeridge paid a total of \$3,296,125 in **hydro** in the 2011-12 years and by 2016-17 that number

jumped to \$4,367,956, a 33 per cent increase.

Meanwhile the Ajax-Pickering hospital, which was recently integrated into Lakeridge, saw its **hydro** bill jump by \$578,832 or 66 per cent during the same period to a total of \$1,452,982 in 2016-17.

Christine Van Geyn, **Ontario** director for the federation, said Lakeridge could have spent that money treating patients instead.

"Families across the province all feel the pain of rapid increases to the cost of **electricity** when they pay their home **electricity** bill. But what many people don't think about is the cost of the **Ontario** government's failed **electricity** policy to the institutions we all rely on, like Lakeridge Health," she said.

Meanwhile, Lakeridge communications specialist Andrea Piunno said the hospital has implemented several initiatives to reduce **energy** costs including an **energy** retrofit project consisting of 29 conservation projects.

Among them are the installation of 48 **solar** panels, the replacement of 24,000 lights with higher efficiency models and switching exterior lights to LED, and replacing chillers and boilers with more **energy**-efficient models.

The hospital is also planning on adding a 1.6 megawatt combined heat and **power** plant powered by **natural gas**. The plant will produce both heat and **electricity**.

"While **Ontario** hospitals do not receive additional funding for **electricity** costs, there are government incentive programs in place to help lower **electricity** consumption, like our **energy** retrofit project, which is expected to cut Lakeridge Health's **energy** costs by 23 per cent and save \$46 million over the next 20 years," said Piunno.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainEnergy relief during the season we need it most

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainNorthumberland Today.com - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$410

Reach: 22777 Page: D7

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainShorter days and chilly weather mean winter is usually a time for higher **energy** bills for most families. While installing weather-stripping, improving insulation and purchasing new appliances can reduce **electricity** bills, the ability to make those investments is out of reach for many. The Affordability Fund is a new program designed to help people who do not qualify for low-income conservation programs undertake **energy** efficiency improvements.

"We are delighted that many **Hydro** One customers can benefit from the Affordability Fund. We hope that those that can benefit from this unique and easy-toaccess program take action and participate," said Ferio Pugliese, Executive Vice President, **Customer** Care and Corporate Affairs, **Hydro** One. "Affordability and **customer** advocacy are at the core of how we are changing the way we do business. The Affordability Fund is another avenue that allows **Hydro** One along with other local **distribution** companies across the province to work collaboratively with customers and social agencies to extend support and relief where and when it's needed."

Many customers will qualify for upgrades like block heater timers, efficient shower heads and LEDs. Customers in **greater** need may be qualified for more substantial upgrades, such as appliances, a programmable thermostat and insulation. To be eligible, individuals must own, rent or lease a primary residence in **Ontario** and must be the **utility** account holder at that residence. The types of upgrades provided are relative to the support required for the **customer**.

Apply online at affordabilityfund.org. www.newscanada.com

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHavelock natural gas plant will be largest in Canada; Plant will create 50 jobs and be able to process as much as 230,000 tonnes of organic waste

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainCentral Hastings Trent Hills News - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Bill Freeman

Ad Value: \$411

Reach: 11630 Page: A12

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHavelock - The largest organic waste processing and renewable **natural gas** plant in Canada could be operating in Havelock within the year and has the potential to create 50 jobs.

The Kawartha Biogas plant operated by purEnergy Inc. on ten acres of property east of Havelock will be converted into a renewable **natural gas** (RNG) facility able to process as much as 230,000 tonnes of organic waste yearly in its anaerobic digester.

The company already has environmental permits and the engineering in place needed for the conversion and will be able to send the **gas** directly to an Enbridge pipeline using the "exact same technology" required to create biogas, says purEnergy president Derek Neill.

The project is expected to be an especially attractive to municipalities and the food services sector searching for ways to take organics out of the waste stream, an increasingly high priority.

The "elimination of organics going to landfills" is a big push, Neill told Havelock-Belmont-Methuen council.

Neill says there's been plenty of "positive feedback" and interest from municipalities around the region including the City of **Peterborough**.

The facility will be the only one of its kind between **Ottawa** and **Toronto**.

Farm-based facilities are smaller and can't take biosolids, Neill says.

Kawartha RNG will also be one of the few digesters in Canada that can take biosolids.

"One thing that makes this project special is the timeline in which we get this done," he added.

With permits in place he figures it can be operational within a year. A new startup would need four to five years and cost millions of dollars in permits alone.

Enbridge has been a "huge advocate," Neill says. "Two hundred and thirty thousand tonnes is a considerable size and of great interest to us," says Tim Short, Enbridge's manager of distributed **energy**.

The company, Short says, is "on a mission to displace as much of the fossil based **natural gas** with **gases** that are cleaned up and sourced from places like wastewater treatment plants and digesters.

"(Organic) waste now becomes a resource not garbage.

This is precisely what Enbridge is looking for. There are a lot of exciting possibilities."

The facility would be a few years away from reaching 230,000 tonnes, says Neill. Right now, in the **Peterborough**-Durham Region the "maximum" they could obtain is around 100,000 tonnes.

To give the Havelock facility a sense of scale, **Toronto**'s green bin program collects 120,000 to 130,000 tonnes and requires two facilities, Short notes.

"With the co-operation of different municipalities (and other sources) we've secured all kinds of waste," says Neill.

They could **service Kingston**, Belleville and the **Ottawa** Region, he added.

At 230,000 tonnes - running 250 days a year - they'd require 20 extra trucks (each carrying 20 tonnes) on the road each day.

"There's no smell, nothing goes to landfill. It's a completely closed system," he added.

"It's a very positive thing," says Deputy Mayor Jim Martin.

HBM needs to work with purEnergy on a communications strategy so residents understand what the project entails, Martin said.

"There is a need for the **public** to understand what is happening with this," Mayor Ron Gerow agreed. "There is a huge interest in the county. It's quite timely."

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOntario's excess green electricity sold at a loss of \$500M a year, engineers say - GuelphToday.com

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.guelphtoday.com](#) - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) wants Queen's Park to take the politics out of energy planning and design.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHydro loss numbers are 'staggering' | Sudbury Star

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.thesudburystar.com](http://www.thesudburystar.com) - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOntario lost between \$732 million and \$1.25 billion over the past two years selling surplus clean electricity outside the province, an analysis by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) estimates.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOntario lost more than \$500 million exporting clean energy in 2016 • Ontario Society of Professional Engineers

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainblog.ospe.on.ca - Wed Nov 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainFollowing a detailed analysis of data issued by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) reports that in 2016, the province exported 14.6 terawatt-hours (TWh) of clean electricity at a net financial loss of more than \$500 million.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWind turbine

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainTimes - Journal (St.Thomas) - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Peter Epp

Ad Value: \$279

Reach: 8859 Page: A7

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWhen Premier Kathleen Wynne announced 14 months ago that her government was suspending **Ontario's renewable energy** procurement process, she and her Liberal colleagues were caught in the middle of a **public** backlash against skyrocketing **electricity** bills. Halting a costly **plan** that promoted **wind turbine** farms was a quick, convenient response. Indeed, Wynne's own **energy** minister admitted **Ontario** didn't need the **electricity** that would be produced by new turbines.

But there was a problem. Six months earlier, several **wind turbine** projects had been approved, and the September announcement didn't mean they would be cancelled. The contracts would be honoured. **Ontario** would be allowing the development of **wind** turbines to produce **electricity** that wasn't needed.

Among those projects are two in Chatham-Kent and another in Elgin County. One has become an enormous **public** relations problem for the Wynne government, while the other two have the potential to become the same.

The first project is almost complete; but the others should be halted before they begin.

The **North** Kent 1 **wind** project was mired in controversy even before Wynne announced suspension of the renewable program. Construction activity is believed to have fouled or clogged at least 16 water wells because of interference to the area's unique geology. Residents with damaged wells have made arrangements to have clean water trucked to their property.

The problems at the **North** Kent 1 project have stirred up fears a few kilometres away, at the Otter Creek project. Work has yet to begin, but residents are worried the same problems will affect their water. They're also worried proposed **turbine** towers, the tallest in Canada, will be erected in an important migratory bird flight path.

Local MPP Monte Mc-Naughton (PC - Lambton-Kent-Middlesex) wants Otter Creek halted.

"These turbines are being built to generate **electricity** we don't need, and they're only going to contribute to driving **hydro** prices even higher," he said.

In Elgin County, meanwhile, residents in Dutton Dunwich continue to campaign against a **wind** farm that has yet to be built.

Kathleen Wynne may have hoped rural **Ontario's** long-held discontent with the Green **Energy Plan** would be forgotten by the June 2018 provincial election. But that's not about to happen as the remnants of that multibillion-dollar campaign, and its varied controversies, continue to be revealed.

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CourierPress

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWallaceburg Area Wind Concerns seeks financial help

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWallaceburg Courier Press - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Violet Towell

Ad Value: \$304

Reach: 8941 Page: A7

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThere are many things vying for our attention and money these days, especially with Christmas around the corner. Few of them will have as lasting and detrimental impact to our area as the proposed turbines in the Otter Creek **Wind** Farm.

Very few people in Wallaceburg can claim they are unaware of the water well complaints that have been reported in alarming numbers in **North** Kent 1 and Dover Township. Fewer still are unaware of the 642-foot size of these giant machines planned for Otter Creek. More and more people are becoming aware that this is not just a rural concern and now understand that the turbines are in close proximity to the town of Wallaceburg and disturbingly near area schools and our seniors' residence. There are 445 residences within 1.5 kilometres of a **turbine**.

Some are aware that we are dealing with untested turbines that have not been utilized anywhere in Canada. In fact, when the proposal was submitted for them the noise testing was based on estimates as no data was available. In addition, old guidelines for noise assessments were used when revisions had been made that would have required an adjustment (increase) to the **turbine** setback

distances.

That does not seem reasonable considering that the Ministry of the Environment and **Climate** Change should be ensuring the protection of residents' health and safety.

If you have attended any of the meetings with the developers in **North** Kent 1, or read some of the newspaper accounts, you may find it disturbing to hear the developers suggest that there is no reason to believe that the pile driving to erect the turbines is the reason for the well disturbances. One of the developers present at a recent meeting in Pain Court called the disturbances in the wells an anomaly. I countered that an anomaly was a singular incident, 14 wells was a pattern. A pattern that we are unfortunately poised to repeat in Otter Creek.

Seeing the lack of resolution to problems in **North** Kent 1 raises a lot of questions about what we can expect in Otter Creek. A clear complaint handling process needs to be put in place and discussed with the community before any decisions are made to move forward with the Otter Creek project.

There are many more questions than answers about the Otter Creek project. And that is before any consideration of rising **hydro** costs and declining property values. A community meeting needs to be scheduled to answer critical **public** questions about the impact of this undertaking with real data and real answers. If it does not occur, we will likely be facing an approval of this project and will only have a short time to launch a legal challenge.

Any type of legal challenge is an expensive process and we encourage you to donate to the Wallaceburg Area **Wind** Concerns GoFundMe site or to the Wallaceburg Area **Wind** Concerns account at the TD Bank at 402 James St. in Wallaceburg. Your support is needed for this David vs Goliath undertaking that has been structured to favour the **wind** companies. Wallaceburg and area citizens have long been known for community activism and support. The Sydenham District Hospital is a case in point. This is another critical juncture for our community. The time is now. Together we can make a difference.

Violet Towell Wallaceburg Area **Wind** Concerns

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWallaceburg man blames turbines for water well woes

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWallaceburg Courier Press - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: \$478

Reach: 8941 **Page:** A5

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainAt first, Wayne Phillips had no idea why his water well went bad.

Phillips had moved down to Wallaceburg to get away from the **Greater Toronto** Area. He moved to the area in the spring of 2017, bought a house just south of town and settled in. Things were going good. Phillips likes Wallaceburg, noting he has great neighbours and he likes the community.

He noticed a difference in his water during the Civic Holiday weekend in August.

"All of a sudden I had this black water coming in my toilet it was completely

different," Phillips said.

He had no idea what was happening.

As a newcomer to the area, Phillips said he wasn't aware that water well owners in the former Dover Township area south of Wallaceburg area have complained about problems with the water wells. Most water well owners who have had issues in Dover point to the **wind** turbines as the source of their problems, saying the pile driving and vibrations from the turbines have caused sediment to end up in their water wells.

Located just south of Base Line Road, Phillips can see the **wind** turbines, which have been erected for the past four years, from his window.

He thought that his water well was just acting up.

"I was just going through the process of elimination, just seeing what is coming up through the well," he said.

"It went from clear to a problem. It was black water I couldn't use it."

Phillips flushed his water out for a couple weeks, yet that didn't solve the problem. Eventually the dirty water caused his washing machine to break down.

Not knowing where to turn, Phillips contacted the Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change.

"I didn't know what to do." He asked the ministry for an inspector to come out and look into it. Phillips said he was told he was 2.3 kilometres from the **wind** turbines, so the **wind** turbines were not the cause of his water woes.

The ministry told Phillips to contact Chatham-Kent's **Public** Health Unit. Phillips said the **Public** Health Unit told him the possible black shale in his water was not a health concern.

"To me it just didn't add up to even my grade-school logic here," Phillips said.

The **public** health unit told Phillips to send in a water sample, but they told him they would only test for E coli.

Dealing with this issue for the past few months has been emotionally draining and stressful, Phillips said.

"My concern is with the denial that happened right from the beginning," Phillips said.

"I'm shocked that there is no oversight and nobody is taking the lead on that as representative as the government."

Phillips said he's concerned about the Otter Creek **wind turbine** project that's proposed for **north** of Wallaceburg and the issues the project will create for local homeowners.

Citizen group Water Wells First has concerns about the Otter Creek project because they say it's being built on the same aquifer over the Kettle Point black shale formation, and they're predicting similar damage will happen to water wells in the Wallaceburg area once the **wind** turbines are erected.

"At the end of everything there is the obvious, and it's not being addressed by **public** officials," Phillips said, noting something is obviously wrong and it will be too late to fix it at a later date.

"Our kids are going to ask, 'why did you let this happen?'" Phillips said.

"The evidence is out there.

You do your research and they just shouldn't have been put here. The land does not lend itself to these turbines."

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The Daily Observer

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWind turbine woes won't be forgotten

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainDaily Observer (Pembroke) - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$285

Reach: 6045 Page: A5

When Premier Kathleen Wynne announced 14 months ago that her government was suspending Ontario's renewable energy procurement process, she and her Liberal colleagues were caught in the middle of a public backlash against skyrocketing electricity bills. Halting a costly plan that promoted wind turbine farms was a quick, convenient response. Indeed, Wynne's own energy minister admitted Ontario didn't need the electricity that would be produced by new turbines.

But there was a problem. Six months earlier, several wind turbine projects had been approved, and the September announcement didn't mean they would be cancelled. The contracts would be honoured. Ontario would be allowing the development of wind turbines to produce electricity that wasn't needed.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainGUNTER: Notley needs to continue strong pipeline messaging | Edmonton Sun

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainedmontonsun.com - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainIn Ottawa on Tuesday, Rachel Notley gave a firecracker of a speech at the Economic Club of Canada.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainKeystone win boosts Canada's U.S. dependence – Finance & Commerce

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainfinance -commerce.com - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHere is one thing Keystone XL won't do for Canada: wean the country's oil industry off its dependence on the U.S.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainNew Route One of Many Obstacles Remaining for Keystone XL | NRDC

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.nrdc.org - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOn Monday, the Nebraska Public Services Commission (PSC) issued its long-awaited decision regarding a route permit for the zombie Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. Voting 3-2, the PSC decided to issue a route permit, but not for the route that TransCanada, the company behind the fraught pipeline, had applied for or argued for strenuously.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainCanadian drillers expect another sluggish year in 2018 | Calgary Herald

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plaincalgaryherald.com - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainDespite rising oil prices, Canadian drillers are headed into 2018 with modest expectations for the new year.

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