

Neil Brodie

From: Neil Brodie
Sent: December 14, 2017 1:55 PM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Staff msg

The news release isn't out yet so we'd like to get this out beforehand if possible.

~~I want to share with you the news that the Minister of Energy announced today that the government is establishing an expert Panel to undertake a review of the Ontario Energy Board. An expert review Panel has been established to lead the review.~~ Note that this is part of a larger plan by the government to "create fairness and opportunity during this period of rapid economic change." Read the government's news release here [\[LINK\]](#).

We welcome the opportunity to work with the Panel to ensure that we continue to have the tools and the mandate needed to protect ratepayers and adapt to new technologies. I also want to reassure you that this kind of review is not new for us – the OEB has undergone value-for-money audits by the Auditor General of Ontario in the recent past – and the expertise and professionalism of our staff consistently shines through.

We are proud of the work that we have done to deliver on our mandate and protect energy consumers. We have demonstrated our capabilities as a consumer watchdog: most recently the Market Surveillance Panel uncovered millions of dollars that had been gamed at Goreway Station Partnership. The Auditor General of Ontario recognized our efforts in her recent annual report ([link to energy chapter](#)). We have consistently held distribution rates to inflation, and in 2016 alone, we saved consumers about \$22 million through avoided rate increases and actually lowered rates for customers of 50 distributors in Ontario. We also stand up for vulnerable consumers as demonstrated through the OEB-mandated ban on winter disconnections, the design and delivery of the Ontario Electricity Support Program, the end of distribution charges for on-reserve First Nation customers and tougher rules for door-to-door energy marketers.

We have accomplished a great deal, and have exciting plans for the future. As the energy sector evolves, so too is the OEB. [We are experts in our field. We each have](#) an important role to play and we will do so together.

More details about the review will be known in the coming weeks as the work is formalized, and we will share that information with you.