

John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: December 28, 2017 9:35 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning News Summary - Dec. 28, 2017

Good morning,

Today's highlight is the OEB's matte story/backgrounder that has been picked up in the Sudbury Star about the OEB's review of customer service rules.

[The Sudbury Star: Ontario Energy Board reviewing customer service rules](#)

- The Ontario Energy Board encouraging all energy consumers to have their say about customer service rules for the electricity and natural gas sectors.

The Timmins Times: Union Gas rates drop in the New Year (full story below)

- The **Ontario Energy Board has approved a natural gas rate decrease for Union Gas** company customers. This applies to natural gas customers in Timmins and Northeastern Ontario. The new rates will be effective Jan. 1, 2018.
- Article gives an overview of Union Gas' 3 service areas (North East, Southern, North West) and their rates following the Jan. 1 QRAM.
- "Now that winter is here, Union Gas customers can expect an affordable and reliable supply of natural gas with no fillups needed even in the harshest winter months," remarked Union Gas vice president Jim Redford.

The Chatham Daily: Pre-paid plan morally repugnant (full story below)

- Article is about Hydro One's distribution application and the mention of pre-paid meters that is "buried" in their application.
- **"Hydro One's submission to the Ontario Energy Board**, seeking regulatory approval for its "collection enhancements" plan - buried on Page 2,038 of a 2,076-page document - doesn't specify it will be voluntary." (*note that in Hydro One's presentation to the Board on their application, it was stated on the record by HONI executives twice that pre-paid meters are voluntary*)
- Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says Hydro One has assured him the program will be a voluntary method for its customers to control their electricity consumption, and in any event may not be approved.
- "The fear is that people unable to pay their bills in advance will have their power cut off - a frightening prospect as we enter into winter - despite Hydro One's insistence that won't happen."
- **Article calls for the OEB to reject the application**

Delhi News Record: Steep electricity costs cannot go on (full story below)

- Article is by MP Toby Barratt about electricity costs in Ontario. Hits on the Green Energy Act, Feed-in Tarrif program, Hydro One and executive salaries.
- **Calls for the OEB to be reformed:** "The Ontario Energy Board must be reformed to reduce red tape, drive costs out of the system, and create a flexible regulatory body."
- He says that "we should proceed with nuclear refurbishment in Ontario and keep Pickering Nuclear Generating Station open until 2024."

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Thursday, December 28, 2017
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 8 Results



Speak up before the rules change; Ontario Energy Board reviewing customer service rules

Sudbury Star - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Positive

Ad Value:\$558

Reach: 14934 **Page:** A4

The **Ontario Energy Board** encouraging all **energy** consumers to have their say about **customer service rules** for the **electricity** and **natural** ...



Union Gas rates drop in the New Year

Timmins Times - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Positive

Ad Value:\$243

Reach: 16478 **Page:** A4

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Pre-paid plan morally repugnant

Chatham This Week - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Negative **Page:** A6

The Wynne government's assurance that a proposal by privately controlled **Hydro One** to install pre-paid **electricity** meters for people who are behind in their payments will be voluntary warrants great suspicion. ...



Steep electricity costs cannot go on

Delhi News-Record - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Neutral

Byline: Toby Barrett

Ad Value: \$320

Reach: 662 **Page:** A4

For years, I have been railing against the high cost of **electricity** - full disclosure, I heat with **hydro**, which means I go through 10 to 20 cords of wood a winter. **Ontario** now has the fastest-rising ...



United Way's Dobbyn named to IESO working group

Kincardine News - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Neutral **Page:** A6

United Way of Bruce-Grey executive director Francesca Dobbyn is the newest member of the **Independent Electricity** System Operator's (**IESO**) Market Renewal Working Group. The organization is tasked with providing ...



Provincial, municipal politics need cleaning

London Free Press - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Neutral

Ad Value: \$1,726

Reach: 70995 **Page:** N7

Ontarians face two major elections in 2018 - on June 7 to elect a provincial government and on Oct. 22 to elect municipal councils across the province. What voters are going to have to decide is, do we want more of the same? Some useful questions ...



Defeating Trudeau

Toronto Sun - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Negative

Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: \$751

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A18

Re "Justin Trudeau's dwindling support is a wake up" (Editorial, Dec. 18): While showing a lack of leadership on major trade deals by wanting to incorporate his progressive agenda in them, running up massive deficits and debts, by pushing ...



Massive wind project sets milestones

The Sault Star - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Neutral

Ad Value: \$1,371

Reach: 17077 **Page:** A1 / Front

An international **energy** company has secured \$1 billion in financing to build the largest **wind** project in **Ontario** on a reserve south of **Sudbury**. Pattern Development revealed plans recently to construct a ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

The Sudbury Star

Speak up before the rules change; Ontario Energy Board reviewing customer service rules

Sudbury Star - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$558

Reach: 14934 Page: A4

The **Ontario Energy Board** encouraging all **energy** consumers to have their say about **customer service rules** for the **electricity** and **natural gas** sectors.

The board has launched a survey at www.oeb.ca/customerservicesurvey, where residential and small business consumers can give their opinion on a number of **customer service rules**, including: Are there times when customers should not be disconnected? Should low-income customers have to pay security deposits? What is a reasonable amount of time for customers to pay their **energy** bills? "Whether you're an **electricity** or **natural gas** **customer**, this is your opportunity to have your say," says **Rosemarie Leclair**, **OEB** chair and CEO.

"Your feedback is vital in ensuring **OEB's** **rules** strike the right balance between **consumer** protection and the operational needs of **energy utilities**."

The survey is part of a sweeping **review** of **customer service rules** the board launched in May. It's also consulting with **energy utilities** as part of its **review**.

The board implemented a number of **customer service rules** to protect the interests of consumers about five years ago. It is now conducting a **review** of those **rules** and says the feedback it receives will help shape those **rules** in the future.

The board has had **customer service rules** in place for **electricity utilities** since 2011. **Natural gas utilities** regulated by the board were required to implement and publish residential **customer service** policies a year later. Their policies cover the major areas addressed by the board's **electricity** sector **rules**.

Most of the board's **customer service rules** for **electricity utilities** also apply to unit sub-meter providers, which are companies that provide metering and billing services for some condominiums or apartments that have their own individual meters. The province's recently released long-term **energy plan** has signalled it will give the board **greater** authority over unit sub-meter providers, making feedback more important as the board proceeds with the **review**.

To find out more about **customer service rules** for **electricity utilities** and unit sub-meter providers, go to www.oeb.ca/consumerprotection/rules-electricity-utilities, and for **natural gas utilities**, go to www.oeb.ca/consumer-protection/service-policies-naturalgas-utilities.

Consumers who have a complaint about their **energy utilities** can submit it online at www.oeb.ca/consumer-protection/make-complaint. They can also phone the board (toll-free) at 1-877-632-2727. sud.editorial@sunmedia.ca

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Union Gas rates drop in the New Year

Timmins Times - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Positive

Ad Value: \$243

Reach: 16478 **Page:** A4

The **Ontario Energy Board** has approved a **natural gas rate** decrease for **Union Gas** company customers. This applies to **natural gas** customers in Timmins and Northeastern **Ontario**. The new **rates** will be effective Jan. 1, 2018.

Residential customers who purchase **natural gas** from **Union Gas** will see the following changes: **North East Ontario** a decrease of about \$6 a year, or less than 1 percent of the total **natural gas** bill.

Southern **Ontario** a decrease of about \$28 a year, or about 4 per cent of the total **natural gas** bill.

North West Ontario a decrease of about \$24 a year, or about 2 per cent of the total **natural gas** bill.

These **rate** changes mean the average annual bill for a residential household is between \$783 and \$1,058 depending on location. (South \$783, **North West**: \$946; **North East** \$1,058), said a company news release. To view current **rate** information by postal code, visit uniongas.com/residentialrates.

"Now that winter is here, **Union Gas** customers can expect an affordable and reliable supply of **natural gas** with no fillups needed even in the harshest winter months," remarked **Union Gas** vice president Jim Redford, in the news release.

Customer rates are adjusted quarterly, without markup, to reflect changes in the market price of **natural gas** supplies, said the release. **Union Gas** is committed to improving **energy** efficiency and cost savings through a range of tools and education to help customers manage their **energy** use. For example, the Home Weatherization Program helps incomeeligible customers receive free home **energy** upgrades. This program has helped over 9,700 **Ontario** households save money and **energy**.

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Pre-paid plan morally repugnant

Chatham This Week - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Negative **Page:** A6

The Wynne government's assurance that a proposal by privately controlled **Hydro One** to install pre-paid **electricity** meters for people who are behind in their payments will be voluntary warrants great suspicion.

Hydro One's submission to the **Ontario Energy Board**, seeking regulatory approval for its "collection enhancements" **plan** - buried on Page 2,038 of a 2,076-page document - doesn't specify it will be voluntary.

Rather, it argues that the increasing number of customers in default because of the rising cost of **electricity** justifies installing pre-paid meters as a way of "minimizing **Hydro One** Network's financial risk."

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** says **Hydro One** has assured him the program will be a voluntary method for its customers to control their **electricity** consumption, and in any event may not be approved.

But Thibeault's response came only after New Democrat MPP Peter Tabuns said the **plan** is designed to target the poor.

It's not surprising that **Hydro One** wants to minimize non-payment for its services.

But the idea that senior citizens living on fixed incomes could be forced into paying in advance for **electricity** after the Liberal government's mismanagement drove **electricity** prices in **Ontario** to the highest level in the country, is both morally repugnant and indefensible.

The fear is that people unable to pay their bills in advance will have their **power** cut off - a frightening prospect as we enter into winter - despite **Hydro One's** insistence that won't happen.

Its insistence is small comfort, given the **utility's** appallingly bad and incompetent history of billing customers, as identified by former **Ontario** ombudsman Andre Marin in the era before Premier Kathleen Wynne sold off the province's control of **Hydro One** to the private sector - a move that put the **utility** beyond the scrutiny of the ombudsman.

Marin reported on thousands of complaints from **Hydro One** customers. Many were overbilled and had their bank accounts raided to pay for **electricity** they never used. They were then refused reimbursement by the **utility**, which said it would only apply over-billed amounts to future **hydro** bills.

For that reason alone, the **Ontario Energy Board** should reject this proposal.

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Steep electricity costs cannot go on

Delhi News-Record - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Neutral

Byline: Toby Barrett

Ad Value: \$320

Reach: 662 **Page:** A4

For years, I have been railing against the high cost of **electricity** - full disclosure, I heat with **hydro**, which means I go through 10 to 20 cords of wood a winter. **Ontario** now has the fastest-rising **electricity** costs in **North** America, and the highest **rates** in Canada. This cannot go on.

We as Opposition have proposed measures to lower the average **hydro** bill an additional 12 per cent on top off the existing 25 per cent reduction.

The annual **Hydro** One dividend should be rebated to **ratepayers** instead of using the \$350 million a year for government projects. Conservation programs are worthwhile but they should be funded from general revenues.

Under the **Green Energy Act**, **Feed-in Tariff** (FIT) contracts have led to exorbitant subsidies for generating **power** that is simply not needed or could have been generated in other less expensive ways. We must use every legal and feasible opportunity to renegotiate or exit contracts at every **contract** breach, whether it be missed operational deadlines or permit violations.

Where feasible, we must walk away from committed capacity contracts that have cancellation benefits, like pre-notice to proceed contracts that were struck under the **Green Energy Act**, thus avoiding already scheduled **rate** increases.

The **Smart Meter** Charge is intended to pay for the province's data **centre**, although the auditor general has found that 812,000 of the 4.8 million homes with smart meters have not transmitted any data. This **smart meter** charge - at \$1 billion over budget - should come off immediately.

Ontario ratepayers are now paying for a CEO who makes over \$4 million a year.

That's six times what the old CEO at **Hydro** One used to make. We must reign in exorbitant executive salaries at both **Hydro** One and **OPG**.

The CD Howe Institute charges **Green Energy Act** policies have "had a dramatic impact on **electricity** costs in the province, but they have generated very limited environmental benefits and have had a negligible -to-negative effect on economic growth and employment." As we've been saying since its inception, it's time to repeal the **Green Energy Act**.

Green **energy** is a good thing, but paying unaffordable **rates** for **power** we don't need, and forcing projects on unwilling host municipalities is wrong. As we have said many times in Opposition, we will restore local planning authority over **wind** and **solar** and force government to present the environmental impact of their decisions.

Energy planning decisions in **Ontario** are made by political staff instead of by the **energy** experts at the **Independent Electricity** System Operator (**IESO**). Any future long-term **energy** plans must be brought before a legislative committee to be studied in depth, in **public**, and with the **Minister of Energy** and the expert staff at **IESO** and other core agencies required to give advice or explain their decisions.

Ontario's IESO must be required to report on potential options - rooted in evidence - to reduce the amount of hydroelectric power the province wastes annually.

The Ontario Energy Board must be reformed to reduce red tape, drive costs out of the system, and create a flexible regulatory body.

We should proceed with nuclear refurbishment in Ontario and keep Pickering Nuclear Generating Station open until 2024.

Fourteen years of mismanagement, recklessness, and politically-driven decisions have left families, seniors and business owners paying more. This cannot go on. Toby Barrett is the MPP for Haldimand-Norfolk

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United Way's Dobbyn named to IESO working group

KincardineNews

Kincardine News - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Neutral **Page:** A6

United Way of Bruce-Grey executive director Francesca Dobbyn is the newest member of the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Market Renewal Working Group.

The organization is tasked with providing advice to the IESO as it works with stakeholders to renew the wholesale electricity market in Ontario.

Dobbyn will be representing the interests of the low-volume, or residential, consumer.

"We're delighted to have Ms.

Dobbyn on the Market Renewal Working Group," said Chuck Farmer, Director, Stakeholder and Public Affairs. "The skills and experience she brings will mean she will be an important asset to the work being done by this group, and help ensure that the views of residential consumers are represented as we renew Ontario's electricity market."

The IESO is making changes to the electricity market that will ensure it functions more efficiently and is prepared for the electricity sector of tomorrow. These efforts will help provide a level playing field for all electricity resources, including emerging technologies, to compete and provide electricity when and where it's needed. Market renewal is expected to result in an estimated net benefit of up to \$5.2 billion over 10 years, the majority of which will be realized by consumers.

Dobbyn has been championing the needs of her community as executive director of the Bruce-Grey United Way for more than 13 years.

For some time, she has been working with policy makers to find solutions to high energy costs for Ontarians.

The IESO manages the province's power system so that Ontarians receive power when and where they need it. It plans and prepares for future electricity needs and works with its partners to guide conservation efforts.

For more information visit www.ieso.ca.

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Provincial, municipal politics need cleaning

London Free Press - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Neutral

Ad Value: \$1,726

Reach: 70995 **Page:** N7

Ontarians face two major elections in 2018 - on June 7 to elect a provincial government and on Oct. 22 to elect municipal councils across the province.

What voters are going to have to decide is, do we want more of the same? Some useful questions to ask are: Are you better off now than you were four years ago? Are you happy with the progress being made on major issues such as **public** transit? Do the politicians who represent you spend their time working on things you care about, or they care about? After almost 15 years in **power**, **Ontario's** Liberal government is looking spent, politically corrupt force that has left the province's finances in chaos.

It's so bad two **independent**, non-partisan officers of the legislature - the auditor general and Financial Accountability Office - say the books can't be trusted. That the government of Premier Kathleen Wynne is running a multibillion-dollar deficit, despite claims of a balanced budget.

Wynne's solution to massive **hydro** bills, created in large part by the Liberals' bungling of the **electricity** file, is to kick the problem down the road. Which will result in Ontarians paying billions of dollars more than necessary on their **electricity** bills over the long term, according to auditor general Bonnie Lysyk.

We know Wynne's re-election strategy.

Keep her allies in the big **public** sector unions happy with generous, already signed, labour contracts.

Spend millions of dollars of taxpayers' money on politically partisan government advertising that would not have been allowed, according to Lysyk, under a law Wynne scrapped.

Accuse Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown of being a right-wing ideologue (ridiculous given Brown's election platform) while warning a vote for the NDP's Andrea Horwath is a vote for Brown.

Municipally, the issue isn't just who will win the mayors' races, but what kind of councils will they have? Even more than in provincial elections, the **rules** for running municipally massively favour incumbents.

So without a major voter revolt, doing nothing will mean accepting the status quo.

We need politicians who care about what voters care about: Good **public** services delivered as efficiently as possible.

But we won't get it without a major political housecleaning in 2018.

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Defeating Trudeau

Toronto Sun - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Negative

Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: \$751

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A18

Re "Justin Trudeau's dwindling support is a wake up" (Editorial, Dec. 18): While showing a lack of leadership on major trade deals by wanting to incorporate his progressive agenda in them, running up massive deficits and debts, by pushing ideologically driven projects, bringing in a job-killing national carbon tax, and not supporting the **Energy** East Pipeline to cater to Quebec, Trudeau's support should be dwindling. His top priorities have been campaigning and fundraising, while taking selfies, and legalizing pot. Trudeau enjoys the luxury of having two basically unknown leaders of the Conservatives and NDP. Neither party can seriously challenge its native son in Quebec. If the NDP cannot up its game and erode Liberal support, the Conservatives have zero chance of replacing Trudeau in two years.

LARRY COMEAU

OTTAWA

(Politics moves in cycles and right now the cycle favours Trudeau. It won't last forever, it never does)

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Massive wind project sets milestones

The Sault Star - Thu Dec 28 2017

Tone: Neutral

Ad Value: \$1,371

Reach: 17077 **Page:** A1 / Front

An international **energy** company has secured \$1 billion in financing to build the largest **wind** project in **Ontario** on a reserve south of **Sudbury**.

Pattern Development revealed plans recently to construct a 300-megawatt **wind** project located on Henvey Inlet First Nation Reserve No. 2 on the northeast shore of the Georgian **Bay**.

Pattern Development and Nigig **Power Corporation**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Henvey Inlet First Nation, are joint venture partners in the project.

"This landmark project is a first on many fronts: largest **wind** project in **Ontario**, largest on-reserve **wind** installation in Canada, highest hub heights in **North** America, and the first to develop a First Nation Environmental Stewardship Regime under the First Nations Lands Management Act," Mike Garland, CEO of Pattern Development, said in a release. "We are proud to be partners with Henvey Inlet First Nation. Together we're excited to kick off construction on this historic project that will harness the strong and steady winds blowing across the Georgian **Bay** to create hundreds of local jobs and provide a significant new source of revenue for Henvey Inlet First Nation."

Henvey Inlet First Nation is an Anishinabek community comprised of three separate reserve properties. Henvey Inlet Reserve No. 2 is on the northeast shore of the Georgian Bay, 90 km south of Sudbury and 71 km north of Parry Sound. French River Reserve No. 13 is 11 km north of the Reserve No. 2 and includes Cantin Island. There are about 900 enrolled members of the Robinson-Huron Treaty band, with about 200 of those residing on-reserve.

"This will be the first wind power project on First Nation land, representing an economic turning point in which we are creating a prosperous future," said Chief Wayne McQuabbie of Henvey Inlet First Nation. "This project's watershed permitting and real estate regime sets an example for responsible economic development that protects and preserves First Nation land while also generating revenue for future generations. The project also benefits Magnetawan and Shawanaga First Nations with income and employment opportunities."

Magnetawan and Shawanaga are located near Henvey Inlet.

Nigig Power Corporation is wholly owned by Henvey Inlet First Nation. Nigig was mandated in 2010 to develop the Henvey Inlet Wind project, intended to provide economic benefits for community and the surrounding area. The net proceeds will be managed by a community trust that will conduct extensive consultation to determine the use of funds through a membership referendum.

"We aren't just building a wind farm, we're building an economy," said Ken Noble, President and CEO, Nigig Power Corporation. "The net proceeds over the next two decades of operations will provide the financial resources to transform the local economy, expand all community services, relieve poverty, and create employment."

Henvey Inlet Wind will use 87 Vestas 3.45 MW turbines with a 136-metre rotor diameter and 132-metre hub height. The project has a 20-year power purchase agreement with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) for 100 per cent of its production.

The project will create up to 500 jobs during construction. Once operational, the project will employ about 15 permanent full-time workers and also create more than 100 ongoing indirect jobs.

Once operational in the first half of 2019, Henvey Inlet Wind will generate clean power for approximately 100,000 Ontario homes each year. It is expected to generate lease royalties of more than \$8 million annually for the Henvey Inlet First Nation, in addition to significant income from project distributions.

Henvey Inlet Wind is being jointly developed and will continue to be jointly owned and operated by Pattern Development and Henvey Inlet First Nation. Pattern Development owns a 50 per cent interest in the project, and Nigig Power Corporation owns the other half.

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