

John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: October 25, 2016 8:44 AM
To: Brian Hewson; Christine Long; Debra Hazelton; Elisabeth DaSilva; John Bozzo; Julie Mitchell; June Colman; Karen Nunno; Ken Quesnelle; Lynne Anderson; Martine Band; Mary Anne Aldred; Nancy Mintz; Neil Brodie; Peter Fraser; Rosemarie Leclair; Sarah Branco; Veronica Mendes
Subject: FW: OEB Morning News Summary - Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2016

Good morning,

Here is the OEB morning news summary for Oct. 25.

OVERVIEW

The Canadian Press ran a story on the Independent Electricity System Operator reporting a "previously unrecognized actuarial loss and past service costs" of just over \$80 million. IESO will raise fees it charges the power industry to recover the losses as part of its accumulated deficit charge. This issue will likely get wider coverage today. Progressive Conservative researchers discovered the \$80 million loss in the public accounts and the Opposition plans to raise the issue in the legislature today.

Anthony Furey's latest piece in his 10-part series on the energy sector focuses on the rise of energy poverty and the rally planned by protestors at Queen's Park on Nov. 23. Furey quotes an Ottawa councillor who refers to the OEB, maintaining the decision to hold the Nov. 1 RPP rate steady was politically motivated to appease the Wynne government. Furey is using the angle to try to whip up sentiment among critics. He writes, "There's no doubt this is a political choice in response to all the anger that's out there. And the whole reason Wynne agreed to a rebate on the HST and hydro bills is also because of political agitation. So let's get even more action on this file by keeping the pressure on."

Minister of Economic Development and Growth Brad Duguid had a guest column in the Pembroke Daily Observer, focusing on initiatives the government has brought in to help the manufacturing sector. Among them, he pointed to the eight per cent rebate small businesses will receive, as well as an HST input tax credit some businesses can get. He supports his argument by saying Ontario's electricity prices are competitive with a number of neighbouring jurisdictions in the U.S., including New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

The Windsor Star did a follow-up piece on Union Gas's application to the OEB to expand natural gas to rural and remote areas. A union Gas spokesperson pointed out the utility is hoping the OEB will agree to its proposal for flexibility on regulations that require that a project to pay for itself and not be subsidized by existing customers. Union Gas has proposed a new temporary surcharge to be paid by new and future gas customers in those communities.

FLAGGED FOR DISCUSSION

**The following articles will be discussed by the communications team on its daily issues call.*

- Furey piece
- IESO story

- Brad Duguid column (messaging on rate comparisons)

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