

John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: January 29, 2018 9:27 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning News Summary - Jan. 29, 2018

Good morning,

Today's highlights are three stories about the OEB's community meeting last week for Westario Power's rate application and a short news item on the OEB's decision re: Union Gas rates for natural gas distribution, transmission and storage. OEB mentions highlighted throughout.

[Walkerton Herald-Times: No objections to Westario request to raise electricity rate](#)

- Dave Leonce, vice-president of operations at Westario Power, says the rate increase is needed to maintain infrastructure.
- He agreed that the rate increase didn't appear to be a concern for customers at the meeting
- Quotes one customer as saying she is not seeing any reduction in her hydro bill despite implementing conservation measures, and that she thought Westario Power made a strong case for its rate increase
- Francesca Dobbyn of the Grey Bruce United Way encourages customers to access the Affordability Fund, which provides \$100 million over two years for people who don't qualify for low-income programs
- "The utility has to prove to the OEB that it needs a rate increase," said James Sidlofsky, legal counsel for the OEB, who noted utilities rarely get all they ask for.
- He said that that between 2009 and 2016 the OEB reviewed more than 130 major rate applications and reduced requested rate increases by an average of 40 per cent.
- "Overall, the OEB has kept the annual growth in the average distribution rates close to the rate of inflation over the same period," Sidlofsky, said.
- Includes some material from our matte article, including that reviews typically take between six and nine months to allow the OEB to properly examine all of the evidence

Similar story by same writer in Owen Sound Sun-Times (no link available, story below)

[560 CFOS: OEB Meeting on Proposed Hike by Westario Power](#) (Please note: this story also ran last week on a sister radio station's website and was highlighted last Friday)

- Westario's vice-president of operations says the utility has to prove its case before the OEB in order to continue supplying safe and reliable energy
- OEB legal counsel James Sidlofsky says it will likely take another nine months before a final decision is made
- Story says people who attended the meeting weren't particularly concerned about Westario's proposed rate increase – instead, they raised other issues, such as why they don't see bigger savings when conserving, and making bills easier to read
- Sidlofsky says he wasn't concerned about the lack of questions on the proposed rate increase and was glad to see a good turnout and the discussion that took place
- Several politicians were in attendance, including local Conservative MPP Bill Walker, who said Westario Power explained their rationale for an increase well

[Windsor Square: Union Gas Hiking Rates](#)

- Union Gas has been given permission by the Ontario Energy Board to increase what it charges its customers for natural gas distribution, transmission, and storage.
- Residential customers across the network in southern Ontario will see their bills go up by about \$91 a year. Union Gas said the higher rates are needed to adjust the delivery rates to recover the costs of storing and delivering natural gas to homes and business and adjustments in transportation rates to reflect changes in the cost of transporting the commodity.

[View in Browser](#)

Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Monday, January 29, 2018

Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 14 Results

THE SUN TIMES

Westario increase planned; People at meeting about small increase to pay for system more interested in ways to save on use

Owen Sound Sun Times - Mon Jan 29 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Don Crosby

Ad Value: \$1,055

Reach: 13178 Page: A3

Westario Power customers didn't appear concerned about the utility's application to the **Ontario Energy Board** for a slight raise in its **electricity distribution** ...

WALKERTON HERALD-TIMES

No objections to Westario request to raise electricity rate

Walkerton Herald-Times - Fri Jan 26 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$395

Reach: 2059 Page: 1

WALKERTON, ON - It was supposed to be a meeting to discuss **Westario Power's application** to **Ontario Energy Board** to raise its **electricity distribution rate** by ...



Walkerton OEB Meeting on Proposed Hike by Westario Power 560 CFOS News

www.560cfos.ca - Fri Jan 26 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Westario has applied to hike its electricity distribution rates by \$2.78 a month.

NORTH BAY
NUGGET

City hydro operating under veil of secrecy

North Bay Nugget - Sat Jan 27 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: D. D. Rennick

Ad Value: \$423

Reach: 12127 Page: A4

To the editor: Having been enlightened to the need to address the issue of **North Bay Hydro Distribution** (NBHDL) attempting to purchase **Espanola Hydro**, both the city and NBHDL continue ...



Union Gas Hiking Rates – The Square

www.windsorsquare.ca - Fri Jan 26 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Consumers of natural gas will see their monthly bills climb in February. Union Gas has been given permission by the Ontario Energy Board to increase what it charges its customers for natural gas distribution, transmission, and storage.



A Deal With The Devil

Toronto Sun - Mon Jan 29 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Len Van Den Bosch

Ad Value: \$607

Reach: 171076 Page: A14

In an effort to understand opposing political perspectives I decided to read the Jan. 21 column by **Glenn Thibeault**. In his first paragraph, he states that Progressive Conservatives will say anything to get elected. That was it. ...



Oh Those Liberals

Toronto Sun - Sun Jan 28 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Bill Vernon

Ad Value: \$437

Reach: 222184 Page: A17

Re "Conservative promises don't add up" (**Glenn Thibeault**, Jan. 21): Thank you for giving space to the **minister of energy**. It only goes to show how greasy the provincial Liberals are. Dragging up ...



CTV Montreal: Hydro's 20-year deal | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Sun Jan 28 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)



Hydro-Quebec says U.S. export deal will keep local power rates below inflation | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Jan 27 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

The head of Hydro-Quebec says local consumers won't get any break on their already low electricity rates from a massive export deal with Massachusetts.



Cheap energy drives bitcoin to the badlands

The Globe and Mail - Mon Jan 29 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: IAN BICKIS

Ad Value: \$9,343

Reach: 309154 Page: B8

For most Canadians, Drumheller, Alta., conjures up images of dinosaur bones and ancient fossils, but entrepreneur Sean Clark's expedition in the **northern** Alberta town is focused on a very current obsession: bitcoin. The chief executive ...



Hydro-Québec says U.S. export deal will keep local hikes below inflation

National Post - Sat Jan 27 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Ross Marowits

Ad Value: \$3,903

Reach: 185480 Page: FP13

Quebecers won't get a break on already low hydroelectricity **rates** but a massive export deal with Massachusetts will give the **public utility** flexibility to keep increases below inflation, **Hydro-Québec's** ...



Pay attention to hydrogen fuel; Dealer's Voice

Toronto Star - Sat Jan 27 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Larry Lantz

Ad Value: \$23,082

Reach: 500678 Page: W2

Plenty of media attention is paid to all-**electric** and hybrid vehicles, but not to hydrogen-powered fuel-cell cars. That is about to change, as hydrogen-powered cars could become a viable alternative to the internal combustion engine ...



TransCanada CEO hopeful on LNG, moving forward cautiously on Keystone XL - Red Deer Advocate

www.reddeeradvocate.com - Fri Jan 26 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, January 26, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

he head of TransCanada Corp. said Thursday that he's still optimistic about Canada's liquefied natural gas export prospects and that the company is proceeding very carefully on its controversial Keystone XL pipeline.



Varcoe: Girdling eyes Keystone, blames difficulties for Energy East's demise | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Fri Jan 26 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

TransCanada Corp. walked away from the mammoth Energy East pipeline project due to its "complexity and difficulty."

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

THE SUN TIMES

Westario increase planned; People at meeting about small increase to pay for system more interested in ways to save on use

Owen Sound Sun Times - Mon Jan 29 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Don Crosby

Ad Value: \$1,055

Reach: 13178 Page: A3

Westario Power customers didn't appear concerned about the **utility's application** to the **Ontario Energy Board** for a slight raise in its **electricity distribution rate**, but had other questions at a recent meeting in Walkerton.

The increase amounts to \$2.78 more a month for a typical residential **customer**.

About two dozen people turned out for the community meeting in Walkerton Wednesday to ask the **independent energy sector regulator** and **Westario Power** staff questions about the **application** and provide comments during and question and answer period.

Dave Leonce, vice-president of operations at **Westario Power**, explained that the **rate** increase is needed to maintain the **utility's** infrastructure. He agreed that the **rate** increase doesn't appear to be a concern for customers.

"I think our **application** speaks for itself," Leonce said.

Dian Foxton of Teeswater said she has tried all the conservation measures suggested to lower **power** use, but is not seeing any reduction in her **hydro** bill.

"We're quite in tune with the **time of use rates**, using the dishwasher, dryer and all those high-demand appliances on the low-demand times and not really seeing any major changes; we're done, we're at our limit right now. We can't do any more," she said.

Francesca Dobbyn, executive director of the United Way of Bruce Grey, said there is a new program called the Affordability Fund that for people who do not qualify for low-income programs.

She described it as a program for higher income earners with high **energy** costs.

"They've done the light bulb thing, maybe they need windows, maybe they need insulation. It also works for tenants as well as homeowners," she said.

Dobbyn said capital improvement and depreciation are issues facing **utilities** but, she expects that the **Fair Hydro plan** initiated by the government in 2017 will step in if the increases are **greater** than inflation.

Foxton said she thought **Westario** made a strong case for its **rate** increase.

"They have a product to sell and they have to keep up with infrastructure, that's just a given. They are not talking about increasing wages, or increased compensation, they are talking strictly the replacement... I'm quite comfortable with that. I think it all makes sense. The money has to come from someplace," she said.

The **OEB** has just begun reviewing **Westario Power's rate application**. Reviews typically take between six and nine months to allow the **regulator** time to properly examine all of the evidence in the case. The timeline also provides customers of the **utility**, stakeholders and other interested parties to be heard by the **OEB**.

"The **utility** has to prove to the **OEB** that it needs a **rate** increase," said James Sidlofsky, legal counsel for the **OEB**. He noted **utilities** rarely get all they ask for.

He said that that between 2009 and 2016 the **OEB** reviewed more than 130 major **rate** applications and reduced requested **rate** increases by an average of 40 per cent.

"Overall, the **OEB** has kept the annual growth in the average **distribution rates** close to the **rate** of inflation over the same period," Sidlofsky, said.

He said since 2016, the **OEB** has held more than 30 community meetings. Feedback from community meetings helps inform the **OEB's** final **rate** decision.

The amounts requested by **Westario Power** in its **application** to the **OEB** relate to its **distribution** business and does not reflect any credits or other changes resulting from the **Fair Hydro** Act of 2017.

Westario is an **electricity** provider to 15 communities in Grey, Bruce and **Wellington** counties.

George Bridge, chair of **Westario's** board of directors, said he would like to see a better way to mediate close boundary disputes between **Westario** and **Hydro** One as the two **utilities** expand their coverage areas.

He said it's difficult to get the provincial **utility** to give up territory to **Westario** as the **service** areas grow and neighbours are faced with different **hydro rates**.

"I think it should all come back to what is best for the **consumer**. At one time **Hydro** One may have been the only that had the infrastructure there; I understand they don't want to give it up but at the same token what is best for the **consumer**," he said.

Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP Bill Walker said he thought it was good for people to attend **OEB public** meetings which provide the opportunity to see how the **regulator** works and how these type of applications go forward.

"People in the room were trying to figure out what the **energy** policy is and where that is coming from... there were a lot of questions about how do I save money and what was not being told tonight," he said.

Walker said **hydro** bills aren't going down because the government is buying some **electricity** produced by **wind energy** and **solar** at **rates** higher than the three cents a kilowatt hour from **Niagara** Falls or six cents from Bruce **Power**.

That is policy decision of the government and the government wasn't there to

answer those questions, said Walker said **Westario** was running a pretty tight ship.

"As **Westario** has said in its **rate application** if you want safe reliable, consistent **energy** they have to make sure their infrastructure is in place."

"At the end of the day you have to separate the two components. They are running a **distribution** company, that's their business, most people's concern is how much **energy** they use and the cost to the portion of their bill," said Walker.

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No objections to **Westario** request to raise electricity rate

Walkerton Herald-Times - Fri Jan 26 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$395

Reach: 2059 Page: 1

WALKERTON, ON - It was supposed to be a meeting to discuss **Westario Power's application** to **Ontario Energy Board** to raise its **electricity distribution rate** by \$2.78 a month for the typical residential customers, but that wasn't the main reason people attended the meeting.

If the **rate** increase is approved, it may affect customers for the next five years.

Dave Leonce, vice president of operations at **Westario Power**, explained that **rate** increase was needed to maintain the **utility's** infrastructure. He agreed with others that the **rate** increase doesn't appear to be a concern for customers.

"I think our **application** speaks for itself," Leonce said.

Most of the people who turned out to the Jan. 24 meeting at the Walkerton Legion were more interested in finding out how they could save money on their **hydro** bill.

Diane Foxton of Teeswater was one of the customers that has tried all of the conservation measures and is not seeing any reduction in her **hydro** bill.

"We're quite in tune with the **time of use rates**, using the dishwasher, dryer and all those high demand appliances on the low demand times and not really seeing any major changes; we're done, we're at our limit right now. We can't do any more," she said.

Foxton said she thought **Westario** made a strong case for its **rate** increase.

"They have a product to sell and they have to keep up with infrastructure, that's just a given. They are not talking about increasing wages, or increased compensation, they are talking strictly the replacement ... I'm quite comfortable with that. I think it all makes sense. The money has to come from someplace," she said.

Francesca Dobbyn, executive director of the Grey Bruce United Way, said there is a new program called the Affordability Fund that provides \$100 million over two years for people who do not qualify for low income programs.

She described it as program for high income earners with high **energy** costs.

"They've done the light bulb thing, maybe they need windows, maybe they need insulation. It also works for tenants as well as homeowners," she said.

Dobbyn said capital improvement and depreciation are issues facing **utilities** but she expects that the **Fair Hydro Plan** initiated by the government in 2017 will step in if the increases are **greater** than inflation.

The OEB has just begun reviewing Westario Power's rate application. Reviews typically take between six and nine months to allow the regulator time to properly examine all of the evidence in the case. The timeline also provides customers of the utility, stakeholders and other interested parties to be heard by the OEB.

"The utility has to prove to the OEB that it needs a rate increase," said James Sidlofsky, legal counsel for the OEB, who noted utilities rarely get all they ask for.

He said that that between 2009 and 2016 the OEB reviewed more than 130 major rate applications and reduced requested rate increases by an average of 40 per cent.

"Overall, the OEB has kept the annual growth in the average distribution rates close to the rate of inflation over the same period," Sidlofsky, said.

He said since 2016 the OEB has held more than 30 community meetings. Feedback from community meetings helps inform the OEB's final rate decision.

The amounts requested by Westario Power in its application to the OEB relate to its distribution business and does not reflect any credits or other changes resulting from the Fair Hydro Act of 2017.

George Bridge, chair of Westario Board of directors, said he would like to see a better way to mediate close boundary disputes between Westario and Hydro One as the two utilities expand their coverage areas.

He said it's difficult to get the provincial utility to give up territory to Westario as the service areas grow and neighbours are faced with different hydro rates.

"I think it should all come back to what is best for the consumer. At one time Hydro One may have been the only that had the infrastructure there; I understand they don't want to give it up but at the same token what is best for the consumer," he said.

Bruce Grey Owen Sound MPP Bill Walker, who attended the Jan. 24 meeting, said he thought it was good for people to attend OEB public meetings, which provide the opportunity to see how the regulator works and how these type of applications go forward. But he agreed it wasn't the interest shown by customers who attended the meeting.

"People in the room were trying to figure out what the energy policy is and where that is coming from ... there were a lot of questions about how do I save money and what was not being told tonight," he said.

Walker said the reason hydro bills aren't going down is because the government is buying some electricity produced by wind energy and solar panels for 80 cents kilowatt compared to three cents a kilowatt from Niagara Falls or six cents from Bruce Power.

That is policy decision of the government and the government wasn't there to answer those questions said Walker said Westario was running a pretty tight ship.

"As Westario has said in its rate application if you want safe reliable, consistent energy they have to make sure their infrastructure is in place."

"At the end of the day you have to separate the two components. They are running a distribution company, that's their business, most people's concern is how much energy they use and the cost to the portion of their bill," said Walker.

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Walkerton OEB Meeting on Proposed Hike by Westario Power 560 CFOS News

www.560cfos.ca - Fri Jan 26 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Westario has applied to hike its electricity distribution rates by \$2.78 a month.

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City hydro operating under veil of secrecy

North Bay Nugget - Sat Jan 27 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: D. D. Rennick

Ad Value: \$423

Reach: 12127 Page: A4

To the editor: Having been enlightened to the need to address the issue of **North Bay Hydro Distribution** (NBHDL) attempting to purchase **Espanola Hydro**, both the city and NBHDL continue to fail to provide any evidence of the benefits to **North Bay** taxpayers of this initiative.

In a recent interview with The Nugget, Mayor Al McDonald explained the steps required before any agreement could be finalized, but apparently could not provide any benefits that would occur as a result of any agreement.

North Bay Hydro president and COO Matt Payne indicated the **utility** "will not be providing further comment on the proposed acquisition." This position by an official of NBHDL is an indication of the ongoing culture where owners and customers are a mere distraction to be catered to only for the purposes of **public** relations. Members of the **public** and media have been barred from NBDHL board meetings since its inception, resulting in a veil of secrecy that has been detrimental to taxpayers.

This action has no redeeming features. If any did exist, the city and NBHDL would be, as they are won't to do with minimal encouragement, broadcasting them from the rooftop. The mayor describes the move as positive, but provides no proof. His suggestion that the city should wait until after all the time and effort has been spent on negotiations before stopping the process is without merit.

This company is 100 per cent owned by **North Bay** taxpayers. This company is merely the old **hydro** board formatted as a limited company which had no practical effect on the **service** that the old **hydro** board provided. The sole reason for its existence is the delivery of **electricity** to citizens. All of its funds are supplied by **North Bay** taxpayers. Any funds required for this purchase would come from taxpayers pockets. If allowed to proceed, this action will increase delivery **rates** for **North Bay** customers and provide no benefit regarding the quality of that **service**.

We suggest that the city curtail this project immediately and concentrate on opening up the operations of NBHDL to **public** scrutiny on a regular and continuing basis. D. D. Rennick **North Bay** Taxpayers Association

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Union Gas Hiking Rates – The Square

www.windsorsquare.ca - Fri Jan 26 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Consumers of natural gas will see their monthly bills climb in February. Union Gas has been given permission by the Ontario Energy Board to increase what it charges its customers for natural gas distribution, transmission, and storage.

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A Deal With The Devil

Toronto Sun - Mon Jan 29 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Len Van Den Bosch

Ad Value: \$607

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

In an effort to understand opposing political perspectives I decided to read the Jan. 21 column by **Glenn Thibeault**. In his first paragraph, he states that Progressive Conservatives will say anything to get elected. That was it. I could feel my blood pressure rising. I could read no further. Here is a Liberal MPP who sold his soul to the devil for a cabinet position. He abandoned his NDP voters. This man is the ultimate sleazy hypocrite. It's the Wynne Liberals that will say anything, promise anything, to stay in **power**. Thibeault sold his soul to the devil. It's payback time!

LEN VAN DEN BOSCH

ALLISTON

(It really is incredible what Liberals will say)

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Oh Those Liberals

Toronto Sun - Sun Jan 28 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Bill Vernon

Ad Value: \$437

Reach: 222184 **Page:** A17

Re "Conservative promises don't add up" (**Glenn Thibeault**, Jan. 21): Thank you for giving space to the **minister of energy**. It only goes to show how greasy the provincial Liberals are. Dragging up the ghost of Mike Harris? The Sun and its staff are doing a top-notch job of exposing this crop of stooges. Keep up the pace, and in a short few months we can try to rebuild **Ontario** from the ashes that the Liberals left us.

BILL VERNON (Amen)

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CTV Montreal: Hydro's 20-year deal | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Sun Jan 28 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

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Hydro-Quebec says U.S. export deal will keep local power rates below inflation | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Jan 27 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The head of Hydro-Quebec says local consumers won't get any break on their already low electricity rates from a massive export deal with Massachusetts.

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Cheap energy drives bitcoin to the badlands

The Globe and Mail - Mon Jan 29 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: IAN BICKIS

Ad Value: \$9,343

Reach: 309154 Page: B8

For most Canadians, Drumheller, Alta., conjures up images of dinosaur bones and ancient fossils, but entrepreneur Sean Clark's expedition in the **northern** Alberta town is focused on a very current obsession: bitcoin.

The chief executive of Hut 8 Mining Corp. recently set up his company in the self-proclaimed "dinosaur capital of the world" because its cheap **electricity rates** give him the biggest margins for his bitcoin mining business.

The cryptocurrency boom is pushing **Canadian** companies to join the global rush to find the cheapest sources of **energy** as computing competition drives **power** demands higher, resulting in crypto hotspots cropping up in communities such as Drumheller, Winnipeg and Montreal.

"Because **electricity** is our highest cost, we become **energy** hunters," Mr. Clark said. "We find the cheapest sources of **energy**, put a container down, plug it in and start mining." Access to cheap **energy** is crucial because bitcoin miners around the world are competing to solve the equations that feed into the blockchain that supports the currency.

The more computing **power** miners throw at the system, the better their chances of being rewarded with bitcoin, Mr. Clark said.

Thanks to the abundance of cheap **natural gas** and lower-than-expected demand growth, Alberta's **power** prices are some of the cheapest around. Mr. Clark said he's getting **electricity** at about three cents for a kilowatt hour.

Should prices rise, the company would simply put the 12-metre containers that hold its data centres on 18-wheelers and roll them to the next-cheapest **energy** spot, he said.

The competition in bitcoin mining has increased considerably as it and other cryptocurrencies have seen huge price gains in the past year - trading as high as \$19,000 (U.S.) in December. A typical laptop might be able to make about 40 calculations a second, whereas the 1.1-megawatt containers supplied by Hut 8's partner Bitfury can handle 7.5 quadrillion calculations a second.

The demand for computing and **electrical power** has led smaller, previously pure-play **energy** companies to add cryptocurrency mining to the mix.

Oil and **gas** explorer Iron Bridge Resources Inc., for one, recently announced plans to launch a cryptocurrency mining division that will use excess **energy** from its operations in **northern** Alberta. CEO Rob Colcleugh said the company is planning to pilot a roughly 600 kilowatt crypto-mining operation to make use of the high bitcoin prices and extremely low **natural gas** prices.

"The economics at these levels are pretty astounding," he said.

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Hydro-Québec says U.S. export deal will keep local hikes below inflation

National Post - Sat Jan 27 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Ross Marowits

Ad Value: \$3,903

Reach: 185480 Page: FP13

Quebecers won't get a break on already low hydroelectricity **rates** but a massive export deal with Massachusetts will give the **public utility** flexibility to keep increases below inflation, **Hydro-Québec's** CEO said Friday.

"It relieves some pressure," Eric Martel said. "It gives us a certain flexibility for things to come."

The biggest export **contract** in **Hydro-Québec's** history, run with U.S. partner Eversource **Energy**, would send up to 9.45 terawatt hours of **electricity** per year from Quebec's hydroelectric plants to Massachusetts.

Hydro-Québec promised several years ago to keep domestic **power rates** below inflation and to increase the **utility's** profitability. It kept the **rate** promise over the last three years with annual increases of 0.7 per cent.

The \$10-billion deal over 20 years with the New England state will generate higher returns, he told reporters.

Martel wouldn't provide the **rate** Massachusetts would pay but said it is above the three cents per kilowatt-hour cost to produce and transport the **energy**.

He told reporters Friday that the **contract** will be profitable, largely because **electricity** prices are stable and the firm has the available production capacity.

That's good news for all Quebecers because the government will receive a larger dividend from the Crown **corporation**, added **Energy** Minister Pierre Moreau. "Whenever the profit goes up it's good news for the shareholders, which is the government of Quebec and basically all Quebecers," he added.

The **contract**, expected to be signed in March, could generate up to \$500 million in annual revenues.

In 2016, **Hydro-Québec's** exports represented \$803 million of its \$2.86-billion profit.

The **contract** will also help the **utility** achieve its goal of doubling revenues to about \$27 billion by 2030.

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Pay attention to hydrogen fuel; Dealer's Voice

Toronto Star - Sat Jan 27 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Larry Lantz

Ad Value: \$23,082

Reach: 500678 Page: W2

Plenty of media attention is paid to all-**electric** and **hybrid** vehicles, but not to

hydrogen-powered fuel-cell cars.

That is about to change, as hydrogen-powered cars could become a viable alternative to the internal combustion engine within the next decade.

Hydrogen is the most abundant chemical element in the universe and is used as fuel for rockets, as well as in the food, beverages and pharmaceutical industries. It's now being deployed in cars as an alternative **transportation** fuel in zero-emission vehicles.

Hydrogen is a cleaner alternative to **gasoline**- and **electric**-powered cars, trucks and buses, which explains its appeal to consumers, automakers and governments.

To create **electricity** to **power** a car battery and motor, hydrogen and oxygen are mixed in specially designed plates, which are installed inside a vehicle.

The advantages of hydrogen fuel-cell technology are many: Fuel-cell **electric** vehicles have a driving range of more than 480 kilometres on a single tank of hydrogen fuel; refuelling takes only a few minutes, similar to **gas**-powered engines; water is the only emission; and fuel cells have no moving parts, so there is less maintenance.

Honda, Toyota and Hyundai are leading the charge in hydrogen-powered vehicles. The Honda Clarity, Toyota Mirai and Hyundai Tucson ix35 FCEV are three hydrogen-powered vehicles now commercially sold and leased in California (the Hyundai Tucson ix35 FCEV is the only hydrogen car currently available in Canada).

Other automakers, including General Motors, Volkswagen and BMW, are also pursuing hydrogen fuel-cell technology, either through partnerships or independently.

Another use for hydrogen vehicles could be with autonomous vehicles, operating in highly populated urban areas. The quick refuelling time of a hydrogen-powered autonomous vehicle - compared to the longer Level 2 charging time of an **electric** vehicle - could make the former technology more attractive to consumers. A handful of hydrogen refuelling stations could support an entire fleet of vehicles.

At the recent **Consumer** Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Hyundai announced it will start testing a fuel-cell powered sport **utility** vehicle for Level 4 autonomous driving and aims to bring a model to the market by 2021.

According to a Government of Canada website, "Canada is recognized internationally as a global leader in hydrogen and fuel-cell research, development and early stage commercialization. Canada is a large producer and user of hydrogen and home to a significant concentration of hydrogen and fuel-cell expertise."

In 2016, Vancouver-based Ballard **Power** Systems received an order for five hydrogen **electric** fuel-cell engines to **power** clean **energy** buses in California. The company has collaborated for years with Tier 1 **automotive** manufacturers (Tier 1 companies are direct suppliers to auto manufacturers).

But, moving forward with hydrogen fuel-cell technology will be an uphill battle. The big challenge in Canada is a lack of refuelling stations across the country. Governments and private companies are reluctant to build these stations until they see **greater consumer** demand for hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles. It's a chicken-and-egg situation.

Nevertheless, automakers are forging ahead with their own research and development of this emerging technology. No automaker wants to be left behind in the race to develop hydrogen fuel-cell technology.

For more information about the future of motive **power** and **automotive** technologies, **plan** to attend the 2018 **Canadian** International AutoShow, which takes place at the Metro **Toronto** Convention **Centre**, Feb. 16-25. Buy tickets online at autoshow.ca and save 10 per cent up until the day the show opens, and avoid the lineups. Family admission passes, multi-day passes and group **rates** are available, along with a special online Super Tuesday ticket giving access to the show on Tuesday, Feb. 20 for just \$14.

This column represents the views and values of the TADA. Write to president@tada.ca or go to tada.ca. Larry Lantz is president of the Trillium Automobile Dealers Association and is a new-car dealer in Hanover, Ont.

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TransCanada CEO hopeful on LNG, moving forward cautiously on Keystone XL - Red Deer Advocate

www.reddeeradvocate.com - Fri Jan 26 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

he head of TransCanada Corp. said Thursday that he's still optimistic about Canada's liquefied natural gas export prospects and that the company is proceeding very carefully on its controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

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Varcoe: Girding eyes Keystone, blames difficulties for Energy East's demise | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Fri Jan 26 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

TransCanada Corp. walked away from the mammoth Energy East pipeline project due to its "complexity and difficulty."

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