Rosemarie Leclair

From:	Rosemarie Leclair
Sent:	May 16, 2017 2:26 PM
To:	Neil Brodie
Subject:	Re: Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On May 16, 2017, at 2:14 PM, Neil Brodie <Neil.Brodie@oeb.ca> wrote:

It took a little while but I tracked down the FERC paper (there are two with almost the same title). A hard copy is waiting in your inbox. Or:

FERC Staff Presentation (acts as an Executive Summary)

https://ferc.gov/industries/electric/indus-act/rto/E-1-presentation.pdf

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (the discussion paper on which final document will be based)

https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/comm-meet/2016/111716/E-1.pdf

Mary Anne, did you want a hard copy?

Neil

From: Rosemarie Leclair
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 8:45 AM
To: Neil Brodie
Cc: Mary Anne Aldred
Subject: FW: Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, May 16, 2017

See Globe and Mail piece…can you get me the FERC paper…as well as the York University professors research piece. Thanks

Rosemarie T. Leclair
Chair & CEO
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
Toronto, Ontario
M4P 1E4
Tel: 416-440-7601
Fax: 416-440-7700
Email: rosemarie.leclair@oeb.ca
<image001.jpg>

From: Infomart Newsletters [mailto:Infomart.newsletters@infomart.com]
Sent: May-16-17 7:57 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, May 16, 2017

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 21 Results

Opposition Powers Up; PCs, NDP say they can't back Wynne's hydro rate plan

Ottawa Sun - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: $1,729
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A8

Zap it. Neither Ontario's Progressive Conservatives or New Democrats will support the Liberal government's **hydro rate** plan. Both opposition parties signalled Monday they won't vote for the legislation which would cut ...

NDP, PCs to reject hydro cuts bill; Opposition leaders criticize Liberal legislation for only providing short term relief

Toronto Star - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: $14,260
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A8

The NDP and Progressive Conservatives are banding together in a bid to stop legislation paving the way for a 25-per-cent **hydro rate** cut, saying the Liberal government plan is too expensive. Both parties said Monday they would ...

Horwath says 'no' to Liberal's hydro plan, and will vote against legislation - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says her party will vote against the Liberal government's plan to lower hydro bills, calling it a ploy to buy votes for the next provincial election.

Energy minister says numbers weren't final

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Four days after a bombshell cabinet document was leaked, **Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault was still trying to explain on Monday why numbers in the report were wrong. The cabinet records, released to media last Thursday by the Progressive ...

Horwath vows to vote against Liberal hydro plan | CTV News

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Changes coming to your hydro bills | CTV News

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Liberals' hydro bill plan is 'truly disgusting,' Ontario NDP to vote against legislation | CP24.com

www.cp24.com - Mon May 15 2017
Tone: Neutral
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Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says her party will vote against the Liberal government's plan to lower hydro bills, calling it a ploy to buy votes for the next provincial election.

Pay now or later?; Latest hydro leak from Queen's Park isn't a wallet welcome

Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Angela Dorie

Ad Value: $620
Reach: 15286 **Page:** A2

The latest word from the opposition parties at Queen's Park is that a document has been leaked from the Liberal cabinet detailing how it will be handling the promised 17 per cent reduction in our **hydro** bills this summer. Typically Wynne, ...

NDP to vote against Liberal government's hydro bill plan

Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $517
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Electricity policy is falling behind the energy revolution; Governments have yet to reckon decisively with the framework required to optimize renewable energy and storage and distribution services

The Globe and Mail - Tue May 16 2017
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Ad Value: $18,625
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B4

Professor of environmental studies at York University The large-scale electrification of transportation and other **energy**-based services is widely seen as an important element of efforts to significantly reduce greenhouse **gas** ...

Free the renewable energy market in Ontario | Unpublished Ottawa

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Legislation For Lower Hydro Bills Introduced – The Square

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Wasaga cottage residents ignored in hydro discussion

Wasaga Sun - Mon May 15 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $41
Reach: 8042 **Page:** 1

Can someone from the Town of Wasaga Beach please explain why our part-time, cottage residents have been ignored in regards to the future of Wasaga Distribution. Our part-time residents pay full-time taxes and **hydro** bills. The first ...

No reason to sell Wasaga Hydro, reader says

Wasaga Sun - Mon May 15 2017
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Carbon emissions must be reduced to zero

Peterborough Examiner - Tue May 16 2017
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Byline: Stephen Hill

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Reach: 19693 **Page:** A4

I believe it is reasonable to ask that the editors at the Peterborough Examiner reject letters that present outlandish ideas and misinformation about **climate change**, such as the one from Charles Coon (May 11)? Since you chose ...

Recycle, don't bury nuclear waste

Shoreline Beacon - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Sharen Skelly

Ad Value: $320
Reach: 3769 **Page:** A9

I read the column by James Scongack of Bruce **Power** "Adding some facts into the nuclear waste and DGR discussion" in the Wiarton Echo on May 4 with great interest. As founder of CARGOS (Citizens Against Radioactive Generators in Owen ...

B.C. election turns up volume of pipeline battles

Toronto Star - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Gillian Steward

Ad Value: $14,098
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A13

It's still not clear who will eventually control the reins of government in B.C. Recounts could give the Liberals one more seat and a majority. Or the NDP and the Greens could agree to a majority coalition and edge out the Liberals. This has caused ...

Would PM go 'nuclear' to build a pipeline?

Toronto Star - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Chantal Hébert

Ad Value: $25,463
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A10

The British Columbia legislature that has resulted from last week's election is, for now, evenly split between pipeline partisans and opponents. Hopes - in the pro-pipeline camp - that the balance will shift in its favour once all the votes are ...

NEB needs major overhaul, panel says; Report says regulator, which is resuming its review of Energy East, has 'fundamentally lost the confidence of many Canadians'

The Globe and Mail - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline:SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: $13,750
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B3

The National **Energy** Board faces a "crisis of confidence" and needs to be fundamentally overhauled, including loosening its ties to Calgary, a government-appointed panel concluded in a report released on Monday. The panel report comes as ...

Trudeau-appointed panel recommends scrapping NEB | National Observer

www.nationalobserver.com - Mon May 15 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, May 15, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

A panel of experts appointed by the Trudeau government is recommending the shutdown of Canada's scandal-plagued pipeline regulator.

Forget about Trump, worry about Trudeau

Welland Tribune - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $328
Reach: 13164 **Page:** A4

If Canada's chattering classes can tear themselves away from Donald Trump for a moment, have they noticed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has stopped answering even the most basic and reasonable questions in Parliament?

Questions such as how many ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Opposition Powers Up; PCs, NDP say they can't back Wynne's hydro rate plan

Ottawa Sun - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: $1,729
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A8

Zap it. Neither Ontario's Progressive Conservatives or New Democrats will support the Liberal government's **hydro rate** plan.

Both opposition parties signalled Monday they won't vote for the legislation which would cut **hydro rates** by 25%. To achieve the **rate** reduction, the government will add billions in debt over the next decade.

NDP leader Andrea Horwath was first out of the gate, declaring her party would not support the government bill.

"I think people know one way or another they would pay the price," she said. "They would pay the price for (Premier) Kathleen Wynne's latest move on **hydro**. But the price she's expecting us to pay with this **hydro** plan is truly disturbing."

Wynne announced a plan in March to cut **hydro rates** by 17% after months of outrage over increasing **electricity** costs. The cut amounts to 25% if a previous 8% **HST rebate** is included.

A document - leaked last week - says that between 2022 and 2027, Ontario residents will be hit by a 6.5% jump annually each year, followed by a whopping 10.5% increase in 2028.

Horwath said the plan is nothing but a election ploy.

"The cabinet leak makes it clear this is a $40-billion attempt to buy an election," she said.

Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown also said his party wouldn't support the government plan. He called it an "election gimmick" that doesn't address the root cause that drives **hydro rates** skyward.

"In no world can I support a plan that's going to cause vast new amounts of debt," he said. "Ontarians are going to pay more. It's going to cost us more. It's just another example of every time the Liberals touch **hydro** we pay more."

The government hopes to have the **hydro rate** cut passed before the house rises for its summer break on June 1. If that happens, the **rate** cut could be passed on to customers on or before July 1.

Premier Wynne defended the plan during question period Monday, saying it will deliver needed "fairness." She also suggested the documents which were leaked to the Tories last week were not accurate. sjeffords@postmedia.com

Back to Top

NDP, PCs to reject hydro cuts bill; Opposition leaders criticize Liberal legislation for only providing short term relief

Toronto Star - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: $14,260
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A8

The NDP and Progressive Conservatives are banding together in a bid to stop legislation paving the way for a 25-per-cent **hydro rate** cut, saying the Liberal government plan is too expensive.

Both parties said Monday they would vote against the bill because the $25 billion in interest costs over the next 30 years is, in NDP Leader Andrea Horwath's words, "truly disgusting."

"It's a shell game, it's a farce," said Conservative Leader Patrick Brown, whose party revealed confidential cabinet documents last week showing prices rising sharply again in the next five to 10 years and beyond.

"We can never support a plan that's going to result in more debt and higher **hydro rates**."

While the Liberals intend to use their majority to pass the bill before the Legislature rises for its summer recess on June 1, **Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault accused the opposition parties of standing in the way of **rate** relief for homeowners, farmers and small businesses.

"There are significant savings happening for families," he told reporters.

The legislation, introduced last Thursday, would enable the final chunk of the 25-per-cent **rate** cut, cut delivery charges for rural customers and expand the Ontario **Electricity** Support Program to cover more low-income seniors with a 50-per-cent increase in subsidies, for example.

"They're not supporting that," Thibeault said of the opposition parties.

Horwath accused the Liberals, who are hoping to improve their fortunes in the polls with a year until the next election campaign, of trying to buy people's votes with their own money and disguise further **rate** increases.

"People know, one way or another, they would pay the price," Horwath said, describing the Liberal plan as "relief for a couple of years, then, boom!"

The first part of the 25 per cent, an 8-per-cent instant **rebate** of the provincial portion of the **HST**, is already in place, having taken effect in January. The second part, a 9-per-cent reduction imposed by the price-setting **Ontario Energy Board**, kicked in May 1.

The final 8 per cent would take effect after the legislation is passed, giving the **energy** board 15 days to order the reduction in **rates**.

Thibeault said the government is aiming to have the full 25 per cent in place by July 1.

"It technically could be sooner … I can't pre-judge how we're going to get this legislation through the house."

Thibeault tabled the legislation last Thursday to set up the borrowing of billions to amortize the cost of improvements to the **hydro** system over the last decade - including the closure of coal-fired plants and a shift to more expensive **renewable energy** - over the next 30 years to give people a break on **rates** now. The government has compared it to extending a mortgage to have lower payments.

Both the NDP and Progressive Conservatives have charged the Liberal plan does nothing to lower the structural causes of high **electricity** prices.

Horwath said she's not worried about the government painting her New

Democrats as opposed to the **rate** cut, saying, "The Liberals can play whatever political games they want."

The **energy** minister has dismissed the leaked cabinet documents, obtained by the Conservatives and first reported here, as "outdated" and denied the government plans to raise **hydro rates** 10.5 per cent in 2028, when average monthly bills are forecast to hit $215.'

When both Thibeault and Premier Kathleen Wynne said their plan wasn't based on those documents, Brown challenged the Liberals to show "a new document with **rates** going down."

The **energy** minister said more detailed forecasts on **rates** will come in a few months with the release of the government's long-term **energy** plan, as officials work to cut more and more costs in the **electricity** system.

According to the leaked documents, after **rates** fall this year, they will rise by no more than 2 per cent in the four following years before starting to rise at a **rate** of 6.5 per cent annually.

Horwath has promised to cut **hydro rates** between 17 and 30 per cent if she wins the June 7, 2018, provincial election.

The Conservatives have not unveiled a plan for **hydro** costs.

"The party opposite has no idea what to do with the **energy** file," Thibeault shot at Brown during question period.

The Conservatives are having a pre-election policy convention in November.

Back to Top

Horwath says 'no' to Liberal's hydro plan, and will vote against legislation - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says her party will vote against the Liberal government's plan to lower hydro bills, calling it a ploy to buy votes for the next provincial election.

Back to Top

Energy minister says numbers weren't final

Ottawa Sun - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $912
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A8

Four days after a bombshell cabinet document was leaked, **Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault was still trying to explain on Monday why numbers in the report were wrong.

The cabinet records, released to media last Thursday by the Progressive Conservatives, show that **hydro rates** will soar by more than 50% after the Liberal plan to cap annual increases ends in 2022.

Initially, Thibeault said he could not verify the contents of the memo. Later Thursday, in a statement he acknowledged the figures were part of a draft of earlier plans as the Liberals developed the **hydro rate** cut.

On Monday, Thibeault wouldn't say how the figures in the cabinet document differ from those in the plan now before MPPs.

"We still don't have those final numbers completed," he said. "It's the long-term **energy** plan that actually dictates where those numbers are going to go."

Thibeault said the real figures on **hydro** price projections will be released in the government's Long-term **Energy** Plan, expected later this summer.

"The documents that you saw last week were one iteration of many cabinet documents that were talking about projections," he said.

- Shawn Jeffords

Back to Top

Horwath vows to vote against Liberal hydro plan | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral

Back to Top

Changes coming to your hydro bills | CTV News

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Back to Top

Liberals' hydro bill plan is 'truly disgusting,' Ontario NDP to vote against legislation | CP24.com

www.cp24.com - Mon May 15 2017
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Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says her party will vote against the Liberal government's plan to lower hydro bills, calling it a ploy to buy votes for the next provincial election.

Back to Top

STANDARD FREEHOLDER

Pay now or later?; Latest hydro leak from Queen's Park isn't a wallet welcome

Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Angela Dorie

Ad Value: $620
Reach: 15286 **Page:** A2

The latest word from the opposition parties at Queen's Park is that a document has been leaked from the Liberal cabinet detailing how it will be handling the promised 17 per cent reduction in our **hydro** bills this summer.

Typically Wynne, it is not as great for us, the consumer, as it sounds.

It all started with Premier Kathleen Wynne suddenly hearing some Ontarians were having trouble paying their **hydro** bills. It upset her greatly, so she made changes - removing the eight per cent provincial portion of the **HST** from **electricity** bills effective Jan. 1.

It was more likely she saw her popularity polls - presently around 11 per cent - and, realizing 2018 is an election year, knew drastic action was necessary to ensure re-election.

Next, she promised a 17 per cent reduction in **electricity** costs this summer for a grand total of a 25 per cent reduction over 10 years.

Those of us who own businesses immediately became suspicious.

Unless the Liberals have been pocketing 25 per cent of our **hydro** bills, there was no way this could be done. Estimates are it could cost up to $28 billion!

Someone always has to pay and no surprise, it is you and I- and all our current children as well as most of those born in the next 10 years! In fact, anyone who will be paying for **electricity** from 2027 to 2047 will pay for what we used.

This leaked document claims a new entity, a department or division, is to be formed under the control of **Ontario Power Generation** (**OPG**). Its sole purpose is to access funds through loans to compensate for what we won't be paying for 10 years.

Then, we will be charged a "Clean **Energy** Adjustment" - a tax - on our **hydro** bill each month for 20 years to repay these loans plus interest. The cost of operating this new entity will probably be included as well! In other words, from 2027 to 2047, we will be repaying what we didn't pay from 2017 to 2027, plus interest plus costs.

Maybe the Liberals should just leave it as is? The Liberals claim this leaked document is wrong but it makes sense to many. It sounds like so many other backroom deals which have been hashed out to look good now and have us pay later. We, the consumers /taxpayers, always come out on the bad side.

Here is hoping that the Conservatives and NDP are wrong about this plan. But there again, if this is not what is planned, it can only be something worse involving our wallets.

Maybe the plan is to sell all of **Hydro** One to pay off these loans and force us to pay what the new owners want.

Someone always has to pay one way or another.

Back to Top

NDP to vote against Liberal government's hydro bill plan

STANDARD FREEHOLDER

Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
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Reach: 15286 **Page:** A7

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says her party will vote against the Liberal government's plan to lower **hydro** bills, calling it a ploy to buy votes for the next provincial election.

Under legislation tabled last week, Ontarians will see lowered **hydro** bills for the next 10 years before paying higher costs for the following 20 years.

Horwath says Ontarians can't afford the plan.

She cited a Liberal cabinet document leaked to the Progressive Conservatives last week, which contains a projection that **electricity** bills will drop this year, rise slightly for four years while increases are limited to the **rate** of inflation, and then rise quickly after that.

Premier Kathleen Wynne says the figures in that document are out of date, but the government isn't ready to release updated numbers.

Horwath is accusing the government of hiding information from the public and is calling on the government to release all of its projections about how much the **hydro** plan will cost in the long run.

Horwath also says the government is giving the public no time to give feedback on the plan as it's attempting to get the legislation passed before the House rises for the summer.

"I think people knew that, one way or another, they'd pay the prices for Premier Wynne's latest move on **hydro**, but the costs Wynne is expecting us all to take on with this plan is truly disgusting," Horwath said.

The **hydro** legislation will lower **time-of-use** **rates** by removing from bills a portion of the global adjustment, a charge consumers pay for above-market **rates** to **power** producers. For the next 10 years, a new entity overseen by

Ontario Power Generation will take on debt to pay that difference.

Then, the cost of paying back that debt with interest - which the government says will be up to $28 billion - will go back onto ratepayers'bills for the next 20 years as a "Clean Energy Adjustment."

Horwath acknowledged that the Liberal majority government can implement their plan, even with her party and the Progressive Conservatives opposed.

Back to Top

Electricity policy is falling behind the energy revolution; Governments have yet to reckon decisively with the framework required to optimize renewable energy and storage and distribution services

The Globe and Mail - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline:MARK WINFIELD

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Reach: 309154 **Page:** B4

Professor of environmental studies at York University

The large-scale electrification of transportation and other energy-based services is widely seen as an important element of efforts to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by the combustion of fossil fuels. Major reductions in those emissions will be essential to meeting the requirements of the Paris Agreement on climate change, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has termed "dangerous."

The focus on electrification has emerged at a time of three major technological revolutions in the electricity industry.

Over the past decade, we have witnessed dramatic declines in the costs of renewable-energy technologies, particularly wind, solar photovoltaic (PV) and thermal technologies, while the performance of these technologies has been improving.

Similar developments have been occurring around energystorage technologies. Batteries, mechanical systems such as compressed air and flywheels, as well thermal and gas-based technologies have seen significant breakthroughs in cost and technological performance.

Finally, the emergence of "smart" electricity grids, through the digitization of communications and control systems, has the potential to lead to more adaptive and resilient electricity systems. Such systems will be better able to co-ordinate and integrate smaller-scale and geographically distributed energygeneration and storage technologies into reliable, grid-scale resources.

These three developments have the potential to make energy systems more environmentally and economically sustainable than is currently the case. They will be able to make better use of renewable low-carbon energy sources, be more reliable and resilient through the greater use of distributed and technologically diverse energy sources, have greater ability to adapt to changing circumstances and needs and have the potential to offer greater control to consumers.

While the technological elements needed to realize this potential are coming together rapidly, the required policy and institutional arrangements are evolving much more slowly. The full attainment of the sustainable-energy potential of these developments will require new business models for utilities, and the recognition of new types of actors and service providers in energy markets and systems.

A key focus of discussions in the United States and Europe around these developments has been the issue of aggregation services. This involves the coordination and integration of distributed energy production and storage resources, such as rooftop **solar**-PV systems, household or commercial-building scale **energy**-storage systems, such as Tesla Powerwalls, and **electric** vehicles with substantial battery storage capacity, into useful resources at the local, regional and national levels.

There are several dimensions to the creation of these sorts of "virtual **power** plants." Information and communications technologies are needed to monitor, control and co-ordinate distributed resources. Technological developments in these areas are moving rapidly. The questions of who will provide these integration and co-ordination services, and how they will be paid to provide them, are emerging as significant challenges. Except for limited purposes such as peakdemand shaving, distributed resource-aggregation functions fall outside of the current rules for **electricity** systems in North America and Europe.

There are generally no structures for the offering of bundles of services as **energy** suppliers, managing and co-ordinating cumulative output of distributed generation and storage when more **electricity** is needed, conservation and demand management resources, reducing grid demand by relying on distributed generating and storage capacity and ancillary services such as grid-frequency regulation.

The issue of the role of aggregation services is now moving to the forefront of the future design of **electricity** markets and systems. A paper issued by the U.S. Federal **Energy** Regulatory Commission (FERC) just before the arrival of the Trump administration proposed that aggregators of distributed generation and storage resources be treated as a new form of actor in **electricity** markets, with appropriate mechanisms to pay for their services. Similar proposals are being discussed in Germany as part of that country's Energiewende or **energy** transition.

Here in Canada, Ontario's local **hydro** companies (also known as local distribution companies or LDCs), have proposed that they be permitted to function as "fully integrated network orchestrators" in relation to these kinds of activities, something which the current **electricitymarket** rules in Ontario do not fully enable them to do. Some of Ontario's LDCs have been in the forefront of efforts to integrate and co-ordinate householdlevel **renewable-energy** generation and **energy**-storage technologies.

A technological revolution in **energy** systems is now under way. How governments respond to these developments will have a major impact on the shape of future **energy** systems, and their role in enabling us to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Research for this article was conducted as part of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)-funded Network on Storage Technology (NEST) project.

Back to Top

Free the renewable energy market in Ontario | Unpublished Ottawa

unpublishedottawa.com - Mon May 15 2017
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Back to Top

Wasaga cottage residents ignored in hydro discussion

Wasaga Sun - Mon May 15 2017
Tone: Neutral
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Reach: 8042 **Page:** 1

Can someone from the Town of Wasaga Beach please explain why our part-time, cottage residents have been ignored in regards to the future of Wasaga Distribution. Our part-time residents pay full-time taxes and **hydro** bills.

The first public meeting on this issue was held on Oct. 25, 2016. Traditionally, our cottage friends close up shop on the Thanksgiving weekend. There was no mention in the community newsletter, sent out with the tax bills. This newsletter was one page, front and back, and chock full of information, none of which pertained to the most contentious issue in the history of our town. There was nothing sent out in any one of our monthly **hydro** bills.

The upcoming public information session is on Wednesday, May 24, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Hardly conducive to someone who works for a living and would then have to travel to get here.

The bulk of our cottage neighbours will be returning on the Victoria Day weekend. Many of them won't have a clue what is going on. Why has this council not made any attempt to inform them?

Linda Benson, Wasaga Beach

Back to Top

No reason to sell Wasaga Hydro, reader says

Wasaga Sun - Mon May 15 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $34
Reach: 8042 **Page:** 1

In 2016, Geosands Inc. parent company of Wasaga Distribution Inc. paid the Town of Wasaga Beach a $400,000 dividend, a $135,826 interest payment, increased the town's equity in the utility by $519,168 plus donated to charities on behalf of the town.

Wasaga Distribution is well run, not in debt and carries a healthy surplus. The Town of Wasaga Beach is well run, not in debt and carries healthy reserves which, according to Mayor Smith at the council meeting on April 25, increased by in 2016 by $7.2 million.

Council hired a lawyer to see what should be done with our utility. If the mayor and council do decide to sell Wasaga **Hydro**, they will net out maybe $21 to $24 million. It is obvious the town does not need the money. So, the good people of Wasaga Beach would like to know … please tell us what in the world are you going to do with the money?

Morley Bercovitch, Wasaga Beach

Back to Top

Carbon emissions must be reduced to zero

Peterborough Examiner - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Stephen Hill

Ad Value: $440
Reach: 19693 **Page:** A4

I believe it is reasonable to ask that the editors at the Peterborough Examiner reject letters that present outlandish ideas and misinformation about **climate** change, such as the one from Charles Coon (May 11)? Since you chose to publish a letter that confuses well-established scientific knowledge, let me correct the record. To recap: Mr. Coons claim is that the small amount of carbon dioxide created by humans is so inconsequential that it should have no effect. Mr. Coon is correct that the amount of carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere by humans is very small relative to the vast amounts from natural sources. Indeed, it wasn't until the 1950s that scientists began to measure the amount of carbon in the atmosphere and showed that its concentration was increasing by a few parts per million each year because of human activities. Concentrations are now 405 parts per million compared with about 305 in 1958.

While this might seem like a small increase, carbon dioxide is a critical **gas** in regulating the global **climate**, through the natural greenhouse effect (which we've understood since the 1800s). So small changes are incredibly important.

Ninety-seven per cent of active **climate** scientists agree that humans have already changed the **climate** and that we're in store for more.

We need to reduce human emissions of carbon dioxide to almost zero, by moving away from coal, oil and **natural gas**, to stop concentrations in the atmosphere from rising. The only debate is how quickly we need to act as it determines the degree of **climate** change that we're willing to accept.

The global political community has agreed that going above 450 parts per million (a warming of roughly 2 degrees Celsius) would be unsafe and cause severe and irreversible changes to the **climate**. Every day we decide to do nothing is another day wasted. Stephen Hill Homewood Ave.

Back to Top

Recycle, don't bury nuclear waste

Shoreline Beacon

Shoreline Beacon - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Sharen Skelly

Ad Value: $320
Reach: 3769 **Page:** A9

I read the column by James Scongack of Bruce **Power** "Adding some facts into the nuclear waste and DGR discussion" in the Wiarton Echo on May 4 with great interest. As founder of CARGOS (Citizens Against Radioactive Generators in Owen Sound) and spokesperson for Huron Grey Bruce Citizens Committee on Nuclear Waste I would like to respond.

Nuclear **power** may appear to be low cost however the risks due to the production of nuclear **power** and the handling of waste are high. There are also potential risks in the event of an unplanned accident. None of this is low cost.

In my view, Nuclear **power** is not clean **power**. The amount of waste produced may not be as extensive but it is far more harmful and the effects longer lasting than coal or other types of **energy**.

Nuclear waste is categorized as low, intermediate and high level. For the last 40 or so years, the low-and intermediate-level waste from Darlington and Pickering nuclear facilities has been transported by truck to the Waste Management facility near Kincardine.

Most of the low-level waste is incinerated. The intermediate-level waste is stored above ground encased in concrete or stored in large steel storage units.

The high-level waste from all facilities is stored on site. The rods must cool in pools for several years before being encased in lead canisters and then sealed. They are monitored as per the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

I have had the privilege to tour the Waste Management Facility near Kincardine.

The sight of all this radioactive waste encased in concrete or stored in the units is overwhelming. The incineration process is complex. As I visited the facility where the high-level waste is stored I felt a sense of unease at the notion that all this material was so close to the residents of Grey and Bruce although it is well monitored and guarded 24 hours per day.

The process of finding a host site for the DGR has been controversial. The science has been presented and has been contested. Opponents do not feel that a site so close to the Great Lakes is the best place for storage of nuclear materials.

First Nations communities maintain that this is their territory and theirs to make final determinations about. Other groups including the Bluewater Coalition believe that this may pose a threat to the drinking water source for millions of people. They think another location may be better suited.

In my opinion this is not a matter of finding a better location for the DGR. I think the solution is to simply stop creating nuclear waste and find a way to recycle the waste we currently have. Capture **wind** and **solar energy** more efficiently (improve on **wind turbine** technology).

Following presentations at public hearings I have had discussions with professionals in the nuclear industry.

There are some that have been suggesting this idea over the years but it has not been well received. We have the greatest minds in **nuclear energy** here in Bruce County. Jobs won't be lost they will just be redistributed. We can set an example for the rest of the world. We need to collaborate to find solutions. We are stewards of our environment for this generation and generations to come. It is our responsibility.

Sharen Skelly

Owen Sound

Back to Top

B.C. election turns up volume of pipeline battles

Toronto Star - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Gillian Steward

Ad Value: $14,098
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A13

It's still not clear who will eventually control the reins of government in B.C. Recounts could give the Liberals one more seat and a majority. Or the NDP and the Greens could agree to a majority coalition and edge out the Liberals.

This has caused some to speculate that whatever the outcome, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley will be the biggest loser because the Trans Mountain oil pipeline, one of her pet projects, is now in jeopardy. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau could also end up with egg on his face because he has also backed that pipeline, despite fierce opposition in the lower mainland and on the coast.

Both the NDP and the Greens have clearly stated they want to stop the pipeline no matter what the federal and Alberta governments want. And with half of B.C. voters backing parties that are opposed to it, how could the controversial pipeline expansion, which would triple delivery of diluted bitumen from Alberta to B.C.'s southern coast to be poured into huge tankers, possibly proceed as planned?

There's no question the Trudeau government's green light for the $7.4-billion Trans Mountain project, which would be built and maintained by Kinder Morgan, gave Notley's NDP government a tangible and badly needed victory.

It signalled that the NDP was indeed capable of negotiating gains for Alberta's petroleum based-economy, especially at a time when low oil prices had left that economy in the dumps and the industry believed the NDP would likely make things worse.

But the negotiations involved levying a tax on carbon consumption and putting a cap on oilsands emissions in order to prove Alberta was willing to clean up its act, if that's what it took to get pipeline approvals.

Those moves cost Notley politically but at least she could brag that Alberta got the pipeline it wanted.

So if the Trans Mountain project is in jeopardy, does that mean Notley will now have to admit defeat? And what about Trudeau? Does he risk losing B.C. seats if he insists on overruling a B.C. government that doesn't want the pipeline?

Not necessarily. A lot has changed since the Trudeau government gave the go ahead for Trans Mountain in November. For one thing, Donald Trump is now president of the United States. Shortly after he moved into the Oval Office, Trump signed an executive permit for construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which, when completed, would ship diluted bitumen from northern Alberta to refineries on the Gulf of Mexico.

After years of protests and stalling, former U.S. president Barack Obama had nixed that pipeline on the grounds it would encourage further oilsands development, increasing carbon emissions and making it more difficult to rein in **climate** change.

A grinning Russ Girling, the president of Calgary-based TransCanada, the company that will build the Keystone XL pipeline, was standing next to Trump when he ceremoniously signed the new order in March.

Keystone XL wasn't an option when Trans Mountain got the go-ahead from the federal government in November. Now it is. And that may make all the difference for Notley and Trudeau.

It appears Kinder Morgan may have the most to lose if the Trans Mountain pipeline is stalled or stopped in B.C., not Rachel Notley or Justin Trudeau.

Something else has changed, too. As a consequence of new oil pipeline capacity in the U.S., the gap between the lower price for Canadian heavy oil delivered to Gulf Coast refineries and the higher price for lighter U.S. crude oils has narrowed significantly.

The price gap had been a strong argument for shipping oil to Canada's coasts so it could be exported to Asia, where it would fetch a better price than in the U.S. Now that argument is weaker, which means both Trans Mountain and the **Energy** East pipeline, which would ship oil to Canada's East Coast, might not be worth the trouble.

In the end, B.C.'s election outcome could seriously shake up pipeline politics. But then again, when has anything to do with an oil pipeline these days been predictable?

Gillian Steward is a Calgary writer and former managing editor of the Calgary Herald. Her column appears every other week. gsteward@telus.net

Back to Top

Would PM go 'nuclear' to build a pipeline?

Toronto Star - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Chantal Hébert

Ad Value: $25,463
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A10

The British Columbia legislature that has resulted from last week's election is, for now, evenly split between pipeline partisans and opponents. Hopes - in the pro-pipeline camp - that the balance will shift in its favour once all the votes are counted this month should be tempered by the notion that a razor-thin majority is not synonymous with legitimacy.

In the popular vote, there is no standoff between the pipeline-friendly Liberals and the New Democrats and Greens who sit on the other side of the divide. Last Tuesday, 60 per cent of B.C. voters supported parties that oppose the current plan to bring more bitumen oil to the Pacific coast via an expanded Trans Mountain pipeline.

The Kinder Morgan project was hardly the only issue on the ballot. But if there are voters who backed a party notwithstanding its stance on pipelines, those are, on balance, more likely to be found among supporters of the Liberals than in the Green or NDP constituencies.

This was the second time in as many elections that a pro-pipeline party took losses in B.C. in general and at the ground zero of the Trans Mountain debate that is the province's largest metropolitan area.

The last federal election resulted in the Conservatives' worst B.C. showing in three decades. Stephen Harper's party went from 45 per cent of the vote in 2011 to 30 per cent in 2015. It lost 11 seats and shed 150,000 B.C. supporters. At a minimum, the latest election results will embolden opponents of Kinder Morgan's plan and curtail the capacity of its proponents in Victoria to promote it.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau gave the project his blessing last fall. Now, when it comes to making a case for it in B.C., he is essentially on his own.

On Friday, Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr maintained that the federal government's support for the Trans Mountain project remained unwavering. He made that statement in Calgary, where post-election concerns about the future of the plan are rampant.

Technically, the fate of Kinder Morgan's plan did not hang in the balance of the B.C. vote, for no provincial government has a veto on interprovincial pipelines. In practice though, the provinces do have control over many of the attending infrastructures that are essential to the completion of such projects. They also have the means to channel their opposition through legal challenges.

In Ontario in the 1970s, Bill Davis's Tory government killed federal plans to locate a new international airport in Pickering by refusing to build the roads and the sewer system the new facilities would have required.

The larger question in light of the B.C. vote, but also of simmering opposition in Quebec and in parts of Ontario to TransCanada's plan to connect Alberta to the Atlantic Coast via the **Energy** East pipeline, is whether the notion of securing a so-called social licence for such projects is a pipe dream and, if so, whether there is anything Trudeau can do about it.

On that score, some pro-pipeline advocates are urging the prime minister to use the declaratory **power** vested in the federal government to override any obstruction to Canada's goal of getting more bitumen oil to tidewater via pipelines.

The Constitution allows Parliament to declare a work to be for "the general advantage of Canada" and to take control over all physical installations necessary to construct and maintain it.

The declaratory **power** was used 470 times in Canada's history, mostly but not exclusively to facilitate the building of the railway. But more than half-a-century has elapsed since it was last invoked, in 1961.

Even the most hardened pro-pipeline proponent would have to concede that over that period there has been a sea change in judicial and societal attitudes to environmental considerations and indigenous rights.

The federal declaratory **power** happens to never have been used since Quebec's Quiet Revolution. There is more than a coincidence at play here.

No past or present party in the National Assembly would support a federal government in such an endeavour.

In political terms, dusting off the declaratory **power** to force a pipeline through B.C. and eventually through Quebec if, and when, the **Energy** East pipeline secures regulatory approval is the nuclear option.

It could be done, but not without litigation and almost certainly not without triggering a constitutional crisis.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Gillian Steward: B.C. election turns up volume of pipeline battle, A13

Back to Top

NEB needs major overhaul, panel says; Report says regulator, which is resuming its review of Energy East, has 'fundamentally lost the confidence of many Canadians'

The Globe and Mail - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline:SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: $13,750
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B3

The National **Energy** Board faces a "crisis of confidence" and needs to be fundamentally overhauled, including loosening its ties to Calgary, a government-appointed panel concluded in a report released on Monday.

The panel report comes as the NEB resumes its review of the $15billion **Energy** East pipeline project, which was derailed over complaints of bias after board members met privately with stakeholders in Quebec, including former premier Jean Charest, who was then on a **contract** as a consultant for TransCanada Corp.

Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr welcomed the report, but said the government would consult further with Canadians before introducing reforms next fall to overhaul how Ottawa regulates the **energy** industry and assesses proposed projects including mines, **power**-transmission lines and pipelines. He defended the government decision to review TransCanada's **Energy** East proposal under the National **Energy** Board regime the Conservative government put in place in 2012.

"We established interim principles [in January, 2016] to govern those projects already under review; it's the simple test of fairness," he said. "Those principles include not going back to square one" for projects that had already filed an application. However, the government added some extra consultations, notably with Indigenous communities.

As he looks to reverse changes the Conservatives made five years ago, Mr. Carr said the new regime would govern how Canada develops its resource sector "for a generation to come," although the oil industry is not expected to need new crude-oil pipeline capacity if currently proposed projects proceed.

In the report released on Monday, the five-member advisory panel concluded that the National **Energy** Board "has fundamentally lost the confidence of many Canadians."

It recommends the NEB be overhauled and renamed the Canadian **Energy** Transmission Commission (CETC), with appointments from a broader cross-section of society and a board of directors based in Ottawa. The main office would remain in Calgary, but board members would no longer be required to live there, and satellite offices would be established throughout the country.

"We heard that Canadians have serious concerns that the NEB has been 'captured' by the oil and **gas** industry, with many Board members who come from the industry that the NEB regulates, and who - at the very least appear to - have an innate bias toward that industry," the panel report said.

It argued the NEB's pipeline assessments have become a forum in which Canadians debate the tradeoff between oil and **gas** development and environmental issues such as **climate** change, and not simply the effects of the project and technical requirements. To deal with that, the panel suggests all major proposals undergo a two-step approval process: one year to determine whether it is in the national interest and consistent with government policy, and then two years to conclude an environmental assessment.

Panel member Brenda Kenney said the proponents and other stakeholders would benefit from having government determine - after a public review - whether a project is broadly consistent with Canada's national interest before they spend time and money on a detailed assessment. Ms. Kenney is former president of the Canadian **Energy** Pipeline Association, an industry lobby group.

The advisory group also proposed a far more significant role for Indigenous communities in project approvals, including the establishment of an Indigenous major projects office that would provide support for communities to engage in the regulatory process.

Back to Top

Trudeau-appointed panel recommends scrapping NEB | National Observer

www.nationalobserver.com - Mon May 15 2017
Tone: Neutral

A panel of experts appointed by the Trudeau government is recommending the shutdown of Canada's scandal-plagued pipeline regulator.

Back to Top

THE TRIBUNE

Forget about Trump, worry about Trudeau

Welland Tribune - Tue May 16 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $328
Reach: 13164 **Page:** A4

If Canada's chattering classes can tear themselves away from Donald Trump for a moment, have they noticed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has stopped answering even the most basic and reasonable questions in Parliament? Questions such as how many times has he met with Federal Ethics Commissioner Mary Dawson regarding his infamous winter vacation - which the PMO initially tried to keep secret - with the Aga Khan on the billionaire's private Bahamas island? Last week, during one question period, Trudeau refused to answer that question not once, not twice, but 18 times.

Or, put another way, since Canada's chattering classes can't seem to tear themselves away from outrage over Trump, one time for every hole at the Mar-a-Lago golf course.

While Canada's high foreheads shellac Trump's hapless press secretary Sean Spicer have they noticed Trudeau's principal secretary - Gerald Butts - mocks the opposition parties for asking reasonable questions of his boss, instead of telling his PM pal to stop acting like a petulant child? "MPs from all over Canada finally get a chance to ask the prime minister a question," the unelected Butts tweeted last week. "They ask about his Christmas vacation. It's May."

This from Butts, who, when he was head of the World Wildlife Fund Canada, opined regarding Canada's oilsands, "we don't think there ought to be a carbon-based **energy** industry by the middle of this century."

In other words, an opinion so staggeringly out of touch with reality, it could only have come from a key adviser to former Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty - another one of Butts'previous incarnations - when McGuinty developed his disastrous green **energy** plan for which Ontarians will be paying through the nose in skyrocketing **electricity** prices for generations to come.

And so, a modest proposal for Canada's chattering classes.

America's democracy is strong. It has survived presidential impeachments, assassinations and Watergate. Its founding fathers, in their wisdom, created numerous checks and balances in the American political system that give a U.S. president far less executive **power** than a Canadian prime minister with a majority government.

So how about we keep an eye on Trudeau, once in a while.

Back to Top