

Energy/Electricity News Updates

Hydro/OPG

Liberals end debt retirement charge on hydro but bills still going up

TORONTO – Residential consumers will still see their hydro bills go up, even though the governing Liberals are planning to remove the controversial debt retirement charge from their monthly statements in 2016. The Ontario Clean Energy Benefit, which takes 10 per cent off hydro bills, will also

expire at the same time. The majority of ratepayers will also be expected to bankroll a proposed program that would offset energy costs for lower-income families. According to the government, a typical family consuming about 800 kilowatt hours per month would save about \$75.60 a year

after taxes once the debt retirement charge is removed on Jan. 1, 2016. But those savings would be cancelled out by the loss of an \$180 annual rebate from the clean energy benefit, which was introduced in 2012.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1285653/ontario-liberals-to-announce-elimination-of-debt-retirement-charge/>

As rates rise, province to expand electricity discounts for some businesses

As the cost of electricity continues to rise, some Ontario businesses may soon be getting a break on their hydro bills.

Bob Chiarelli is the Ontario Minister of Energy. (Provided)

The provincial government is saying it wants to expand two programs that give discounts to big electricity users in an effort to help some businesses deal with the rising rates, according to a press release issued by the ministries of Finance and Energy on Thursday.

Under the new proposal, the government would lower the threshold for businesses to qualify for the Industrial Conservation Initiative. The program gives discounts of 15 to 20 per cent to businesses that use large amounts of electricity during “peak hours” – between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. – if those businesses agree to “provide a substantial reduction” to their electricity use during peak hours.

Currently, the program is only open to businesses that use an average of over five megawatts a month during those peak hours. Under the new proposal that would be lowered to three megawatts. The government is also proposing an expansion to the Industrial Electricity Incentive.

<http://www.obj.ca/Local/2014-04-24/article-3700924/As-rates-rise,-province-to-expand-electricity-discounts-for-some-businesses/1>

Fears looming hydro hike will hurt industry

TIMMINS - It was denied at the time by Xstrata Copper. Yet many in the community continue to blame Ontario’s higher energy costs for the company’s decision that ultimately led to the Timmins smelter closing in 2010. The fact there is a substantial hydro rate increase on horizon doesn’t bode well particularly in communities in Timmins that depend on resource-based industries which are traditionally high-energy users.

“For our industries, mining and forestry, because they are energy intensive, it’s a job killer,” said MPP Gilles Bisson (NDP – Timmins-James Bay), on the prospect of a rise in hydro rates. Phil Barton, a small business owner in Timmins and president of the city’s chamber of commerce, came close to echoing that view. “I personally think one of the reasons we lost the met site was due to high energy costs and it is certainly detrimental to

many of the other big users of power,” said Barton. “If they have to raise their costs because of energy, perhaps it makes them less competitive in the global marketplace. And that has a ripple effect throughout our whole region, probably more so than in many other regions.” Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli announced Wednesday that his government will retire the Debt Retirement Charge on hydro bills starting on Jan. 1, 2016, an annual savings of just under \$70.

<http://www.timminspress.com/2014/04/24/fears-looming-hydro-hike-will-hurt-industry>

Home hydro bills to go up despite Liberal promise to remove controversial charge

TORONTO -- Residential consumers will still see their hydro bills go up, even though the governing Liberals are planning to remove the controversial debt retirement charge from their monthly statements in 2016. The Ontario Clean Energy Benefit, which takes 10 per cent off hydro bills, will also expire at the same time. The majority of ratepayers will also be expected to bankroll

<http://toronto.ctvnews.ca/home-hydro-bills-to-go-up-despite-liberal-promise-to-remove-controversial-charge-1.1788754>

a proposed program that would offset energy costs for lower-income families. According to the government, a typical family consuming about 800 kilowatt hours per month would save about \$75.60 a year after taxes once the debt retirement charge is removed on Jan. 1, 2016. But those savings would be cancelled out by the loss of an \$180 annual rebate from

the clean energy benefit, which was introduced in 2012. However, the Liberals are promising a support program for families with an income of up to \$40,000 that would provide about the same savings as the clean energy benefit after it expires.

How Ontario says it will help businesses save on electricity costs

TORONTO – Ontario's government says it is proposing to help more businesses save on their electricity costs in an effort to create more jobs. The Industrial Conservation Initiative provides incentives for large electricity consumers to shift their electricity consumption to off-peak hours to save an average 15 to 20 per cent on their energy bills.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1289816/how-ontario-says-it-will-help-businesses-save-on-electricity-costs/>

Proposed modifications to the ICI would reduce eligibility to companies with monthly peak demand greater than three megawatts, making the program available to hundreds of additional businesses. The Industrial Electricity Incentive offers companies reduced electricity rates if they expand their operations and create jobs. Starting this year, the government says broader eligibility for new applications will

allow for participation from a wider range of companies. Ontario-based small businesses will also be offered enhanced conservation programs in partnership with local distribution companies.

Hydro prices on the rise, but Ontario says savings for businesses are coming

A day after energy minister Bob Chiarelli announced hydro costs will go up for some Ontario residents, he laid out his plans to give businesses a break on their energy costs by expanding their eligibility for two existing money-saving programs. The province is proposing to change the rules to allow large electricity consumers with a peak demand of more than three megawatts to be eligible to shift their

<http://metronews.ca/news/ottawa/1012743/hydro-prices-on-the-rise-but-ontario-says-savings-for-businesses-are-coming/>

consumption to off peak hours to save between 15 and 20 per cent on their bills. Previously, the cut off was more than five megawatts. "We're lowering the threshold so smaller size businesses...will be able to participate in the system when they couldn't before," the minister said at Giant Tiger headquarters in Ottawa Thursday. "That

will keep our manufacturing sector more competitive." Chiarelli said the province is also promising to reduce electricity rates for companies that "expand and create jobs," but he could not provide specifics on how that will work. "There's an application process that they have to go through and be qualified," the minister told reporters.

Taking the Debt Retirement Charge Off Residents' Bills

Province Helping People With Energy Costs

Queens Park - Ontario intends to take the Debt Retirement Charge (DRC) off residential electricity bills after Dec. 31, 2015. They report that it will generate a savings to the typical homeowner \$5.60 per month or \$67.20 annually. The province is also working with the Ontario Energy Board to develop the new

<http://www.exchangemagazine.com/morningpost/2014/week16/Thursday/14042406.htm>

Ontario Electricity Support Program to help make electricity more affordable for low-income families. After Dec. 31, 2015, eligible low-income Ontarians could expect to receive similar relief as currently provided by the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit.

Making electricity more affordable is part of the government's economic plan that is creating jobs for today and tomorrow. The comprehensive plan and its six priorities focus on Ontario's greatest strengths - its people and strategic partnerships.

Hydro bills going up despite end of DRC

Residential hydro bills will still rise, even though the Ontario Liberal government plans to remove the debt retirement charge (DRC) from consumers' monthly statements in 2016.

The Ontario Clean Energy Benefit, which takes 10 per cent off hydro bills, will also expire at the same time.

The government said on April 23 a typical family consuming about 800 kilowatt hours per month will save about \$75 a year once the debt retirement charge is removed.

<http://www.petroliatopic.com/2014/04/24/hydro-bills-going-up-despite-end-of-drc>

But those savings will be cancelled out by the loss of an \$180 annual rebate from the clean energy benefit, introduced in 2012. Bluewater Power CEO Janice McMichael-Dennis said the net result will be a \$6 monthly increase for the typical residential user.

"Removing the DRC will lessen the bill impact that would have happened once that 10% benefit comes off. Of course, the 10% benefit represents a bigger dollar value than the DRC impact," she said.

Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli said non-residential electricity users, including large industries, will still have to pay the DRC until 2018. The DRC was introduced in 1998 to help pay down the debt of Ontario Hydro, the former Crown corporation which was split into several companies. The province is looking at ways to reduce electricity costs for low-income families when the clean energy benefit expires on Dec. 31, 2015.

Ontario hydro bills to rise despite end of Debt Retirement Charge

TORONTO - The typical Ontario residential hydro consumer can expect to see their bills leap by roughly \$120 a year in 2016. Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli announced Wednesday that his government will retire the Debt Retirement Charge (DRC) on hydro bills starting on Jan. 1, 2016, an annual savings of just under \$70.

<http://www.torontosun.com/2014/04/23/ontario-hydro-bills-to-rise-despite-end-of-debt-retirement-charge>

But at the same time, the government intends to bring an end to the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit (OCEB) which takes 10% off bills, adding about \$180 to the average family's hydro bill.

Chiarelli also announced a new program funded by ratepayers to help low income earners in the province with the cost of

electricity — another \$11 more a year on the average hydro bill.

The bottom line for a typical residential ratepayer is their hydro bill will rise by roughly \$10 a month, exclusive of any increases in electricity prices.

"There are a number of things happening at the same time," Chiarelli said.

Ontario Liberals offer hydro perks to business

Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli makes more businesses eligible for reduced hydro rates

Ontario's Liberal government rolled out another pre-election-style announcement on hydro rates Thursday — this time aimed at business customers.

Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli expanded the number of businesses eligible for a plan that has allowed the province's biggest power users to trim their energy costs substantially.

http://www.thestar.com/business/economy/2014/04/24/ontario_liberals_offer_hydro_perks_to_business.html

He also announced measures to help small businesses conserve energy.

With a possible provincial election in the offing, it was the second day in a row for good-news energy announcements.

On Wednesday, Chiarelli had said he'll terminate the debt retirement charge for householders on Dec. 31, 2015, and

sketched out plans to reduce hydro bills for low income earners.

On Thursday, business got its turn.

Ontario's biggest power users have benefitted since 2011 from a plan that rewards them for reducing consumption during the five times during the year when power use hits the highest peaks.

Ontario plans to give low-income residents discount on electricity

Ontario is planning to give low-income residents discounted electricity to help ease the sting of the end of the controversial Clean Energy Benefit. The Ontario Electricity Support Program, announced Wednesday, is planned to start at the beginning of 2016.

"The program will provide ongoing support to eligible consumers directly on their electricity bills," Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli said at an east-end Toronto

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ontario-plans-to-give-low-income-residents-discount-on-electricity/article18130282/>

recreation centre. "This is real relief for those who need it most."

The details of the program – such as exactly who will qualify and how big the discount will be – still have to be worked out by the Ontario Energy Board. But Mr. Chiarelli estimated that the average low-income family will save \$15 a month. Mr. Chiarelli also confirmed that the government will take the debt retirement charge off residential hydro bills, also

starting in January, 2016. The current charge costs the average household \$5.60 a month.

The Clean Energy Benefit, which expires at the end of 2015, is a 10 per cent discount to all residential hydro users and some businesses, up to 3,000 kilowatt hours a month. It has been criticized for disproportionately rewarding rich people who use a lot of power.

Ontario to trim residential hydro bills

Ontario is planning to make electricity bills cheaper by zapping the debt retirement charge for residential hydro users and amping up programs that let industrial enterprises save money by switching power use to off-peak times.

The moves, to be unveiled this week, are the ruling Liberals' attempt to take a pocketbook issue away from the opposition parties, which frequently accuse the government of not doing enough to lower rates, ahead of a likely spring election.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ontario-to-trim-residential-hydro-bills/article18120835/>

Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli is set to announce the end of the debt retirement charge Wednesday afternoon at an east end Toronto recreation centre, saving the average household \$5.60 per month. The charge will end at the same time the clean energy benefit expires, currently scheduled for Jan. 1, 2016.

One Liberal insider said the government is planning other measures to save residential electricity customers money, and that these measures would be "progressive," in contrast to the clean

energy benefit which disproportionately rewards people who use more electricity. The Grits are also expected to let more companies use the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) and the Industrial Electricity Incentive (IEI), which offer discounted power to factories and other businesses, a move to be unveiled Thursday. Cutting hydro rates for business is seen as a key way to stimulate the province's manufacturing sector.

Liberals cut hydro price for low-income families

Ontario's Liberals have announced new measures to help low-income families with hydro bills, and will end the hydro debt-retirement charge

With a possible election looming, energy minister Bob Chiarelli announced an end to the unpopular hydro debt retirement charge Wednesday.

He packaged the announcement with measures to help low-income families pay their hydro bills.

http://www.thestar.com/business/2014/04/23/liberals_cut_hydro_price_for_lowincome_families.html

And more feel-good news is due Thursday, when the Liberals are scheduled to announce measures to ease the pain of high hydro bills on businesses.

As previously reported, Chiarelli said householders will stop paying the debt retirement charge of 0.7 cents a kilowatt hour on Dec. 31, 2015. It will take about \$5.60 a month off the bill of a typical home.

Businesses will keep paying the charge until about 2018 – when, Chiarelli said, the debt left from the restructuring of the former Ontario Hydro should be fully retired.

Chiarelli also announced new measures to help lower-income families with their hydro bills after the end of 2015. That's the expiry date of the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit – a 10 per cent discount on hydro bills.

Hydro debt retirement charge set to go

Energy minister Bob Chiarelli expected to announce the end of fee on Wednesday.

Ontario can get ready to bid a not-so-fond farewell to the debt retirement charge — that extra, oh-so-irritating fee on their hydro bills.

The province's electricity users have paid an extra 0.7 cents per kilowatt hour on every hydro bill since 1999.

Energy minister Bob Chiarelli has called a news conference for Wednesday. Although officials in Chiarelli's office refused to

http://www.thestar.com/business/2014/04/22/hydro_debt_retirement_charge_set_to_go.html

confirm details of the announcement, it's likely he'll announce the extra charge will vanish by the end of 2015.

A Liberal pre-budget communications plan, leaked to the Conservatives earlier this month, had circled April 23 as the date when the government would announce the end of the unpopular fee.

For a household using 800 kilowatt hours of electricity a month, the charge adds

\$5.60 to the bill. The charge has frequently mystified and enraged consumers, and opposition MPPs have called for its abolition.

To take the sting out of higher hydro bills, the Liberals eventually introduced the "clean energy benefit," a 10 per cent discount on the charge for up to 3,000 kilowatt hours of electricity a month.

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Alternative/Green Energy/Conservation

Northland Power Closes \$240 Million in Financing to Build Five 10MW Solar Projects in

Ontario

TORONTO, ONTARIO, Apr 24, 2014 (Marketwired via COMTEX) -- Northland Power Inc. ("Northland") CA:NPI 0.00% CA:NPI.PR.A +0.91% CA:NPI.PR.C -0.08% CA:NPI.DB.A +0.18% CA:NPI.DB.B -0.0096% announced today that it has completed financing for the fourth and last phase of its 130 MW ground-mount program. The five solar projects, totaling 50 MW, are located in various communities in northern and central Ontario. The financing process was managed by The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd., Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Nordeutsche

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/northland-power-closes-240-million-in-financing-to-build-five-10mw-solar-projects-in-ontario-2014-04-24-181733822?reflink=MW_news_stmp

Landesbank and Siemens Financial Ltd. as Lead Arrangers, and included Raymond James Ltd., CIT Financial Ltd, and Laurentian Bank of Canada. The facilities consist of a \$240 million construction credit facility with an 18-year term loan. "Renewable energy sources such as solar are a rapidly growing portion of Ontario's energy mix," said John Brace, CEO of Northland. "As we expand our portfolio of solar assets across the province, we look forward to delivering strong returns to shareholders while producing clean, renewable energy that contributes to the

long-term sustainability of our electricity system and environment."

"MUFG is pleased to work with Northland Power arranging this important transaction. The deal's success reflects the company's vast experience and recognition by lenders that Northland is a premier developer in Canada," said Carmelo Restifo, director at MUFG. "This is the fourth non-recourse solar financing MUFG has successfully executed for Northland. Solar IV is one of the largest widely syndicated Construction plus 18-year term loan bank deals completed in North America for a solar project transaction."

SunEdison closes on Ontario solar power plants

Solar energy technology manufacturer SunEdison closed on financing for two solar power plants to be built in Ontario, Canada. Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. is providing construction financing. The power plants will provide employment for skilled manufacturing and construction workers in Ontario.

SunEdison will manage the construction of the two plants, which are both planned to be operational by the end of 2014. The solar power plants will be composed of over 100,000 SunEdison Silvantis Photovoltaic Solar Modules, which will be manufactured in the province of Ontario. Silvantis Modules are built using SunEdison polysilicon and wafers to ensure maximum

reliability and performance. Once operational, the solar power plants will be managed by the SunEdison Renewable Operation Center (ROC), which provides global 24/7 asset management, monitoring, field dispatch and reporting services.

<http://www.pennenergy.com/articles/elp/2014/04/sunedison-closes-on-ontario-solar-power-plants.html>

Canadian Solar to Supply 43MW of Solar Modules in Japan

GUELPH, Ontario, April 22, 2014 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Canadian Solar Inc. (the "Company" or "Canadian Solar") (NASDAQ: CSIQ), one of the world's largest solar power companies, today announced that it has been awarded a module supply agreement to provide 43MW of photovoltaic ("PV") modules to the second largest solar power plant project in Japan. "We are proud to announce this large module supply agreement to provide our high efficiency modules to the second largest solar power plant in Japan, which is

another significant milestone for Canadian Solar in this important market," commented Dr. Shawn Qu, Chairman, President and CEO of Canadian Solar, "This win further demonstrates our strong position as a global tier 1 solar module supplier with proven track record of delivery high efficiency and quality modules to large solar power projects across the globe."

Canadian Solar will supply approximately 168,300 pieces of its 60 cell high efficiency CS6P255P modules with power output of

255Wp for this project. Module delivery is expected to start from May 2014 and to be completed in February 2015. The quality of Canadian Solar modules is substantiated by one of the highest PTC ratings[1] out of over 12000 P-type crystalline modules published on the Go Solar California website. In addition, Canadian Solar modules also demonstrate higher energy yield of up to 5% compared with products from other Tier 1 module suppliers, according to PVSYST's system performance simulation.[2]

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/canadian-solar-to-supply-43mw-of-solar-modules-in-japan-256148851.html>

Ontario becomes the first in North America to be coal-free.

Coal is no longer being used to generate electricity in the Canadian province, which is now utilizing alternative energy sources to produce power in place of coal. Advanced biomass has been selected as the clean energy alternative. The Thunder Bay Generation Station was the last place in Ontario to burn coal for power. The 300-megawatt power plant opened in 1963 and is the province's oldest coal-fired station. Even though coal burning has finally ceased, a goal that was

reached earlier than expected, the Thunder Bay Generating Station will continue operating. There is a plan to convert the power plant into one that uses clean energy for producing power. Originally, there had been plans to switch the plant to natural gas, but this idea was abandoned. The conversion, which is already underway, will allow the station to use steam exploded biomass fuel, also known as advanced biomass. The Ontario Power Generation (OPG) believes that the

power plant in Thunder Bay will become the first one in the world to use this form of alternative fuel for electricity generation. The conversion of the station is not only good news for the environment, but also for workers at the plant, as 60 jobs will also be kept in the process. Coal power has been replaced with different alternative energy sources.

<http://www.hydrogenfuelnews.com/alternative-energy-replaces-coal-ontario/8517392/>

GE Plans to Invest \$1 Billion Annual on Solar, Wind Farms

General Electric Co.'s (GE) Energy Financial Services unit plans to invest more than \$1 billion a year on renewable-power projects. That will build upon the \$10 billion that GE has already invested in 17 gigawatts of mostly wind and solar plants since forming the unit in 2006, said EFS Chief Executive Officer David Nason. Those plants help avert 26 million tons of greenhouse-gas emissions annually, the equivalent of 5.6 million cars.

Renewable power is EFS's fastest-growing energy market, and investing in power plants is also a way to spur sales of equipment from Stamford, Connecticut-based GE, Nason said.

"We see renewable energy providing very significant returns going forward," Nason said today in an interview in New York. "We have a robust pipeline in the U.S. for the next couple of years." He wouldn't say what kind of returns the investments typically generate.

GE also is considering buying solar and wind power projects in countries including Japan, Ireland and Chile, and prefers to invest in projects that use GE equipment such as wind turbines and inverters. GE owns a stake in the 550-megawatt Desert Sunlight solar farm that First Solar Corp. is building in Southern California at a cost of more than \$2 billion. The plant is expected to be complete next year and more than 375 megawatts of panels are already producing power.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-04-24/ge-plans-to-invest-1-billion-annual-on-solar-wind-farms.html>

Northland Power Closes \$240 Million in Financing to Build Five 10MW Solar Projects in Ontario

TORONTO, ONTARIO--(Marketwired - Apr 24, 2014) - Northland Power Inc. ("Northland") (TSX:NPI) (TSX:NPI.PR.A) (TSX:NPI.PR.C) (TSX:NPI.DB.A) (TSX:NPI.DB.B) announced today that it has completed financing for the fourth and last phase of its 130 MW ground-mount program. The five solar projects, totaling 50 MW, are located in various communities in northern and central Ontario. The financing process was managed by The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd., Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Nordeutsche Landesbank and Siemens Financial Ltd. as Lead Arrangers, and included Raymond James Ltd., CIT Financial Ltd, and Laurentian Bank of Canada. The facilities

consist of a \$240 million construction credit facility with an 18-year term loan. "Renewable energy sources such as solar are a rapidly growing portion of Ontario's energy mix," said John Brace, CEO of Northland. "As we expand our portfolio of solar assets across the province, we look forward to delivering strong returns to shareholders while producing clean, renewable energy that contributes to the long-term sustainability of our electricity system and environment."

"MUGF is pleased to work with Northland Power arranging this important transaction. The deal's success reflects the company's vast experience and recognition by lenders that Northland is a premier developer in Canada," said Carmelo Restifo, director at MUGF. "This is the

fourth non-recourse solar financing MUGF has successfully executed for Northland. Solar IV is one of the largest widely syndicated Construction plus 18-year term loan bank deals completed in North America for a solar project transaction." Under construction by H.B. White Canada Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of White Construction Inc., the solar projects will sell the electricity under Ontario's renewable energy Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) program, and are using Ontario-made equipment and local Ontario labour. The projects are located near Cochrane in Northern Ontario, and Burk's Falls near Huntsville. Commercial operations are expected to begin throughout 2014 and the first half of 2015.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20140424-917961.html>

First Diesel Hybrid PV System Online in Guelph

Canadian Solar Inc. has completed one of the first diesel hybrid PV systems in the remote microgrids in northern Ontario, Canada. The 152kW rooftop solar array on the Deer Lake First Nation Elementary School is the first project under the strategic partnership with NCC Development, LP (NCC), a First Nation renewable energy management company, in a commitment to use renewable energy (RE) microgrid solutions to assist the energy needs of off-grid First Nations and remote communities.

NCC has identified more than 80 First Nations and remote communities for potential RE microgrid solutions.

<http://domesticfuel.com/2014/04/24/first-diesel-hybrid-pv-system-online-in-guelph/>

deployment, in an effort to promote photovoltaic services and projects to areas heavily reliant on diesel and challenged by limited access to electricity.

“NCC is optimistic in moving forward with our partner Canadian Solar, as we continue to build strategic collaborative efforts with leaders in the solar and renewable energy industry to foster sustainable development of Canada’s indigenous communities. As North America’s largest producer of solar power solutions, Canadian Solar’s industry leading experience and expertise will greatly contribute to our efforts,” said Geordi Kakepetum, Chief Executive Officer of NCC Development LP.

Dr. Shawn Qu, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Solar Inc. noted of the project, “Our partnership with NCC started 3 years ago. It underscores our strong commitment to Canada, helping to bring solar power to areas previously unable to get connected to the grid. Solar is a green, flexible, low-cost, and sustainable energy solution for these underserved First Nations and other rural areas. We are proud of our involvement in this important effort and the direct impact we will have on so many deserving families.”

Work complete on South Kent Wind project

Canada’s largest wind power facility, South Kent Wind, is now complete and fully operational.

“South Kent Wind is our first in a series of wind projects in Ontario and we’re proud it has been delivered on time and within budget, despite a very harsh winter,” said Mike Garland, chief executive officer of Pattern Energy.

“This project was truly a collaborative effort — a total of 15 banks providing financing for an effort that involved 500 workers constructing 70 kilometers of

<http://dconl.com/article/id60009/--work-complete-on-south-kent-wind-project>

roads, 124 wind turbines and 283 kilometers of electrical cable. Along with our partner, Samsung, we’d like to thank the very dedicated construction crew and the fantastic community of Chatham-Kent. We’re proud this project will now be providing real benefits to the local economy, including more than \$7 million in direct spending each year.”

The 270 megawatt (MW) South Kent Wind project has the capacity to produce clean renewable energy for approximately 100,000 Ontario homes each year. “Samsung and our partners are proud to complete this first project under our Green Energy Investment Agreement with the government of Ontario,” said Ki-Jung Kim, senior vice-president of Samsung C&T.

An Earth Day look at the sunny state of solar

Here comes the sun. No, this isn’t a hippie greeting for celebrators of Earth Day. It’s what industry analysts are saying about the evolving significance of solar energy generation, which is maturing into a force that could transform the global economy.

The importance of solar — what you see depends on where you stand. There are lots of places in Canada where hailing the game-changing potential of solar energy seems a dubious proposition. For example, Ontario is Canada’s largest consumer of energy. The province has

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-commentary/an-earth-day-look-at-the-sunny-state-of-solar/article18101176/>

ambitious plans to tilt its energy supply mix toward more renewable sources. But solar power currently accounts for less than 2 per cent of electricity requirements. But around the world, the story is quite different.

Germany has been investing heavily in solar for the past decade, installing solar panels on rooftops of public buildings and subsidizing residential construction and retrofits. A year ago, on a sunny weekend in May, solar provided 40 per cent of

Germany’s energy needs. Every year, the record gets broken.

Some energy experts in the rainy United Kingdom forecast that in six years, 40 per cent of the country’s energy needs will be met by solar in the summer months, reaching 10 million homes. (That target may be delayed, as the current government has suddenly fallen in love with the possibilities of extracting gas from shale rock.)

The next PV capacity expansion phase is under way

It's hard to believe that after more than two years of chronic overcapacity up and down the supply chain the PV industry has entered the next capacity expansion phase. The industry became burdened with a nameplate capacity of over 60GW by 2011, while global end demand was just over 30GW in that year, according to European Photovoltaics Industry Association data. Burdened with such a significant level of overcapacity and end-market demand that

http://www.pv-tech.org/editors_blog/the_next_pv_capacity_expansion_phase_is_under_way

barely expanded (to just 31GW) in 2012, the consequences were biblical in nature: plummeting prices across the supply chain resulted in very low production utilisation rates at best, closures, bankruptcies and exits from the industry at worst. Since then the industry has experienced over two years of profitless prosperity and capital expenditure (capex) budgets were slashed to facility and equipment maintenance levels only.

However, strong growth recovery in global end markets in 2013 meant installations topped over 36GW, according to NPD Solarbuzz. The market research firm's latest PV Equipment Quarterly predicts the freeze in spending by equipment suppliers over the past two years will finally thaw by early 2015 as a rebalancing of supply and demand.

Wind farm approval sparks rage

The recent green light given the Jericho Wind Project has some demonstrators seeing red.

What had been peaceful demonstrations has now turned to anger, vandalism and criminal charges since energy company Nextera received its approval recently to build a 92-turbine industrial wind farm in Lambton and Middlesex counties. That OK may have prompted the graffiti splashed on Grand Bend Highway 21 businesses and the municipal sign April 18.

<http://www.petroliatopic.com/2014/04/21/wind-farm-approval-sparks-rage>

The entry sign north to the Caldwell Banking sign "Stop wind power" was clearly written in red paint. At the Ausable Inn, one car was splashed in red paint and the tires slashed.

When asked if she was aware of the damage in Grand Bend and if her group of protesters had any knowledge of who did the spray painting, Lambton Shores resident Laureen Maurizio replied the act

was deplorable and destructive and there would be "hell to pay" if she found out it was one of their protesters. "We are here to educate; not aggravate," she said.

Fellow protester Bob Lewis said while they have always displayed peaceful demonstrations, he could see that changing and become aggressive or violent as people become more frustrated.

SunEdison raises funds to build facilities in Ontario, Canada

23. APRIL 2014 | MARKETS & TRENDS, INDUSTRY & SUPPLIERS, GLOBAL PV MARKETS, INVESTOR NEWS | BY: PETER CARVILL

The Canadian firm is to build 33 MW of facilities in the province as part of an ongoing relationship with Deutsche Bank. SunEdison has raised CAD \$115 million (\$104.2 million) in financing in order to

http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/sunedison-raises-funds-to-build-facilities-in-ontario--canada_100014885/#axzz2ztiDlcvN

build 33 MW of solar utilities in Ontario, Canada.

Germany's Deutsche Bank is backing the projects, which SunEdison predicts will be operational by the end of the year. The facilities will be entirely borne of Ontario, with 100,00 modules being manufactured and then being installed within the province. The facilities are projected to

produce enough electricity to power 1,300 homes.

Michael Dilworth, vice-president and country manager for SunEdison Canada, said, "We have over 130 MW of solar energy operating in Ontario today, and are pleased to add these two new utility-scale projects to our portfolio as part of the continued growth of our Canada business."

Politics/Opinion/Legal

Creating Jobs through Competitive Industrial Energy Rates

Ontario Benefits from Strong, Reliable and Affordable Energy Supply

Ontario is encouraging industrial growth and job creation by expanding eligibility for two existing industrial electricity programs and enhancing conservation programs for small businesses.

Proposed modifications to the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) and a new opportunity to participate in the Industrial Electricity Incentive (IEI) will help eligible companies reduce electricity costs and increase competitiveness.

The Industrial Conservation Initiative provides a strong incentive for large

<http://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2014/04/creating-jobs-through-competitive-industrial-energy-rates.html>

electricity consumers to shift their electricity consumption to off-peak hours to save on average 15 to 20 per cent on their energy bills. Ontario is proposing to expand the program to include eligible customers with monthly peak demand greater than three megawatts, down from the current threshold of five megawatts. This would open participation to hundreds of additional medium-sized electricity consumers.

The Industrial Electricity Incentive offers eligible companies reduced electricity rates

if they expand their operations and create jobs. Starting in 2014, broader eligibility for new applications for 10-year contracts under the IEI program will allow for participation from a wider range of companies. This program is designed to improve load management by encouraging industrial companies to expand and make use of the province's strong supply of electricity, allowing for increased investment and job creation.

Get yourself grounded for shocking power hikes

I got confused last Wednesday, which admittedly doesn't take a lot, but this time it was a bit different. I was trying to figure out what is going on with the province's electricity rates.

The Ontario Energy Board, which gives the stamp of approval for power rate changes, announced how much people and businesses tied to the grid will pay as of

<http://www.northbaynipissing.com/opinion-story/4479541-get-yourself-grounded-for-shocking-power-hikes/>

May 1, with a breakdown of the cost per hour.

So I broke out the calculator and quickly determined we're headed for a hike of about four per cent.

But wait. The very next line of the press release says the rates are only going up by 2.4 per cent. See, it doesn't take much.

Anyone who's had the pleasure of paying the power bill probably knows about the

peak, mid-peak and off-peak pricing structure in Ontario. Respectively, the kilowatt-hour rates are going up 4.65 per cent, 2.75 per cent and 4.2 per cent. How does that average out to 2.4 per cent? Twitter had the answer for me, and then some.

If you think electricity is expensive now, just you wait and see, dear Ontario hydro consumer.

Premier Remains Committed To Green Energy

Ontario's premier has made it clear again the provincial liberals are staying the course on renewable energy including wind power.

In an exclusive interview with Sue Storr on Blackburn Radio's Chok this morning Premier Kathleen Wynne reiterated green energy is the way to go.

<http://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2014/04/23/premier-remains-committed-to-green-energy/>

The premier did promise better community consultation, saying the government is changing the rules regarding industrial wind turbine projects that have not yet been approved.

There's growing unrest across the province about wind turbines and vandalism occurred recently in Grand Bend following approval of Nextera's project in Lambton

Shores, Warwick Twp. and Middlesex County.

Premier Wynne was also asked about provincial funding for demolition of the old Sarnia General Hospital but was non-committal. She said there's been dialogue between the local community and the health minister.

Why we're still paying the hydro 'debt retirement charge'

Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli re-announced Wednesday that the province will stop levying the "debt retirement charge" on residential hydro bills at the end of 2015. It'll take about \$70 off the average bill in the course of a year, though it'll also coincide with the end of the bogus clean energy rebate the Liberals invented, so the effect for most people will be a wash. For doing what the Tories have demanded they do for years, the Tories attacked them in advance.

"If the government had properly managed the electricity system and directed money collected through the DRC toward its intended purpose, the residual debt should have been paid off by now, and the charge

<http://blogs.ottawacitizen.com/2014/04/23/why-were-still-paying-the-hydro-debt-retirement-charge/>

should have come off Ontario electricity bills," said Ontario PC Energy Critic Lisa MacLeod.

"As long as the NDP-backed Liberals are in power, families will continue to see this tax on their hydro bills each month."

"This is just more scrambling from a Liberal Party desperate to position itself for an election. The Liberals have run out of the ability to write new cheques. Anything they say or do is calculated to help them skate past this budget vote so they can cling to government," Fedeli concluded. "It's about jobs for Liberals, not jobs for Ontarians. Even Andrea Horwath should be able to see that."

"It's time to end the charade and let the people of Ontario decide."

I wrote a sort of explainer about the debt retirement charge during the 2011 election campaign, when the Tories were insisting it be eliminated:

The province started collecting the charge as part of the Mike Harris government's solution to the old Ontario Hydro's crushing debt when it broke the utility up in 1999.

The math worked like this:

Artificially low electricity prices left Ontario Hydro with \$38.1 billion in debt and other money owing, against assets that were only worth \$17.2 billion, making for \$20.9 billion in what was called "stranded debt."

Ontario Liberals using debt retirement charge as slush fund

TORONTO - Let me see if I can walk you through the smoke and mirrors without choking.

Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli announced Wednesday the Debt Retirement Charge (DRC) will be dropped from your hydro bill Dec. 31, 2015.

<http://www.torontosun.com/2014/04/23/ontario-liberals-using-debt-retirement-charge-as-slush-fund>

Introduced in 2002, the DRC was intended to collect \$7.8 billion towards the stranded debt left behind by the old Ontario Hydro. In 2011, the auditor general reported that as of March of that year, \$8.7 billion had been collected. So you'd think we could

have had a mortgage-burning party back then.

But no, the Liberals continued to collect 0.7 cents a kilowatt hour on your hydro bill — only they slipped another \$4 billion onto that, which they claim is "interest."

Provincial News: McGuinty-Wynne Liberals Continue Hydro Tax Grab

"The Liberal Party of Ontario continues to fuel its overspending and mismanagement by adding fees to hydro bills — that needs to end now," said Ontario PC Finance Critic Vic Fedeli.

Fedeli and Ontario PC Energy Critic Lisa MacLeod commented on Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli's announcement that the Liberals will phase out the Debt Retirement Charge (DRC), a fee initially imposed to pay

<http://www.northumberlandview.ca/index.php?module=news&type=user&func=display&sid=28161>

off debts collected by the former Ontario Hydro.

But the McGuinty-Wynne Liberals have clearly used these funds for other purposes to fuel their overspending.

Today, Chiarelli will announce the "good news" that families will be free of this Liberal tax grab by the end of 2015.

"If the government had properly managed the electricity system and directed money

collected through the DRC toward its intended purpose, the residual debt should have been paid off by now, and the charge should have come off Ontario electricity bills," said Ontario PC Energy Critic Lisa MacLeod.

"As long as the NDP-backed Liberals are in power, families will continue to see this tax on their hydro bills each month."

Feeling the heat

I'm livid that hydro rates are increasing yet again.

We had an increase in November, now there's one set again for the first of May. Everything I read says that the cost of this increase will be about \$2 per month for the average family.

Well, we live in an apartment where heat is included. There are two of us and I use the oven on weekends only.

<http://www.therecord.com/opinion-story/4483461-feeling-the-heat/>

We use compact fluorescent light bulbs and only turn them on when absolutely needed.

We have no dishwasher, no air conditioner, and my hydro bill has increased \$15 a month over the past year.

Who is only getting a \$2 per month increase? Not us and certainly not seniors who use dishwashers, clothes dryers and air conditioners.

I'm trying to think of what else I can do to save money, but it's hard when the taxes, delivery charge and other fees cost more than my usage.

And these increases are all because of the greed of the executives' salaries at Ontario Power Generation, the Liberal government and the gas plants scandal.

Sherry Young, Kitchener

Tory hydro rate protest planned at Chiarelli shindig tonight

Rural and urban Conservative supporters are planning to bum-rush Ontario Liberal Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli's fundraiser Thursday evening.

"Five dollars off on our hydro bills is great, but come on, Bob. It has to end," said an organizer, Guy Annable.

He's expecting between 50 to 150 attendees to voice their displeasure with changes to hydro rates.

"Basically, people in rural areas, their hydro bills are bankrupting them. They're getting \$700 and \$900 bills," said Annable.

The provincial Liberals are under fire after announcing Wednesday the Debt

Retirement Charge (DRC) will be dropped from hydro bills at the end of 2015. But ratepayers will see a 10% hike in their rates since the province is also scrapping the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit (OCEB), which offered a 10% rebate on the first 3,000 kilowatt/hours of electricity consumed.

<http://www.ottawasun.com/2014/04/24/tory-hydro-rate-protest-planned-at-chiarelli-shindig-tonight>

LDCs & Local Items

PowerStream Named as One of 'Canada's Greenest Employers'

'Top Employer' in the GTA recognized again for being a leading employer

VAUGHAN, ONTARIO--(Marketwired - April 22, 2014) - Five months after naming PowerStream as one of 'Greater Toronto's Top Employers' for 2014, Mediacorp Canada has now recognized the community-owned energy company for being one of 'Canada's Greenest Employers'.

The competition, conducted on an annual basis by the largest Canadian publisher of quality employment information, is a subset of 'Canada's Top 100 Employers' project. Companies that have earned the 'Canada's Greenest Employer' designation have been successful in integrating

<http://www.marketwired.com/press-release/powerstream-named-as-one-of-canadas-greenest-employers-1901468.htm>

environmental awareness into their corporate values and culture. Each employer is evaluated by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers in terms of: The unique environmental initiatives and programs they have developed. The extent to which they have been successful in reducing the organization's own environmental footprint. The degree to which their employees are involved in these programs and whether they contribute any unique skills. The extent to which these initiatives have become linked to the employer's public

identity and whether they attract new people to the organization. PowerStream has been successful in developing several employee environmental programs including specialty recycling and waste diversion, carpooling, vanpooling and participation in annual Smart Commute events such as Bike to Work Day. The company also advocates the benefits of energy consumption reduction to its customers through the delivery of Conservation and Demand Management (CDM) programs.

As Hydro One gobbles up local utilities, Brant County Power mulls future

It's been 16 months since a blue-ribbon panel recommended significant consolidation among Ontario's power authorities.

Since then, some hydro companies have made significant steps in that direction. Last spring, Norfolk Power Distribution was sold to Hydro One for \$93 million.

A Brant County Power sign is seen outside the utility's Paris, Ont., headquarters on Thursday, April 24, 2014. (David Imrie / CTV Kitchener)

When Hydro One bought Haldimand County Hydro months later, the purchase price was \$62 million.

Woodstock Hydro remains in exclusive talks with the province's largest electricity distributor as well.

And now Brant County Power may join the club.

Options for the future of that utility – which serves Paris, St. George, Mount Pleasant and Burford – will go in front of councillors in early May.

<http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/as-hydro-one-gobbles-up-local-utilities-brant-county-power-mulls-future-1.1791190>

Orangeville Hydro delivery charges going down

Customer savings range from four to 12 per cent

Orangeville Hydro customers needn't be surprised when they see a reduction on their hydro bills next month.

Starting on May 1, the local utility's customers will see anywhere from four to nearly 12 per cent worth of savings on Orangeville Hydro's share of their bills.

Varying rate reductions will be applied across the board to all residential, commercial and manufacturing classes. "Every one of them," said Orangeville Hydro president George Dick. "We're examining every expense that we have and looking at where we can cut it, or where we can do things more efficiently."

About 78 per cent of a customer's bill goes to regulatory bodies such as Hydro One, Ontario Power Generation and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), among other areas. Locally, the rate reduction will take place on Orangeville Hydro's 22 per cent share of that entire bill, which is the utility's charge for the delivery of electricity to customers.

<http://www.orangeville.com/news-story/4483628-orangeville-hydro-delivery-charges-going-down/>

Bruce Power Eco-mentors Visit Schools

Bruce Power Eco-Mentors have been busy. They visited four local elementary schools and taught over 300 students about energy conservation, waste stewardship and

where their electricity comes from. It was part of Environment Week activities, both on site and in local schools.

At G.C. Huston Elementary School in Southampton, the students learned about Ontario's electricity supply mix through a hand-made generator.

<http://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/midwestern-ontario-news/2014/04/23/bruce-power-eco-mentors-visit-schools/>

Infrastructure, energy and winter roads important at NOMA, Canfield

After last night's meet and greet everyone will get down to business today at the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association's annual meeting. President and Kenora Mayor Dave Canfield spoke about having Premier Kathleen Wynne in attendance.

"To have the Premier come to an event like this is great. We don't always get premiers to come to the NOMA meetings so we're pretty happy about that. It's really hard to say (what she'll speak about). There's nothing leaked about what she's going to

talk about. It might be just to meet and greet and find out what our concerns are and what we feel is important but at the same time we'd love to hear a great announcement," he said. Canfield along with other mayors will get a chance to speak with Premier Kathleen Wynne today as well as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Bill Mauro, Minister of Northern Development & Mines Michael Gravelle and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer. Canfield

listed some of the topics they'll be focusing on.

"Infrastructure is big. It's always been big in Northwestern Ontario because of the roads, bridges and a lot of things like that. MPAC is a huge issue across a lot of the communities. Energy is also a big issue, of course around meeting the needs of the increase in the forest industry, mining industry and other opportunities in the next few years. Whether that energy is gonna be there and we want to make sure it is," he said.

http://www.kenoraonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8779&Itemid=160

Milton Hydro proposes changes to tree trimming in light of storm damage

Utility seeks public input from rural Milton residents at meeting

Milton Hydro plans to bring an amendment to its tree trimming standards before council in the future as a result of heavy damage sustained by rural Milton during the ice storm.

Representatives from the utility presented a draft of the proposal to around 50 people at an emergency preparedness meeting in Campbellville last week.

<http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/4477968-milton-hydro-proposes-changes-to-tree-trimming-in-light-of-storm-damage/>

The changes would involve modifying clearance standards near hydro lines, meaning that some trees could be removed in the future.

Milton Hydro Director of Engineering Bruno Pereira said he's heard opinions from local residents who want a problematic tree cut down, to others who feel the complete opposite.

"What we've encountered in the past is that some people are reluctant to trim, or they prefer we don't trim," said Pereira. "So we want to get an understanding amongst everybody that this is the way we're going to proceed."

The proposed changes to date have involved consultations with arborists and a review of tree species in the area.

Toronto Hydro Reveals Fridge Art and Innovation: local artist builds a solar dehydrator from an old, energy-guzzling fridge

TORONTO, April 25, 2014 /CNW/ - To showcase the importance and benefits of recycling old, inefficient fridges, Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited ("Toronto Hydro") is launching a final-call Fridge and Freezer Pickup campaign on Friday, April 25 at the annual Green Living Show. The launch will be highlighted with the reveal of the fridge-turned-artwork: a custom made solar dehydrator.

Local artist, Jose Andres Mora, transformed an old, decommissioned refrigerator into a <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1344471/toronto-hydro-reveals-fridge-art-and-innovation-local-artist-builds-a-solar-dehydrator-from-an-old-energy-guzzling-fridge>

solar dehydrator that uses solar power to preserve food by removing its moisture. Chosen by the voters, this highly anticipated art display is a call to action for owners of old, inefficient fridges or freezers to learn the costs and benefits of recycling their old appliances. The big reveal will coincide with the final year of the saveONenergyOM FRIDGE & FREEZER PICKUP program.

The FRIDGE & FREEZER PICKUP program offers free pick-up and recycling of old,

inefficient fridges and freezers, which in turn can help customers save up to \$125 a year on electricity. Since the program's inception in 2007, over 365,000 fridges and freezers have been recycled province-wide and Toronto Hydro hopes to encourage Torontonians to take advantage of the program, which ends December 31, 2014.

Deal close for Brant County Power

PARIS - Will Brant County Power continue to be owned by its citizens or be sold to some private corporation?

After nearly five months of study and entertaining proposals, council and staff are close to a formal announcement concerning its decision to put on the block a utility that has distributed power to the majority of Brant residents for half a century.

"Council is in final consideration of the proposal received," Michael Bradley,

<http://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/2014/04/23/deal-close-for-brant-county-power>

general manager of corporate services, said Wednesday.

After an in-camera meeting last Thursday to go over proposals and hear submissions from staff, council will huddle with the county solicitor on Monday, he said.

"Following that meeting, depending on the outcome, there will likely be another council meeting on the subject," Bradley said.

"We hope to conclude the process in the new two weeks."

Councillors and staff are remaining tightlipped about the prospective outcome in the final stages of the process.

Since its decision to entertain the prospect of selling Brant County Power Inc, council has mounted three public information meetings on the subject, and called for proposals.

Of Related Interest/International

COAL: Ontario's last coal-fired generating station closes

ONTARIO – When the Liberals came to power in Ontario in 2003, one of the first things then-premier Dalton McGuinty promised to do was to ban the burning of coal for power generation by 2007. That deadline came and went, but last week the remaining station in Thunder Bay burned its last lump of coal.

<http://www.canadianminingjournal.com/news/coal-ontarios-last-coal-fired-generating-station-closes/1003021599/?er=NA>

Ten years ago when the closures were promised, 25% of Ontario's electric power came from coal-fired power generators. Today it is zero, making the province the first jurisdiction in North America to end the burning of coal for power production. Ontario Power Generation produced electricity from nuclear (49.0%),

hydroelectric (30.6%) and thermal (4.1%) sources in 2012. Without coal, the old plants are being retrofitted to burn biomass. When the Atikokan generating station begins operating on biomass in the summer of 2014, it will be the largest, 100% biomass-fueled plant in North America.

Look at Ontario before shutting down power plants

Dennis Weiss, CEO of Kankakee Valley REMC, is right to be worried about electricity prices as the "war on coal" continues.

Here in Ontario, our government boasts our "phase-out of coal is the single largest climate change initiative in North America." Ontario has reduced its use of coal for generating electricity from 25

http://www.nwintimes.com/news/opinion/mailbag/look-at-ontario-before-shutting-down-power-plants/article_79db5e08-0d44-5ebf-82f3-322b000093c2.html

percent of all power generated to now less than 2 percent.

This is one of the main reasons electricity rates are forecast to rise 42 percent over the next five years and our chief natural gas supplier just requested a 40 percent price hike. Had our coal stations remained online, things would have been very different.

Ontario now requires financial support from Alberta which did not close down its coal stations. Who will support the United States if you similarly damage your economy by getting rid of coal, your most important source of electricity?

- Tom Harris, International Climate Science Coalition, Ottawa, Ontario

Remote surveillance of dams

In the past, inspecting hydroelectric dams could be a difficult and expensive operation. Water flow at the dam had to be shut down or slowed significantly to allow access by divers. The diver was often working in a dark overhead environment and had to contend with piles of debris around the dam structure, making it a particularly hazardous job. For many companies, ROVs have become a popular choice for these inspections whenever possible.

Ontario Power in Toronto, Canada, for example routinely inspects its dams and adjacent structures using an ROV. It has used a SeaLion ROV from JW Fishers for inspection operations at several of its hydro plants. Spokesman Mike Ostroski says: "In our Smokey Falls plant in northern

<http://www.waterpowermagazine.com/features/featureremote-surveillance-of-dams-4220501/>

Ontario the SeaLion inspected tailrace concrete piers, went up the draft tube to the underside of the runners, inspected the headworks concrete, and checked for erosion under the sluiceway aprons. At our Sir Adam Beck plant we inspected the headworks concrete piers, the headgate, and it's gains on one of the units. We've found the ROV to be an effective tool for this work and it has quickly paid for itself. One advantage of the ROV is that we don't have to shut down the units on either side of the one being inspected, letting us maintain a higher operating capacity. Also, we can put it in on the downstream side of the trash racks and it's perfectly safe."

"Another Canadian dam inspected with an ROV is the Centrale Shipshaw Dam in northern Quebec"

Another Canadian dam inspected with an ROV is the Centrale Shipshaw Dam in northern Quebec. Fishers SeaOtter ROV performed an inspection of the intake chambers and trash rakes. The ROV was deployed from a small boat at the dam face and submerged to 290ft. The ROV was able to operate around the dangerous currents near the intakes and successfully perform an the inspection of all chambers. The majority of the chambers were found to free of debris, however, several were clogged with logs, drums, and other materials. Video tapes of the inspection along with a written report were submitted to the unit's managers.

Light switch leads to savings for Uxbridge farmers

Glenn and Deb Harrison transform operation through Farming Power program

UXBRIDGE -- A top-notch energy savings plan has netted a local couple some recognition.

Glenn and Deb Harrison of Uxbridge participated in the Farming Power program, which was offered last year through the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association to support initiatives to reduce on-farm energy use for farm operators in the Greenbelt area. The two recently received a \$2,000 prize for their efforts in reducing energy consumption on their property.

<http://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/4477939-light-switch-leads-to-savings-for-uxbridge-farmers/>

The cash prize came from The Greenbelt Foundation.

"Greenbelt farmers, like the Harrisons, are on the cutting edge when it comes to innovations that help protect the environment and help grow their business," says Burkhard Mausberg, CEO of the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation. "By partnering with the OSCIA, we are providing a solution to keeping our environment healthy while also supporting substantial long-term economic benefits for farmers."

The crutch of Mr. Harrison's energy savings plan involved swapping out all the lights from his broiler chicken farm and transitioning to the use of new, high efficiency LEDs.

The lighting project is expected to result in a 91-per cent reduction in energy consumption with the on-farm lighting and should net the Harrison's nearly \$20,000 a year in savings on electricity costs.

Experts say leak from nuclear waste site would be diluted

Report supports plan for underground repository near Lake Huron

ONTARIO – The "immense" waters of the Great Lakes will greatly dilute any radiation-bearing water that might leak from a proposed nuclear waste site on Lake Huron, says an expert group.

Fast-flowing surface water would also dilute leaking radiation should the site be located in the ancient rock of the Canadian Shield, the group says.

The four-member group has filed a report with the federal panel examining Ontario Power Generation's proposal to bury low-

and intermediate-level nuclear waste in a limestone formation 680 metres below the surface, on the shore of Lake Huron near Kincardine.

The federal panel asked the expert group to compare whether it would be better to inter the waste at the Bruce site or in ancient granite formations in the Canadian Shield.

Vicki Monague, a Christian Island resident and Beausoleil First Nation councillor, opposes the project. She created an online

petition in January directed at Ontario Power Generation and the Ministry of the Environment.

"It's too close to Lake Huron, and it's not a risk we should be taking," she said, noting she was speaking as a grassroots citizen, and not on behalf of her community. "It's basic common sense. You don't put nuclear waste right beside the Great Lakes."

<http://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/4476867-experts-say-leak-from-nuclear-waste-site-would-be-diluted/>