Wind worst value for Ontario consumers

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The wind power lobby continues to claim power from wind is great value and contributes to "affordable" electricity bills. But the facts of October tell a different story.


Ontario turbines near Comber: not helping

Right after Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault released his version of the LTEP (Long-Term Energy Plan), "Delivering Fairness and Choice," CanWEA (the Canadian Wind Energy Association) issued a news release with the following statement: "New wind energy provides the *best value* for consumers to meet growing demand for *affordable* non-emitting electricity."

To back up that claim, CanWEA president Robert Hornung had this to say: **"**Ontario's harnessing of wind power can help fight climate change while *keeping electricity costs low*. Without new wind energy, costs to electricity customers and carbon emissions will both continue to rise."

Brandy Giannetta, CanWEA's Regional Director for Ontario also had a quote: "CanWEA supports competitive, market-based approaches to providing flexible, clean, and low-cost energy supply, to meet Ontarians' changing needs."

The expression "I wish I had a dollar for every time I heard that," immediately comes to mind but here's the truth: industrial-scale wind turbines have failed miserably in producing anything resembling "low-cost" energy and is instead one of the reasons consumers' electricity bills "will continue to rise"!

If Hornung and Giannetta had waited just five days, they could have visited my friend Scott Luft's spreadsheet and noticed how wind performed in October. They would have

discovered it was pretty dismal: 37.9% of possible grid-connected (Tx) wind power generation was curtailed (paid for but not used).

The IESO (Independent Electricity System Operator) was concerned that too much wind power generation could cause repercussions such as a blackout or brownout, so 481,243 MWh (megawatt hours) were not accepted throughout the month. However, Ontario's ratepayers will still pay for those undelivered MWh at a cost of $120 each, meaning the GA (global adjustment) increased by $57.7 million (481,243 MWh X $120. = $ $57,749,160).

Add that $57.7 million to the 787,627 MWh of the Tx generation accepted into the grid, the total costs rise to $165 million or $208.32/MWh — *the equivalent of 20.8 cents/kWh*(kilowatt hour). (That calculation is 787,627 X $135/MWh = $106,329,645 + $57,749,160 = $164,978,805. Simply divide the latter amount by the Tx accepted generation and you get the $208.32 MWh or the 20.8 cents/kWh.)

It is important to note that the costs calculated and reported here do not include the transmission charge, delivery charge, regulatory charge or the HST. Additionally, another 158,609 MWh of wind were delivered to local distribution companies (Dx) at a cost of $135/MWh, bringing IWT costs for the month to $185 million — for power we didn't need. No doubt during the month we were also steaming off clean nuclear power from Bruce Nuclear and spilling clean hydro power from OPG's hydro generation units. In both cases the cost of the steamed off nuclear and the spilled hydro will be added to the Global Adjustment pot and find its way to our future bills.

I hope Mr. Hornung and Ms Giannetta will rethink their claims and simply admit wind power generation is high-cost, and frequently displaces low-cost non-emitting nuclear and hydro power.

You can't hide October's facts**!**

Posted onNovember 3, 2017Categorieselectricity bills, energy policy, hydro bills, wind energyTagsCanWEA, electricity bills Ontario, green energy, hydro bills Ontario, IESO, nucelar power Ontario, Parker Gallant, renewable energy, Scott Luft, wind farms Ontario, wind power Ontario7 Comments