



Happy New Year! Thanks for being with us for another great year and welcome to 2018!

Ontario News

Gaming the System- Hydro customers shelled out about \$100 million in "inappropriate" payments to a natural gas plant that exploited flaws in how Ontario manages its private electricity generators. See [CBC](#)

In a related story, nine generators claimed up to \$260 million in ineligible costs between 2006 and 2015, according to the Auditor General's Report. See [The Spectator](#) See the Ministry of Energy's [response](#) and the PCs have asked the OPP to investigate [TheStar](#)

OPG's Odyssey -More than 100 mayors and other elected officials on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border are urging the Federal Government to stop the proposed nuclear-waste bunker near Lake Huron. See [CTV](#) The Kincardine community has responded with a letter saying they support the bunker. See [Blackburn](#).

In a related story, the search has narrowed to five northern Ontario locations for a place to store used nuclear fuel. See [Global](#)

Fixing Hydro - The Ontario PCs hydro policy, that has decided that Wynne's program does not go far enough, manages to actually make Kathleen Wynne look good according to the [FinancialPost](#). In a related story, Hydro One's new bills are giving Wynne's Liberals an unfair advantage as an election looms, according to their rivals. See [TheRecord](#)

Review Panel - The Ontario Government is launching a review panel on the OEB to ensure it can best adapt to innovative services and new technologies. See [Ontario](#)

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The Year in Review

January - Deep Geological Repository decision is delayed, Hydro One reconnects 200 households, and the OEB refuses to clarify the Global Adjustment charge.

February - Shutting down coal shows minimal benefits, decommissioning starts at Nanticoke, and Iroquois Falls power plant is paid the same for less electricity.

March - Ont. Government seeks to dismiss lawsuit stopping sale of Hydro One shares, two northern Ontario gas plants are shuttered, and province approves pay hikes for OPG executives.

Ban on Pre-Paid Meters - NDP Leader Andrea Horwath is introducing a new law to ban pre-pay hydrometers that were introduced as part of Hydro One's distribution rate application for 2018 to 2022. See [Netnewsledger](#)

Rate Increase Denied - The OEB has ordered Hydro One to substantially lower a rate increase the utility had been seeking for next year. See [CTV](#)

More Incentives - Homeowners who complete energy-efficient renovations will be eligible for thousands of dollars in rebates under the new Green Ontario Fund. See [CTV](#) and [Ontario](#)

Solar Nightmare - The story of how Blind River has been saddled with millions of dollars in debt because of solar-energy dreams that turned into a nightmare. See [SudburyStar](#)

Product Spotlight LEDs and the Pitfalls of Power Quality

Facilities of all types need to take power quality issues into account before making the change to LEDs because they can contribute to power quality issues if preparation is overlooked. Power quality issues, which cost \$15 billion annually, include voltage dips, harmonics, interruptions, transients, and surges. For full details see the blog post from [Schneider Electric](#)

GridSense Transformer IQ

With the increase in EVs and more volatile renewables entering the grid, the distribution system is growing more vulnerable and the threat of overload is increasing. The Transformer IQ can help protect the grid, identify its vulnerabilities, and maximize efficiency.

Designed for quick, live installation and equipped with an on-board, no-maintenance power source, TransformerIQ provides in-depth data to protect against overload, quickly diagnose and resolve maintenance issues, improve fault restoration time, optimize asset utilization, and predict remaining asset life. See [GridSense](#)

April - Ontario cuts elec. rates by 25%, Ontario looks to purchase more hydro from Quebec, and OPG produces isotopes in support of deep space exploration.

May - The first Cap and Trade auction is held, OPG submits additional sites for DGR, and Hydro One eliminates residential security deposits.

June - Ontario and Constance Lake sign historic agreement, the DGR controversy continues, and Hydro One sells its first shares.

July - The lawyer for the Crown says its entitled to sell Hydro One, the Lake Erie connector project is approved, and Festival Hydro announces the largest battery storage in Canada.

August - Hydro One acquires US Utility, the sale of Orillia Power is stalled, and Siemens' shuts down the wind turbine blade factory in Tillsonburg.

September - Ontario negotiates to buy electricity from Quebec, CUPE's lawsuit against the government is thrown out, and the cost of a transmission line in northern Ontario nearly doubles.

October - OPG seeks to issue over \$2 billion in debt, CUPE appeals the lawsuit's dismissal, and NIMBY resistance to renewables is on the rise.

November - The OEB orders Hydro One to cut its admin budget and says it can't pass along privatization costs to transmission customers, and the Affordability Fund is launched.

December - According to the LTEP elec prices are going up, multiple groups release reports on how to fix Ontario's elec system, and the OEB bans all winter disconnects.

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