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Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board

Penny wise and pound foolish

In the Board Staff Submission (distributed yesterday) there is no mention at all of Issue 5.1(a). In the Sustainability-Journal.ca submission in support of that issue filed on July 25 and entitled "The light at the end of the tunnel" we provided data (from NRCAN's "Comprehensive Energy Use Database") that showed quantitatively how electricity production from existing hydro (and other) generating facilities could be substantially increased by employing energy storage.

The capital cost of both the generation and the distribution facilities would consequently be reduced by an amount great enough to cover the added capital cost of the energy stores.

The greatest economies, however, arise from the consequent reductions in the use of natural gas for both peaking power applications and for space heating. Using the NEB estimate for the future price of natural gas Ontario will be spending 6820 million dollars per year to import natural gas unless we take steps to reduce the consumption. Our submission of July 25 showed how the consumption for those two applications could be phased out altogether.

None of the recommendations in the 137 page Staff report are even remotely comparable to the 6820 million dollars in potential savings that was left out of the report. We would respectfully suggest that the Board should ask its staff to correct the omission.

Further data has become available that might be helpful. The slides from a presentation at an international conference held last week (SEGE 2014) are attached and a more detailed paper is available to anyone who requests a copy (it is currently in the peer review process so it will be confidential until published).

Regards,

Ron Tolmie