

From: Brian McLaughlin <brianmclaughlin@bellaliant.net>

Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2015 12:38:44 PM AST

To: Donald.Arseneault@gnb.ca

Cc: Brian.Gallant@gnb.ca

Subject: Re: Letter from Minister Arseneault (Smart Grid) (Minister's Letter dated December 19, 2014)

Dear Hon. Donald Arseneault

Thank you for your detailed reply to the Smart Grid issue I raised in my article in NR Mag. It originally caught my attention when the prior government came out in 2012 announcements with such fanfare about the Smart Grid initiatives. My article for the most part was tame and objective in accordance with the editorial guidelines and the pro-business audience of the publisher.

But interesting information was also garnered from numerous sources (proponents and industry, experienced realists (such as Nancy Brockway and Rick Hornsby of Synapse Energy) which question the economic viability of Smart Grid with peak time pricing and additional unforeseen costs down the road...examples being the added burden and extra costs to those marginalized by economic deprivations (seniors, disabled persons, low-income house-holds). I have two senior parents (a mother and mother-in-law) on pensioner incomes who are vulnerable to unnecessary rate price increases. Some Cdn and US critics argue Smart Grid initiatives are simply a transfer of public wealth to electricity management vendors and manufacturers of hi-tech 21st century technology (fridges, stoves, TVs etc).

Also, interesting that Ontario is the only province in Canada which is having success with Smart Grid and various Canadian and US experts attributed that to the 'competitive landscape' of having three PU providers. As you know NB has one -- NB Power! In another example, an Alberta PU has not implemented many of the recommendations from Nancy Brockway's PUC meeting, where she was a presenting consultant. Perhaps the NB Government should invite Nancy Brockway and her business associate Rick Hornsby of Synapse Energy (who was formerly a NS Deputy Minister of Energy and Mines) to an NB provincial EUB hearing to get serious objective economic rationale behind the Smart Grid hype -- would this not be prudent? I would speculate they both would provide useful and welcome expertise in obtaining a broader economic picture of what Smart Grid may entail.

Smart Grid is proving economically viable in hot-state climates (one principle reason is the 'hot climate' demands of year-round air conditioning in AZ, NM, CA); but in cold weather climates, it is not proving economically effective. Realist/skeptics having completed 10-years in-depth, research cite numerous failed pilot studies; while proponents cite it does not need over study.....And then the issue of cyber-security. Consider recent events with Sony, and the fact the US could not even accurately figure out who did that hack. Recent news reports indicate one of the largest public safety security teams (FBI) in the world got their facts on "who the hackers were" wrong! And is cyber-security going to be a public cost in the user-pay rate price increases? Who's funding up the post-Smart Grid implementation costs of cyber-security assurance in our NB scenario? The public or the vendor (Siemens)? How would a critical hack to PLGS effect the liabilities and public security of NB power users? Recently on a CBC news report a cyber-security technology industry expert cites hacking will be the new increased threats in 2015. And consider the advent of Li-Fi innovations and the imaginable vulnerabilities in the new environs of super-connected geographic regions.

I'm sorry I missed the opportunity to attend the pre-hearing EUB conference in December. Is there a schedule of cross-provincial EUB hearings in 2015 I might be made aware of and possibly attend as a public intervener? Thank you (and Premier Gallant) for taking my concerns into serious consideration.

Sincerely
Brian

Brian McLaughlin

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---- Donald.Arseneault@gnb.ca wrote:

Good morning Mr. McLaughlin,

Attached please find a letter from Minister Arseneault regarding your concerns with NB Power's Smart grid initiative and the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station.

Thank you and have a great day!

Hélène

Hélène Hachey-Holland

Executive Secretary / Secrétaire de direction

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