

Society for Energy Professionals

1. The recent Ministry of Energy Long Term Energy Plan calls for ten nuclear units at Darlington and Bruce to be refurbished, as well as an additional two units of new nuclear at Darlington, resulting in approximately 50% of electricity supply derived from nuclear. If the New Democratic Party forms government, would this plan for refurbishment (10 units) and new build (2 units) be maintained?

NDP Answer

The NDP does not believe it is in the long-term economic and environmental interest of Ontarians to maintain 50% of Ontario’s overall supply in nuclear energy. We would therefore not proceed with the Darlington new build units and would do a careful cost-benefit analysis of the proposed nuclear refurbishment projects at Darlington and Bruce.

The NDP understands that nuclear power is going to be an important source of power in Ontario for a long time and that Ontario’s nuclear professionals play an important role in Ontario’s overall power system. We will consult with all energy stakeholders as a government when we develop the details of our own long-term energy plan.

2. What is the New Democratic Party’s position with respect to continued operations at Pickering Nuclear GS and the conversion of Nanticoke GS and Lambton GS.

NDP Answer

We will wait to see what OPG’s final decision is on the proposal to invest \$300 million into Pickering NS. Our understanding is that the present plan is to mothball the plant in 2020 and if OPG thinks a \$300 million investment is needed for safety reasons to keep the plant going for another 10 years, then the NDP would likely support this.

We would also look at proposed options for the conversion of the Nanticoke and Lambton coal plants.

3. The recent Long Term Energy Plan projects a 2030 supply mix with the following composition:

Source 2030	Nuclear	Hydro	Conservation	Wind/ Solar/ Bioma ss	Gas
LTEP Projection	46%	20%	14%	12.8%	7%

What would the NDP’s supply mix look like in 2030?

NDP Answer

Over time, we would 1) reduce Ontario’s reliance on nuclear energy; 2) encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and load shifting; 3) take an aggressive approach on renewables such as hydro, wind and solar; and 4) develop new combined cycle natural gas plants where there is a strong business and environmental case for such plants.

4. Ontario's transmission infrastructure is rapidly aging, and in fact much of it is currently past nominal end of life. If the New Democratic Party forms government, how would you balance the demands of renewal and replacement of existing transmission infrastructure with the desire for new transmission to enable renewables and other embedded generation?

NDP Answer

The NDP's approach to green energy would be more closely integrated into Ontario's existing transmission system so there would be somewhat reduced costs on the transmission side. However, we do believe that there has to be investment in both existing transmission infrastructure as well as transmission related to existing generation.

5. By regulation, Ontario Power Generation is prevented from building and operating non-hydro renewable generating facilities. If the New Democratic Party forms government would you change the regulation to allow OPG to participate in renewable generation?

NDP Answer

Under an NDP government, OPG will take the lead in directing the renewable energy development process for green energy projects above a certain size (likely in the 20-30 MGW range).

As in Quebec with Quebec Hydro, OPG would administer a continuous series of RFPs for renewable projects in a manner consistent with long-term renewable targets (see below). In addition to administering the RFP process, OPG would also be encouraged to develop its own renewable energy projects.

Existing private sector sponsors would be eligible for most RFPs and in all RFPs, economic development objectives will be paramount. Transmission capacity will also be tightly integrated into the RFP process.

The FIT program would operate pretty much as is for projects under the threshold.

An NDP government would exceed the current target of 10,700 MW from wind, solar, bio-energy by 2018. Perhaps more importantly, unlike the Liberal Long-term Energy Plan, we would *not* discontinue the development of new green energy projects after 2018.

The NDP is also a strong believer in Buy Ontario policies. We would consult with the industry regarding the adequacy of the current domestic content requirement for green energy with the aim of strengthening the current requirements if economically feasible.

6. Since the breakup of Ontario Hydro system planning, procurement, rate setting, grid management and dispatch, generation and transmission functions have been devolved to a large number of entities including the OPA, the IESO, the OEB, OPG and Hydro One, among others. If the New Democratic Party forms government would you amend the roles of these agencies or alter the relationship between them? If so, please explain how.

NDP Answer

Ontario's current "hybrid" electricity system essentially consists of a wasteful, patchwork of overlapping bureaucracies developed to compensate for an electricity market that is fatally flawed and was a failure from the moment it opened in 2002.

The NDP is proposing to re-integrate OPG, Hydro One, and the planning functions of the OPA and IESO, but keep a beefed-up OEB separate to oversee and hold accountable the re-regulated system. The OPA generation procurement function would be transferred to the Ministry of Energy or the consolidated agency and the IESO run spot market would be phased out with the dispatching function of the IESO transferred to the new consolidated agency. Significant savings would result from eliminating the OPA and IESO, and the consolidation would enable the new agency to optimize all the system resources and planning which is not being done today. This systems optimization would result in hundreds of millions of dollars in additional savings.

The NDP believes that a re-regulated, fully integrated, public system would greatly benefit the Ontario hydro customer and could be in place in two years. We'd set up an expert team of industry professionals with an 18 month deadline to put the new system in place, which would still give us six months to achieve the two year goal.

7. If the New Democratic Party forms government would you explore privatization, in part or in whole, of any part of the electricity system that is currently publicly owned?**NDP Answer**

No, we would move in exactly the opposite direction and return to a system of public power as described above.

8. If the New Democratic Party forms government would you enact legislation which would alter/amend the Rand formula or otherwise alter the relationship between unions and their members?**NDP Answer**

No, we would not.

9. Arbitration of collective bargaining disputes is seen by many as a useful alternative to strikes/lockouts. If the New Democratic Party forms government would you make any alterations to the current arbitration regime? If so, what form would this take?**NDP Answer**

No, we would not.

10. How will the New Democratic Party protect Ontarian's pension income/earnings if a company goes into receivership or bankruptcy?

NDP Answer

Firstly, we will work with federal New Democrats and the labour movement to amend bankruptcy laws to ensure that pension plan members are at the top of the creditor list. Secondly, we will implement the Arthurs Commission recommendation of increasing the amount guaranteed by the Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund (Ontario's pension back-up) to \$2,500/monthly from the current \$1,000/monthly.

11. Will the New Democratic Party amend the Ontario Pension Benefit Act to require indexation and ensure that all pension plan members, including pensioners, get access to pension plan status?

NDP Answer

Yes, we would start with the Arthurs recommendation of requiring indexing for all pensions in "high inflation" periods and then, over time, implement a fuller indexing formula.

12. Does the New Democratic Party have a plan to more quickly correct the funding of pension plans that fall into deficit (beyond the 5 years that current regulations allow)? What would you do to ensure pensions are fully funded throughout a business cycle?

NDP Answer

We are in general support of the recent amendments to Pension Benefits Act related to solvency funding although some fine tuning may be necessary.

13. What, if any, initiatives or programs is the New Democratic Party planning to develop a Universal Child Care Program for Ontario?

NDP Answer

The New Democrat plan would provide licensed child care centres with \$125 million in each of the next two years to keep spaces open and freeze fees. We also support the implementation of full-day junior and senior kindergarten.

14. What, if any, initiatives or programs is the New Democratic Party planning to eliminate the Gender Wage Gap?

NDP Answer

New Democrats support a more aggressive approach to pay equity and would increase the minimum wage immediately to \$11.00/hr. We would also improve enforcement of existing employment standards laws and would close loopholes to ensure that all workers are covered by the Act.

15. What, if any, initiatives or programs is the New Democratic Party planning to support victims of domestic violence and to end domestic violence?

NDP Answer

New Democrats have worked with stakeholders to improve access to legal aid and develop community safety solutions that work for victims of domestic violence. New Democrats have long called for the stable and consistent funding of women's shelters and emergency housing programs. We are unwavering in our support for services for women, and all persons, who have experienced violence and will continue to work with stakeholders to bring the necessary changes to Ontario.

16. What will the New Democratic Party do to improve accessibility to Health Care across the province? For example reducing wait times in: hospitals; medical treatments and testing; access to specialists.

NDP Answer

Emergency rooms are one of the most important parts of our healthcare system. It's where we go when we need immediate medical attention. No one should be stuck waiting for 12 hours in an emergency room. But more and more these excruciating waits are the norm. Emergency rooms have closed in some communities and reduced hours in others.

We will cut emergency room wait times by half. We will work closely with hospitals to address the underlying causes of backlogs and long wait times. Cutting ER wait times by half requires smarter investments. If we enable seniors to live on their own longer, invest in home care and long-term care and open family care clinics, we can relieve pressures on hospitals so they can do their job better. This means Ontarians will wait less for the care they need.

We will also free more funds for frontline care by capping executive compensation at twice the Premier's salary. That's more than seven times what the average nurse makes. We will crack down on consulting and consultant expenses and give the Ombudsman oversight of hospital and health spending to ensure patients are being respected.