Milton one of several new energy storage project sites

News Nov 25, 2015 by **Julie Slack** (/halton-author/julie-slack/C0E8F7A8-6AE8-4772-865D-7D37DA91286A/) (mailto:jslack@miltoncanadianchampion.com) Milton Canadian Champion

Milton has been chosen to be the site of a leading-edge energy storage project – one of nine locations across the province.

Ontario Minister of Energy Bob Chiarelli was at the Milton Education Village Innovation Centre Monday to release the five companies that were selected by Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to secure a total of 16.75 megawatts of energy storage in Ontario.

Once the projects are up and running — likely around 2018 — they will be able to support reliability by responding to changing grid conditions. It will be able to store energy and provide it back when called upon.

More importantly, it will be able to store energy during periods of lower prices and inject it back into the grid when prices rise.

In total, the projects will cost approximately $9 million per year.

Locally, the utility grid-scale battery storage system installation will be at the new Milton Hydro headquarters on Chisholm Drive, close to other large electricity consumers such a Modatek systems; it will be operated by Baseload Power Corp. based out of Thornhill.

Frank Lasowski, president of Milton Hydro said, "It's a glorified rechargeable battery," essentially, adding he's happy it is being constructed here since it will help with future generations as well.

The Milton site will be a four-hour flow battery, capable of two MW performance and eight Mwh of storage capacity. Two full-size CellCubes will be 40 feet by 40 feet in size each, once up and running. They'll be made in Germany by Gildemeister energy solutions, which is an Austrian company. Similar systems are in place in several countries around the world.

"Storage technology remains one of the most innovative and exciting aspects of our energy policy, particularly because of the incredible potential it presents. It will help strengthen our system and improve service to electricity consumers," said Chiarelli. "Our government is proud to see the leadership of these five Ontario companies as they move forward to create good jobs and invest in their local economies."

Added Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris, "Successful projects like this one have the potential to improve efficiency and reliability for the province's electricity consumers. This is an important initiative for our community and our province."

Energy storage has the potential to transform how the IESO plans and operates the power system by providing a range of real-time grid balancing services and injecting or withdrawing energy on demand.

Unlike other forms of energy, electricity has not usually been stored in large quantities. Cost-effective energy storage allows electricity to be captured and dispatched wherever it's needed.

The IESO selected five successful companies during a bidding process; they are Ameresco Canada Inc., SunEdison Canada Origination LP., NextEra Canada Development and Acquisitions Inc., NRStor Inc., and Baseload Power Corp.

In total, this marks the completion of IESO's plan to secure a total of 50 MW of energy storage in Ontario.

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"It will strengthen our system and improve service to electricity customers." — Ontario Minister of Energy Bob Chiarelli

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Celebrating the fact that Milton will the site of a new energy storage project are (from left), Mayor Gord Krantz, Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris, Ontario Minister of Energy Bob Chiarelli, executive director of Energy Storage Ontario Patricia Phillips and president and CEO of Baseload Power Corp. Jonathan Sandler. - Julie Slack / Canadian Champion

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Julie Slack is a reporter with the Milton Canadian Champion.

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