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# Will Halton Hills Hydro – 'Load Shifting' initiative really benefit ...

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Will Halton Hills Hydro – 'Load Shifting' initiative really benefit consumers?

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**Halton – Halton Hills**: Halton Hills Hydro is not a power generating utility. Halton Hills Hydro Inc. is an affiliate utility company of the Town of Halton Hills who are licensed by Hydro One to distribute electricity to Town of Halton Hills consumers.

The 'Load Shifting' application in which Halton Hills Hydro is currently demonstrating, is explicitly used for supply and profit manipulation. The ideals of which are not that different from the manner which the price of petroleum products are determined in Canadian markets. Suppliers buying low and resell indexed at speculative demand/supply prices to make a profit. In simplified terms; Halton Hills Hydro is demonstrating the use of the ZEBRA battery system to buy and store energy at night when it's cheap, to be later dispatched back into the power grid during daytime peaks, when demand and prices are at their highest. But will those savings be passed on to the consumer?

What we do know is Halton Hills Hydro and its partners -- including battery expert BET Services Inc. of Mississauga, ambitions, are not limited to the development of employment tools for manipulating the supply and profit margins of their industry product. Halton Hills Hydro and their 'partners' are taking their ambitions a step further and have expressed desires to negotiate a licensing agreement with the Swiss company MES-DEA, to establish themselves in the manufacturing sector where they hope to compete for a market share of the North American battery industry.

This load-shifting demonstration is merely the first part of a plan to demonstrate to investors that the 'ZEBRA battery', in this Halton Hills Hydro demonstration – works. Halton Hills Hydro and their partners believe if a utility company can demonstrate the battery's practical use, which in theory is already employed in the electronics industry using capacitors, hopefully they'll be able to attract private investors to invest. If the Halton Hills ZEBRA battery application demonstration convinces enough investors of its viability, the 'partners' hope to raise -- $100 million (U.S.) investment capital for the licensing and development of a manufacturing facility that could supply other utility companies as well as developers who are interested in employing batteries in their manufacturing applications, such as; electric vehicles or wind turbine energy storage systems. There is also industry speculation that homes may some day use ZEBRA batteries in applications to manage the harvesting of their own energy needs, much in the same manner currently being demonstrated in this Halton Hills Hydro initiative. The claim is; if the battery industry can raise the production of these 'Zebra' battery units, it might make their implementation more economical for applications in commercial, public and/or private applications.

The controversy investors will have to overcome before investing, is; science is always changing the industry and by today's standards – what has evolved into a ZEBRA (Sodium Nickel Chloride) battery has been around since the 1970's, and, by size to performance ratios, has long been succeeded by more efficient compact nickel-metal hydride and lithium composites, leaving the Sodium Nickel Chloride battery to be considered by many product and application design/engineers - as 'old technology'. The lithium-solid-polymer and the vanadium battery may soon prove to be the battery industry's superior product.

So, what does this amount to for Halton Hills power consumers? More controversy in the utility's investment practices from where the public utilities main focus should lie. Halton Hills Hydro has recently been criticized by some consumers for not applying the funds the utility uses as investment capital, towards the lower of customer rates.


A recent prime example: rather than investing in wind turbine electric generating towers, which could ultimately justify the existence of the redundant utility company or, at the very least, possibly lower the cost of its product to consumers, the public utility entered into the highly competitive market of providing internet service to Halton Hills residents in an already established -- highly competitive market, building wireless transmission towers at substantial development cost to Halton Hills Hydro consumers who don't necessarily need the luxury or want the competing service.