

Response from Joe Krmpotich, NDP campaign:

In March 2017, the Ontario NDP published its plan to lower Ontario's hydro bills by an average of up to 30%. The plan identified Ontario's massive oversupply of electricity as a key driver of hydro costs. Despite this oversupply, in January 2016, the Ministers of Energy and Finance suddenly announced that they were scrapping long-standing plans to close Pickering by 2020 or sooner, and would instead keep the aging station open at least four years longer, costing ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars to generate electricity we don't currently need. These politicians offered no peer-reviewable business case or cost/benefit/risk analysis in support of Pickering's life extension. Such politicized decision-making was criticized by the Auditor-General just one month earlier in her 2015 annual report, which described Ontario's energy planning system as "broken." The NDP's plan calls for "an independent, fact-based evaluation of when to take Pickering offline," to ensure that this important decision serves the public interest, and not the whims of Liberal politicians. The NDP hydro plan can be found at: <http://act.ontariondp.ca/hydro>