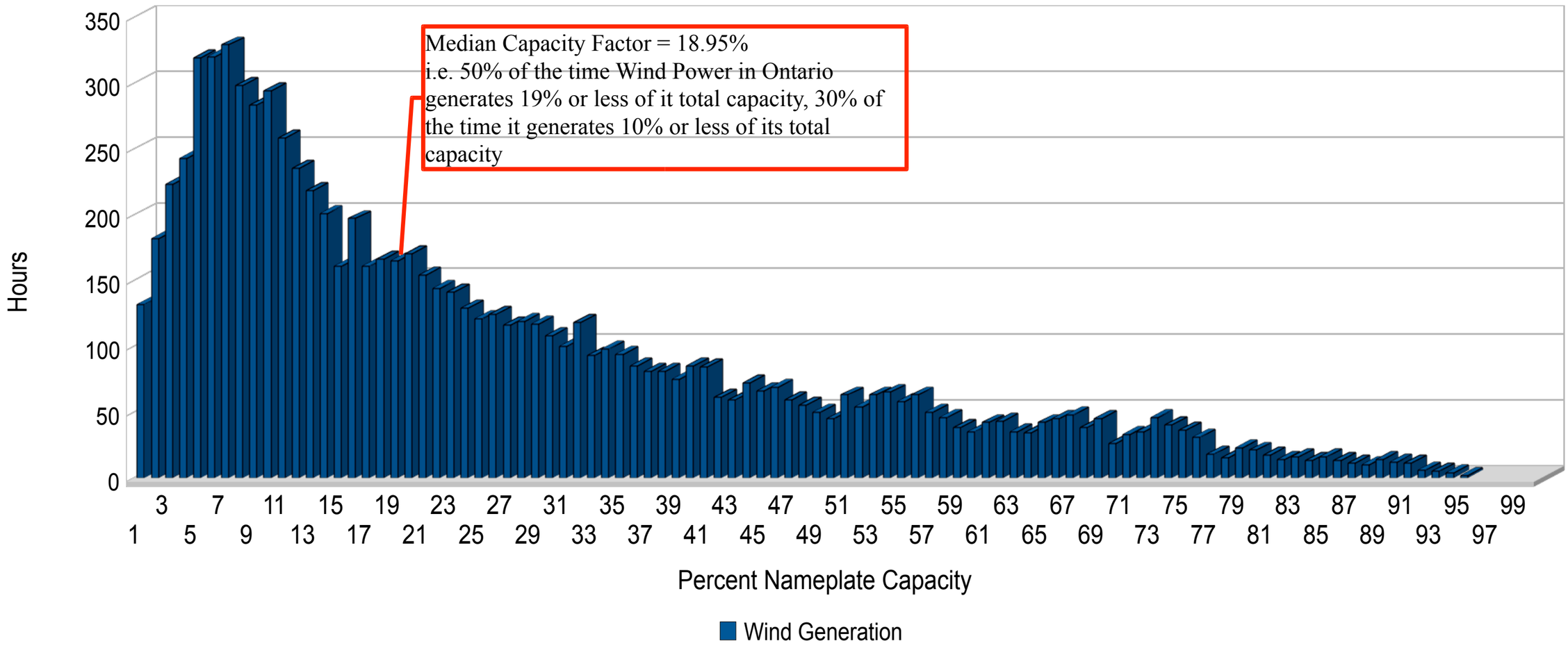
Wind Developers Claim

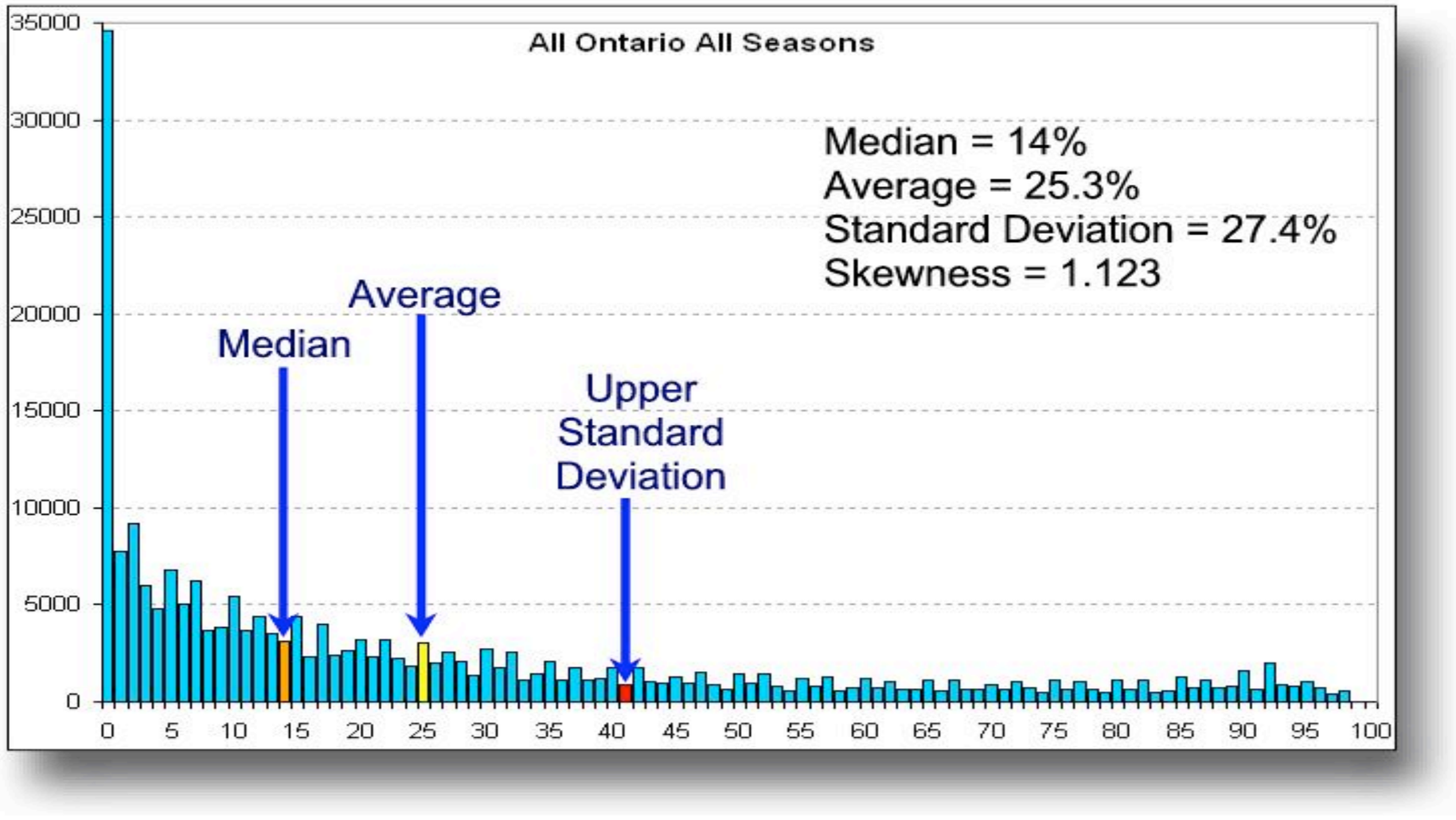
Wind power s a reliable and efficient source of power:

Nope. Not true. 50% of the time Wind power produces less than 19% of its Nameplate Capacity. Most of that time it generates between 5% & 11% of its rated power. Since 2006, Wind Generation in Ontario has average 25% of its nameplate capacity. This means that every MW of conventional energy generation we wish to replace with Wind generation requires that we install 4MW of Wind Generation plus at least 3MW of conventional generation as backup for when the wind isn't blowing hard enough! Even if (and this is not the case) each MW of Wind Generation cost the same to install as conventional generation, it would cost us 6 times more for Wind power , and that doesn't include the cost of all the new transmission lines.



Graphs by Research at Lsarc.ca

April 2010 to April 2011 was a good period for Wind Power in Ontario, since Wind Power was first commissioned in Ontario it has only managed a 14% median capacity factor and has spent 35,000 hours generating less than 1% of installed capacity.

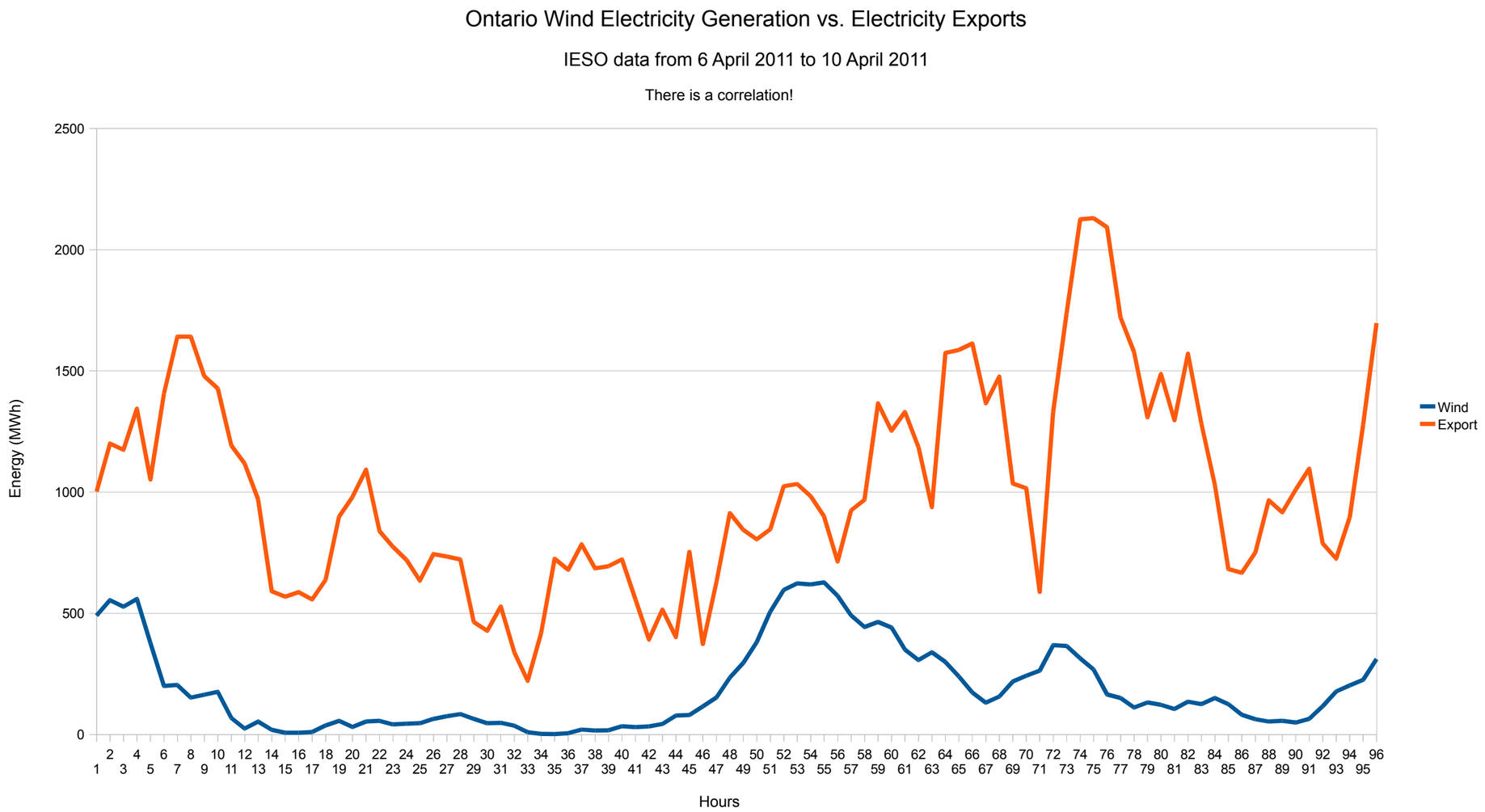


Graph this page by Wakefield, J.R., et al (2010), Ontario Wind Performance. http://ontariowindperformance.wordpress.com/

Wind Developers Claim

Ontario needs the power

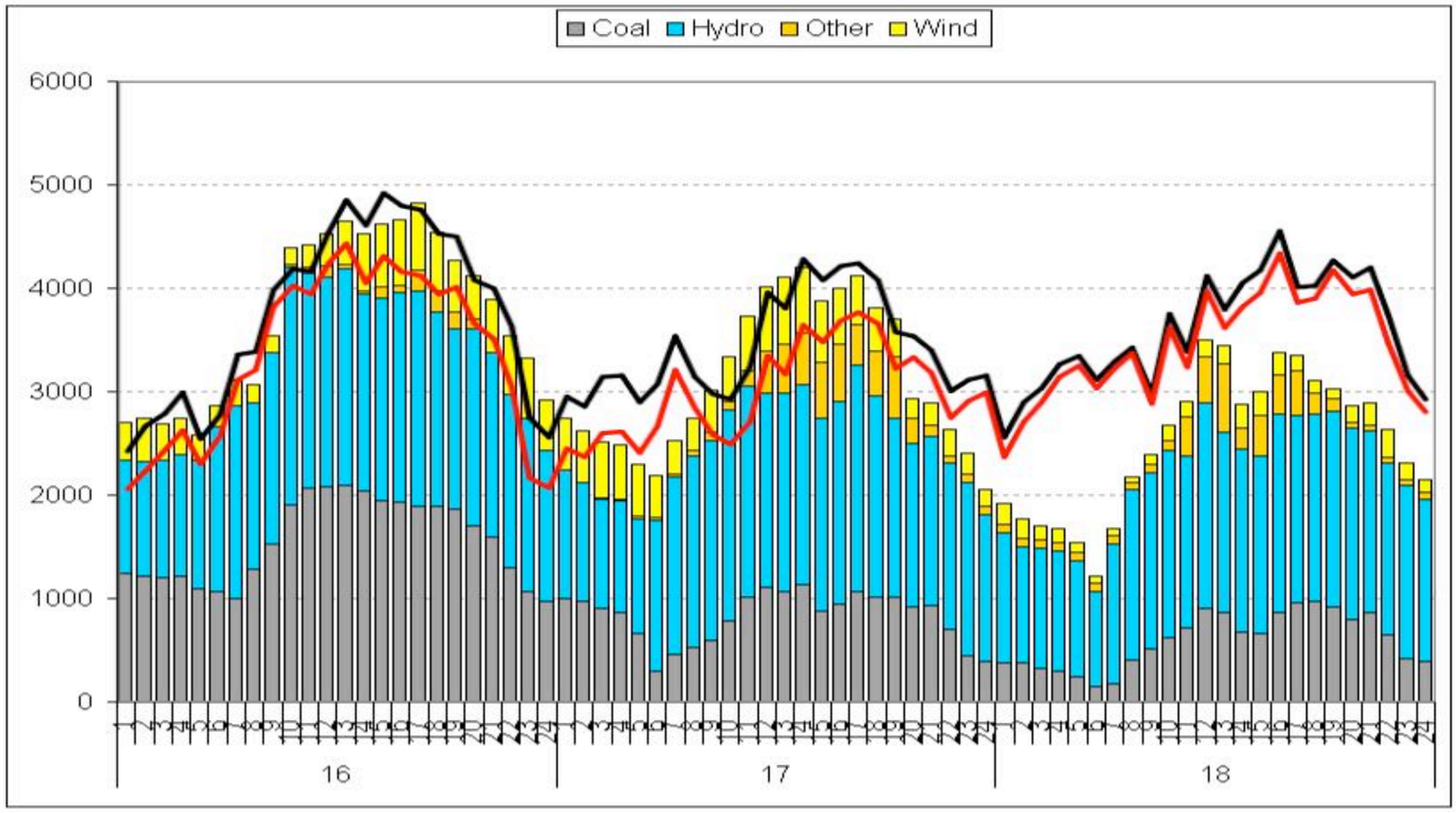
If Wind power doesn't replace Coal & Gas Generation, where does it go?



Yes, there is a correlation between Wind Generation and Electricity exports, visible even in a simple graph like this one. Regression analysis of IESO data indicates, with 95% confidence level, that Wind generated electricity is not used domestically, it is all exported, or permits a like amount of conventionally generated electricity to be exported.

Graphs by Research at Lsarc.ca

Net exports for the first 16 hours of 23 April 2011 was 25,147MWh at an average price of $24.25 earning us $609,814.75. Sounds not to bad on the surface. In that period of time Wind produced 16,950 MWH. Wind therefore cost the ratepayers $2,288,250, but if it was all exported we only received $411,037 for it meaning it cost the ratepayers over $1.8 million dollars for electricity we didn't even get to use. The other aspect of surplus wind is that it drives down the HOEP meaning we might have received more for the remaining exports if wind was silent!
Another example, July 16 to 18, 2010



In this example, each generating station for coal, hydro and "other" was scanned individually to look for stations where the output was not cyclic. The criteria had to be stations that had a generation profile similar to the export profile. Those chosen stations were then placed together, with wind's output and all added for each hour. That's the stacked bar graph. The black line is the exported power. Notice how it matches almost identical to the very tips of the stack, which has wind at the top. The red line is wind removed from the exported power.

This is likely very close to which stations are contributing from the mix to be sent for export, and wind has to be one of those sources. It is very likely that some of those stations are dropped or others added as the need arises, which would account for the white areas between the bars and black line.

So, a strong argument can be made that all wind is sent south, not used domestically.

Graph and text this page by Wakefield, J.R., et al (2010), Ontario Wind Performance. http://ontariowindperformance.wordpress.com/

This has been a very windy weekend. Just before the wind industry gleefully announces how much electricity they produced and how many homes may or may not have been powered by wind this weekend, let's look wind's real contribution and how Dalton McGuinty and Brad Duguid manage to keep spending taxpayers' money for nothing:

1. Guarantee the wind industry $135 per megawatt hour for wind power we do not need.
2. Dump the surplus wind power generated on this windy weekend.
3. Earn only $25.67 for each – MWH exported/sold/dumped.
4. Subsidize wind developers by $135.00 – $25.67 = $109.33 per MWH
5. Total cost to Ontario – **$3,731,104.91**

- Does Dwight Duncan understand Economics 101?
- Does McGuinty not comprehend the elementary rules of supply and demand?
- Does anyone at Queen's Park know what is going on?
- How do wind turbines get to trump logic?
- In less that 32 hours they blew nearly 4 million of our dollars!

by John Laforet, Wind Concerns Ontario, 18 April 2011

http://windconcernsontario.wordpress.com/2011/04/18/ontario-winds-blow-millions-of-taxpayer-dollars-this-weekend/

Perverse subsidies

The Energy Information Administration reported in 2008, on a dollar per MWh basis, the U.S. government subsidizes wind at $23.34 – compared to reliable energy sources: natural gas at 25 cents; coal at 44 cents; hydro at 67 cents; and nuclear at $1.59, a significant industrial subsidy.

In Ontario direct subsidy to Wind Power, in the form of guaranteed feed-in-tariffs paid for by consumers, equals $75/MWh to $85/MWh and this does not include the accelerated depreciation and tax credits afforded to Wind Developers.

As the European experience confirms, this will lead to a dramatic increase in electricity costs with consequent detrimental effects on business and employment (an anti-stimulus policy at a time of serious economic recession in the province).

From this perspective, the government's promise of 55,000 new jobs from renewable energy is a delusion. A recent detailed Spanish study finds that for every job created by state-funded support of renewables, particularly wind energy, 2.2 jobs are lost.

Each wind industry job created cost almost $2 million in subsidies (to destroy 2.2 other jobs).
Why would the Ontario experience be different?