



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

February 20, 2004

Ministry of Energy
Minister's Office
4th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1

Attn.: The Honourable Minister Dwight Duncan

Re: Ontario's Future Energy Supply

Dear Minister Duncan:

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) is writing with respect to the important decisions that you and the Ontario government have to make in the near future regarding the future of Ontario's energy supply.

CELA supports the phase out of coal power to which your government is committed. However, the other phase out that is urgently needed is the phase out of nuclear power in Ontario. This is an important and urgent policy decision. The most pressing question that will arise in this context is the issue of whether to proceed to invest billions of additional dollars in refurbishing Pickering A reactors and Bruce A reactors.

The phase-out of nuclear energy is consistent with the objectives for electricity sector reform that you have set out in your announcement of January 14, 2004. We are very supportive of those objectives: to create a conservation culture in Ontario, to have a reliable, sustainable, and affordable supply of power, effective consumer protection, a stronger investment climate and cleaner air. These are laudable objectives and we commend you for steering our Province in those directions.

Nuclear power is very expensive, non-sustainable power source that has proven to be rife with complex and vexing technical problems dealing with the refurbishing of reactors over the years. Further, for more than 20 years, despite some creative efforts, the federal and previous provincial governments have been unable to solve the problems associated with both high level and low level nuclear waste disposal.

If the Ontario government proceeds in the direction of a nuclear future, it will be not only dangerous and hugely expensive, but a tremendous lost opportunity for Ontario. The billions of dollars of capital investment would put us well along the way to a truly sustainable energy future

for Ontario, if directed instead to energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, transitional fuels and distributed smaller scale generation and transmission. The conservation culture coupled with an appropriate transition and renewable energy supply is an achievable vision for Ontario and a vision which the Ontario government absolutely must pursue.

CELA will adamantly protest any proposed recommendations to proceed with refurbishing of the nuclear reactors in Ontario. As a society we owe it to current and future generations to end the multi-billion dollar nuclear fiasco and to turn to a path that provides long term stable supply, higher safety and security, and less environmental damage.

Yours truly,
CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

Theresa A. McClenaghan
Counsel