

Theresa McClenaghan

From: "Ontario Clean Air Alliance" <contact@cleanairalliance.org>
To: <cleanair-l@list.web.net>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2005 4:43 PM
Subject: [cleanair-l] Help create a clean and green electricity future for Ontario

Right now, we are facing an extraordinary challenge that requires us to ask for your financial help. In the wake of the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) report recommending that Ontario continue to rely overwhelmingly on nuclear power to meet its future power needs, the provincial government is seriously considering spending billions of public dollars on high-risk nuclear generators.

Continuing to rely on expensive and unreliable nuclear power will perpetuate a wasteful consumption culture by emphasizing feeding demand with under-priced power instead of focusing on efficiency initiatives to increase our electricity productivity. It will threaten the phase-out of the province's dirty coal plants, which were ramped up in the mid-1990s due to the poor performance of our nuclear reactors. And it will divert money away from the development of renewable and other clean and efficient energy technologies.

For the first time in the history of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA), we are asking for your financial support. We need funds to mount an effective opposition to the backwards and unproductive direction mapped out by the OPA. We need funds to counter the slick taxpayer and electricity-ratepayer financed TV advertising campaign run by the Canadian Nuclear Association. And, most of all, we need funds to get the word out that there is a better solution - that we can get more than 60% of our power from renewable sources by 2020 while phasing-out coal and nuclear.

Major decisions about Ontario's energy future will be made in the next few months. Please consider making a gift -- small or large -- to the OCAA today so that we can launch a communications campaign in January 2006 to counter the Canadian Nuclear Association's ads. For example, \$50 will pay for 450 pamphlets, \$115 will pay for a radio spot and \$500 will pay for a billboard for one week. Your dollars will be used 100% to promote our healthier vision for the electricity sector in Ontario. (N.B. Charitable tax receipts will not be issued). You can make a gift securely right now through our Paypal payment function at <http://www.cleanair.web.ca/getin/donate.html>. (You do not need a Paypal account to make a donation - you can pay securely by credit card. Do not put any spaces in your card number).

Alternatively, cheques can be mailed to:

Ontario Clean Air Alliance
Suite 402, 625 Church St.
Toronto, ON M4Y 2G1

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Fracassi, Communications and Membership Coordinator, at 416-926-1907 x245.

With your help we can create a clean and green electricity future for our children and grandchildren.

Please pass this message on to your friends.

Jack Gibbons and Jessica Fracassi,
Ontario Clean Air Alliance

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance is a coalition of health, environmental and consumer organizations, faith communities, unions, utilities, municipalities and individuals working for cleaner air through a coal phase-out and the shift to a renewable electricity future. Our partner organizations represent more than six million Ontarians.

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Theresa McClenaghan

From: "Dave Martin" <dave.martin@yto.greenpeace.org>
To: <energy-vision@list.web.net>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2005 6:02 PM
Subject: [Energy-vision] McGuinty's EA commitment

Hi Everybody,

It really didn't come out until the end of the exchange last Thursday between Howie Hampton and McGuinty (see below), but the Preem did commit to to an EA on the OPA plan. So kudos to Howie Hampton and all of us who have pressed the government to do a real review. As recently as December 8, when I met with both Laurel Broten and Donna Cansfield at the Montreal Climate Conference, they gave no indication that they were prepared to consider an EA.

To be clear, in most of the exchange with Hampton, McGuinty appeared to be rejecting an EA, but he was apparently distinguishing between the *initial* OPA Integrated Power System Plan proposal released recently, and the one that will eventually be finalized following directives from the government.

Theresa has already suggested on behalf of CELA and PIAD that the government should designate this OPA IPSP plan as an undertaking for the purposes of the Environmental Assessment Act, and subject it to a joint board hearing of the Ontario Energy Board and the Environmental Review Tribunal.

In the meantime, we must mobilize urgently to make sure that there are thousands of submissions to the Environmental Bill of Rights Proposal on the *initial* OPA Integrated Power System Plan proposal. ***The deadline is February 12, 2006.***

Cheers,
 Dave Martin
 Greenpeace

**Excerpt from Ontario Legislature Hansard –
 December 15, 2005**

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Mr. Howard Hampton (Kenora-Rainy River): My question is for the Premier. Premier, people are demanding that you keep your promise to have a thorough consultation with the people of Ontario regarding your \$40-billion scheme to build new nuclear plants and refurbish old ones. This can only be done by submitting the recently released Ontario Power Authority report to a full environmental assessment under the province's Environmental Assessment Act. The question is, Premier, will you submit the Ontario Power Authority's plan to a full environmental assessment under the province's

Environmental Assessment Act?

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Hon. Dalton McGuinty (Premier, Minister of Research and Innovation): We look forward to engaging all Ontarians in a very important conversation about the kind of supply mix we need to ensure that we have a reliable supply of energy long into the future. To that end, we will have a full, open and public consultation, but I'll leave it to the Minister of Energy to describe that in more detail in the new year. I will certainly take advice from the leader of the NDP in that regard, but I'm open to advice from others as well.

Mr. Hampton: Premier, one minute you talk about a 60-day consultation on the Web site. The next day you talk about a conversation. I want to be clear. This is a huge undertaking for Ontario. It has huge environmental implications and huge health and safety implications, not to mention the financial implications. A real environmental assessment would subject the Ontario Power Authority's plan to a public hearing before a joint board of the Ontario Energy Board and the Environmental Review Tribunal. That was the approach of your predecessor, David Peterson, when he was presented with a similar plan by Ontario Hydro in 1989.

Premier, given the huge economic, environmental, and health and safety issues associated with your \$40-billion scheme, will you do the same thing David Peterson did? It was the right thing to do then; it's the right thing to do now. Will you do it?

Hon. Mr. McGuinty: I know the leader of the NDP has a real interest in these issues. I can provide him with the assurance that, first of all, we intend to learn - - I don't know where he came up with this \$40-billion figure. If there's some specific proposal he's had, for which he's prepared an accounting, then I'd ask him to table that, but if he doesn't have facts in that regard, I ask him to keep somewhat of an open mind as we engage Ontarians in a very important discussion.

The issue at hand is whether or not we should make decisions now, and what kind of decisions those should be to ensure that we have a reliable supply of electricity into the future: what kind of a supply mix we should have, and how much effort we put into conservation, how much into renewables, for example, and how much into gas-fired and how much into nuclear. Those are important kinds of questions. We think we should take the time to talk to Ontarians and in due course, the Minister of Energy will --

The Speaker (Hon. Michael A. Brown): Thank you.

Mr. Hampton: Premier, that's why we need a full environmental assessment, as I've called for, not a conversation, not a discussion somewhere, a full environmental assessment.

Where did the \$40-billion figure come from? People looked at the OPA report and went out and talked with some people who were experienced. They said this will be at least \$40 billion. If you look at the Darlington experience, it may in fact be an \$80-billion financial cost, which boils down to about \$26,000 for every family of four in the province.

A full environmental assessment is the only way we can ensure that a full economic and environmental review of this plan happens before it proceeds any further. Will you submit the Ontario Power Authority electricity plan to a full environmental assessment? What are you afraid of, Premier? Your predecessor did it. It was the right thing to do then. Will you do the right thing now and submit it to a full environmental assessment?

Hon. Mr. McGuinty: If the leader of the NDP thought the full environmental assessment process that then Premier Peterson did was the right way to go, why did they cancel it? It's kind of a basic question I would ask him to answer.

Just so we're clear, to the leader of the NDP: I don't consider the Ontario Power Authority's advice to us to be a hard and fast plan that we're somehow going to turn over to an environmental assessment process. I think what we need to do now, building on that advice, is work with Ontarians to come up with a specific proposal that would be worthy of sending off to an environmental assessment process. So I'm not going to take the advice we've just received, which is nothing more than advice -- very important advice worthy of attaching considerable weight to -- and send it off to an assessment. Let's talk to Ontarians, then develop a specific proposal and make that the subject of an environmental assessment process.

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