

Hon. Dwight Duncan
Ontario Minister of Energy
900 Bay Street
4th Floor
Hearst Block
Toronto, ON
M7A 2E1

July 13, 2005

Dear Minister Duncan:

Re: Building a sustainable, safe, reliable and clean energy future for Ontario

We the undersigned write to you as a new and growing network of public interest organizations seeking to promote and advocate a safe and sustainable energy future for Ontario.

We were very much encouraged by your stated intention to create "...a clean, reliable, diverse and sustainable supply of energy" for the province. We believe that we have common cause with you and your government, but believe Ontario must ask itself the fundamental question – how do we build such a sustainable, safe, reliable, clean energy future for Ontario? You have demonstrated your commitment by phasing out Ontario's dirty coal-fired generation stations. We laud you for this initiative.

We were also encouraged by your May 5th Empire Club speech, in which you noted that "[t]he first 40 years in Ontario's nuclear experiment has had significant cost over-runs, inefficiencies and breakdowns that we cannot and should not ignore." These are the mistakes of the past that we hope Ontario will avoid repeating. This is why we have severe reservations about the role of nuclear power in Ontario's future supply mix.

Our concerns include:

- Nuclear power's prohibitive cost;
- poor reliability and performance;
- enormous security risks, such as terrorist attacks;
- risk of a catastrophic accident;
- the routine and accidental emissions of radioactive substances from Ontario's reactors;
- the environmental legacy of uranium mining; and,
- the problem of how to safely manage radioactive wastes for up to a million years.

In this light, we have serious concerns about your restart of reactors at the Pickering A nuclear station, and your government's potential imminent decision to offer Bruce Power a deal with advantages not given to other forms of power generation, extending the life of Ontario's oldest reactors and perpetuating the societal risks of nuclear power.

Instead, we believe that Ontario's energy policy decisions must henceforth be made to put us on the path to a sustainable energy future - ambitiously developing low impact renewable energy as well as conservation and efficiency. For example, you have an opportunity to make a decision right now to support community power through standard offer contracts.

Other jurisdictions have been successful in putting themselves on the path to a cleaner more sustainable energy future. Germany installs more wind power annually than your government's current target for all renewable energy sources. And last week even our neighbour Quebec committed to doubling its target for wind power. Ontario's potential is even greater.

We would like to request an opportunity to meet you as a group sometime in August to discuss our common goal of building a greener more sustainable energy system for Ontario. In particular, we would like to present to you our energy vision for the province.

We would also like to request clarification regarding your newly created authority to issue supply directives. We have attached several questions and would appreciate response from your office as soon as possible.

Again, we look forward to meeting and discussing how we can collaborate on moving toward our common goal of developing a clean, reliable, diverse sustainable energy supply for Ontario.

Ecologically yours,

Canadian Environmental Law Association
Ontario Sustainable Energy Association
Greenpeace Canada
Sierra Club of Canada
Sierra Club of Canada – Ontario Chapter
Women's Healthy Environments Network
International Institute of Concern for Public Health
Provincial Council of Women of Ontario
Ontario Voice of Women
Ottawa-Vanier Green Party
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
Citizens' Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario

For communication purposes, please contact:

Shawn-Patrick Stensil, Energy Campaigner Greenpeace Canada,
416-597-8408 ex 3013. Fax: 416-597-8422.
Suite 605,
250 Dundas St. W.,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5T 2Z5

Attachment – Questions for Clarification

1. Will any supply directives be issued under section 25.30 (2) of the Act?
2. Will any conservation directives be issued under section 25.30 (2) of the Act?
3. What forms of supply and conservation measures will be considered in directives?
4. How will supply directives be integrated with conservation directives?
5. In what time frame will any directives be developed?
6. Will there be public consultation regarding any possible directives before they are issued and if there is public consultation, what form will it take?

