

Energy Vision Meeting- Minutes

May 5, 2005

Greenpeace Canada Office – 250 Dundas St. West

In attendance: Keith Stewart (Toronto Environmental Alliance), Marion Odell (International Institute of Concern for Public Health), Shirley Farlinger (Voice of Women), Dorothy Goldin-Rosenberg, Theresa McClenaghan (Canadian Environmental Law Association), Albert Koehl (Sierra Legal Defence), Dan McDermott (Sierra Club of Canada – Ontario Chapter), Dave Martin and Shawn-Patrick Stensil (Greenpeace), Bill Prout and James Murphy (Ontario Sustainable Energy Association), Tom Adams (Energy Probe), John Wellner (Ontario Medical Association)

Attending by phone: Bill Prout and James Murphy (Ontario Sustainable Energy Association), Sam Heisz, Jennifer Heisz (Women's Legacy), Glen Estill (Sky Generation), Phil Winters (Sustainable Energies and Technologies), Ziggy Kleinau (Citizens for Renewable Energy)

Regrets: Gracia Janes (Provincial and National Councils of Women), Mark Winfield (Pembina Institute), Alexandra McKee-Bennett, Jack Gibbons (Ontario Clean Air Alliance), Peter Ormond (ECO5), Dawn Manning, Derek Coronado

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA REVIEW

Participants introduced themselves and the agenda was reviewed. Nuclear Waste Management Organisation, the status of Point Lepreau and Gentilly-2; and the situation in Port Hope were added under "Other Business".

2. NEW DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

On April 27th the Ontario Ministry of Energy released a report entitled, *Cost-Benefit Analysis: Replacing Ontario's Coal-fired Electricity Generation*, by DSS Management Consultants, including Peter Victor. The report suggested that the cheapest electricity scenario was a mixture of nuclear power and gas. The study had numerous problems. Notably, it failed to provide any environmental costs for nuclear power, thus presenting an entirely imbalanced and unfair assessment of relative costs and benefits. Although the report discussed costs of smog precursors, it only mentioned mercury and did not monetize the health impacts.

Although it endorsed the report on its release, the Ontario Medical Association was not consulted on health and financial cost estimates.

The report also gave an inaccurate capital cost for refurbished nuclear power at Pickering: \$1400 per kilowatt (p. 9). At an estimated cost of \$4 billion (a minimal estimate) for the refurbishment of all four Pickering "A" reactors, the cost would be \$1942/KW (4 X 515MW (net) = 2,060,000 KW). In fact the cost of Pickering reactor 4, when it started operation in September 2003 was \$1.25 billion = \$2427/KW.

2.2 NEW NUKES ON THE TABLE FOR ONTARIO

On May 2, 2005, Energy Minister Dwight Duncan announced in a speech to the Canadian Club at the Royal York that he has asked the Ontario Power Authority to discuss with the public the possibility of building new nuclear plants. There would be a two year debate period on the future of nuclear power. It will be in three years – after the next election – that a decision will need to be made on new nukes.

Discussion question on 2.1 and 2.2: Do we want to collectively respond to such reports as they occur? How are they going to use it. Keith – We should say 'duh' why not show us how to replace coal.

2.3 OTHER RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lakeview Coal station in Mississauga has been shut down. Jim Hankinson (PRES/CEO of NB Power for 6 years) was appointed PRES/CEO of Ontario Power Generation. Hankinson was responsible for the Coleson Cove/Orimulsion fiasco, and supported the refurbishment of the Point Lepreau nuclear plant despite a recommendation from the Public Utility Board (NB's regulatory agency) that it should not proceed. Peter Love has been appointed to head the Conservation Bureau (at a salary of \$270,000/yr).

On May 2, the government also announced the boards of directors of Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) (formerly the Independent Electricity Market Operator).

Board members of the OPA include: Charles Bayless, President of West Virginia University Institute of Technology; John M. Beck, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Aecon Group Inc.; Louise Comeau, Project Director of the Sage Climate Project at the Sage Center and an associate with the International Institute for Sustainable Development; Michael Costello, Vice-Chair of the British Columbia Transmission Corporation; Ronald Jamieson, Senior Vice-President, Aboriginal Banking, BMO Bank of Montreal; Peter Jones, President and CEO of Diligent Capital Inc.; Lyn McLeod, Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors of Confederation College in Thunder Bay and a former Ontario cabinet minister.

Board members of the IESO include: Glenna Carr, founder and CEO of Carr-Gordon Ltd, and a former Ontario deputy minister; James D. Hinds, Chairman of Irish Line Capital Inc.; John Mather, Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer, Manulife Financial Corporation; William J. Museler, former President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Independent System Operator; Rudy Riedl, President of R.G.Riedl Consulting Inc.; John Wiersma, Chair of the Board of Directors of Veridian Corporation, and its former CEO and founding president.

3. SUMMARY OF ELECTRICITY ALTERNATIVES

At the last meeting, Jose Etcheverry (David Suzuki Foundation) and Dave Martin (Greenpeace) had agreed to provide a summary of various energy studies, including. These included: *Smart Generation and Bright Future*, by DSF; *Power for the Future*, by Pembina & CELA; and *Phasing Out Nuclear Power in Canada*, by R. Torrie/Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout.

Jose (who was absent) distributed an article he wrote from Alternatives magazine on clean energy options for Ontario.

Action: Dave and Jose will finish the 2-page vision statement for comment by group. The goal of the statement is to have a document that sets out conservation/renewable approach to meet future energy needs.

4. NUCLEAR REGULATION

Theresa noted the Ontario government has voluntarily abandoned any provincial jurisdiction over nuclear issues, and no provincial involvement in any environmental assessments dealing with nuclear facilities.

Shawn-Patrick noted that federally the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is allowing nuclear reactors to undergo reconstruction and life-extension without any regulations or policies. At present the life-extension of Bruce B (and likely Pickering B) would not require an EA.

5. SUPPLY DIRECTIVES LETTER

Letter to Duncan was written to know the way in which the supply mix would be decided under Bill 100. Letter includes a paragraph on our vision of what the government should be doing.

Suggestion that we continue with a letter presenting what our vision of the energy mix would be, presenting ourselves as a group and warning government of the 'consequences' if we're ignored.

Further suggestion that we should also note that the cost-benefit analysis is insufficient.

What about Duncan's suggestion of developing more hydro? Noted that every Ontario government has promoted hydro with subsidies. Despite this, only 712 megawatts in new hydro has come on line in the next 20-years?

Discussion of 'cleaner coal'; is it relevant to ask this?

Suggestion: The government has framed the question incorrectly – we need a debate on where we need to be and where we have to be in the 21st century. That is, a decentralised, low-carbon future.

Question – In light of Duncan's announcement on the OPA is this letter is still relevant?

Action: Send letter; but also ask the OPA how we get to where we need to be (and have to be). Theresa will send redraft in one week.

6. REPRESENTING OUR POSITION TO THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

Dave and Jose (not present) had volunteered to summarize some of the alternatives that are out there – that is, a draft energy vision statement. This will be finished for the next meeting.

It was observed that there is no 'political voice' at Queen's Park advocating a green energy future.

Suggestion: A "report card" on government actions to date, was suggested to put pressure on the government. For a report card we could do a challenge of some sort and then mark them on it.

Suggestion: to meet with MPPs and identify which ones are eco-friendly.

Action: Dave Martin will present a revised green energy vision statement that was developed at the Greening Ontario's Electricity Sector in 2004.

Action: Theresa McClenaghan, SP Stensil, Dave Martin, Keith Stewart will brainstorm ideas strategic political action EV could take. These ideas will be presented at the next meeting.

Action: Shawn-Patrick will develop a 10 point challenge that the EV will subsequently issue yearly report cards on government progress.

Points for Future Discussion – We need to discuss strategies for marketing a green energy future to Ontarians (James Murphy, OSEA)

7. NATIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY

Charles Caccia was not present so this discussion point will be delayed to the next meeting.

8. ADMINISTRATION OF ENERGY VISION

Greenpeace has volunteered to act as a secretariat for EV. This was welcomed. It was also agreed that a list-serve would be set up for communication purposes (Shawn-Patrick will follow-upon this).

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9. OTHER BUSINESS

Lepreau/Gentilly

There is an campaign to shut down the Point Lepreau nuclear station in New Brunswick. Notably, the federal Conservatives have come out in favour of subsidizing nuclear power in NB. There is also a debate developing in Quebec regarding the future of the Gentilly-2 nuclear station.

Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)

The NWMO was established 3 years ago by the federal government to consult Canadians on options for the future management of used nuclear fuel. The NWMO's draft recommendation is due out sometime in May, and a final recommendation must be made to the federal government being made by November 15, 2005. This is important because it means that nuclear waste because a political issue yet again and could be used in EV's work against nukes in Ontario.

Port Hope

Because of time constraints discussion of this item was delayed until the next meeting.

10. NEXT MEETING

Date: Friday May 27

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) office
130 Spadina Ave., Suite 301

Tel: 416-960-2284 (Tracy Tucker X 210)(Theresa McClenaghan X 218)