

Theresa McClenaghan

From: "Keith Stewart" <keith@torontoenvironment.org>
To: "Energy-Vision@List.Web.Net" <energy-vision@list.web.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2006 9:47 AM
Subject: RE: [Energy-vision] what were the other sessions like??OttawaOPAreport

Toronto was rockin' good fun - kind of like what I imagine a Salvador Dali performance piece might feel like, or maybe Kafka with a sense of humour.

Format and content much like the Ottawa event (except we didn't even get any flipcharts to provide the appearance of taking notes). We opened with the silly video (groans, laughter, hoots of derision...). Moderator presented carefully chosen comments already received, many of which applauded the OPA's wisdom.

Kim Fry was first to the mike, announces formation of Mothers Against Nuclear ('don't mess with the MAN') and denounces the process, calls for open mike so we can speak, rather than following their categories. She is ignored by the facilitator, but the line-ups are so long we're on to coal before the people who got up to speak to 'challenges' are through. We didn't follow their process, but they kept pretending we were.

Questions directed to the Ministry staff meet with the facilitator saying they're not allowed to answer. So we called for the MPPs present (local MPP Kathleen Wynne and PA to the Minister of Energy Jeff Leal go to the front of the room and face us, which they do although they decline one earnest young women's request that they take notes).

Overwhelmingly pro-conservation and green power, with a few pro-nuke folks but they had clear industry affiliation. Had some good spiels from people in the solar and geothermal industries.

They cut the mikes off with 8 people still lined up to speak.

Kathleen Wynne (local MPP) did plead with us not to think of the government as monolithic, but as individuals trying to make the best decision. She re-iterated the line that they don't want to build nuclear plants, but feel they have no other choice.

Kim and I got a chance to read through the Ministry staff's briefing book which was mistakenly left out on a table, which provided a good laugh in the section on 'people likely to appear and might make trouble'. I think Shawn-Patrick should FOI it so he can have an official Ministry of Energy document whose description of Greenpeace opens with "The world is Greenpeace's oyster." The briefing notes did include stuff that had only happened last week, and even summarized some of our submissions to the OPA supply-mix thing-y (and I thought no one read them...), but was more interesting for where they really didn't seem to get where we were coming from. Alas, a Ministry staffer noticed what we were reading and took them away before we got further into it.

Have fun at future 'consultations'.

Keith

-----Original Message-----

From: energy-vision-bounces@list.web.net
[mailto:energy-vision-bounces@list.web.net] On Behalf Of Theresa McClenaghan
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2006 9:17 AM
To: jrjanes@sympatico.ca; Norman Rubin; eENERGY VISION GROUP; Elizabeth May
Cc: ontariochapter@sierraclub.ca
Subject: Re: [Energy-vision] what were the other sessions like??
OttawaOPAreport

so worse than I ever imagined; can someone give a quick run down as well for the Toronto, Mississauga and Sarnia events? I see no coverage whatsoever in the Globe; presumably superseded by Greenpeace's front page FOI story on location of new nuke plants; and there is a pretty good but somewhat short story in the Star on the consultation in Toronto. I'll be attending events in other cities Wednesday and Friday nights so I and others going to the other cities would like a good sense of how things went elsewhere as well. In meantime does it make sense to have some kind of formal response or complaint today to the premier / minister given how appalling it was? We did get reasonable pick up from the press conference yesterday with CP wire stories, CTV and CBC that I saw, at least on line; not sure what made broadcast. But even so, it might still make sense to have a formal complaint today. what do all think? Theresa

----- Original Message -----

From: "Elizabeth May" <emay@sierraclub.ca>
To: <jrjanes@sympatico.ca>; "Norman Rubin" <NormanRubin@EnergyProbe.org>;
"eENERGY VISION GROUP" <energy-vision@list.web.net>
Cc: <ontariochapter@sierraclub.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2006 8:22 AM
Subject: [Energy-vision] what were the other sessions like?? Ottawa
OPAreport

- > Ottawa Congress Centre: It was a good turn out. Somewhere between
- > 150-200 is my guess.
- >
- > It was the WORST public consultation I've ever been in.
- > Unbelievable. A very inarticulate fellow from the public relations
- > consulting firm, National Public Affairs, was at a podium. Never
- > explained the format or the list of subjects or the order in which
- > they'd be presented. No one attempted to answer questions. No one
- > presented what the OPA report said. There was a 5 minute video

> "dumbed down" with lines like "nuclear energy is greenhouse gas
 > free..." And Donna Cansfield saying something like "there is an
 > urgent need to bring on more electrical generation supply..."
 >
 > Then it went to a slide called "Challenges." People lined up at two
 > microphones. Every time someone talked about conservation, the mc
 > would say, "we are going to talk about conservation later..." It
 > turned out they had a list of topics (not shared with the audience)
 > and set up on the power point.... so the sequence was "Challenges,
 > Natural Gas, Coal, Renewables, Nuclear, Conservation, Tough
 > Choices." The meeting was supposed to end at 8:30. We got to
 > conservation at 8:40. At 9:15, they turned off the microphone and
 > said it was all very interesting but it was over. It was supposed to
 > end at 8:30 so no reason not to shut it down with people standing in
 > line to speak to "tough choices" at 9:15.
 >
 > The clear message from that audience was that people want real
 > conservation and energy productivity improvements. Other than a
 > handful, people do not want nuclear. Goodness knows what got picked
 > up by the lovely ladies trying to write on a flip chart. One man
 > said we should use agricultural waste in the old coal plants. That
 > got recorded as liking "clean coal." Another person said we had to
 > re-examine capitalist assumptions of never ending growth. That got
 > recorded as "re-examine fundamental principles."
 >
 > Simply appalling. A dog and pony show with no dog and no pony!
 >
 > Elizabeth
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 > <http://list.web.net/lists/listinfo/energy-vision>

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