

February 27, 2006

BY FAX

The Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

**RE: EBR REGISTRY NO. P005E001 -- PUBLIC "CONSULTATION" ON POWER
SUPPLY MIX ADVICE REPORT**

I recently wrote to you and other provincial officials to summarize my views on the content of the OPA Report on Ontario's power supply mix options. Suffice it to say that I do not share the OPA's ill-conceived vision of maintaining (or increasing) Ontario's reliance upon costly, unreliable and risk-laden nuclear generating stations. In my view, the centrepiece of Ontario's long-term energy plan should be:

- maximizing the role of renewable energy sources;
- phasing out nuclear and coal sources; and
- ensuring effective and enforceable energy efficiency standards, conservation targets and incentives, and peak demand management strategies.

As the EBR comment period winds down, I am again writing to you to express my strongest possible objection to the woefully inadequate public "consultation" that has occurred in relation to the OPA Report. For your information, I attended the "consultation" session held in Kingston on February 15th, and I can assure you that this was, by far, the WORST consultation that I have participated in or observed in decades.

In my personal and professional capacity, I have been involved in public participation opportunities in relation to a broad diversity of plans, projects or undertakings, ranging from minor variances to mega-projects to major law reform initiatives. Sometimes the public consultation for these matters was excellent, sometimes it was average, and sometimes it was mediocre. However, none of these consultation procedures were as fundamentally flawed and completely unacceptable as the recent round of public "consultation" on the OPA Report.

Given the size, scale, cost and environmental significance of the long-term infrastructure decisions being debated, it is clear that Ontarians want – and deserve – meaningful and comprehensive opportunities to respond to the OPA Report and to present alternative visions for long-term energy supply. However, this kind of inclusive, accountable and accessible consultation has not been provided to date by your government.

To the contrary, the current round of "consultation" has been largely confined to the following steps:

- posting the voluminous OPA report on a government website, and providing minimal public notice thereof (including a perfunctory notice on the EBR Registry);
- holding a series of abbreviated public meetings/open houses, on short notice, on identical dates/times in a small handful of cities; and
- distributing the *Our Energy, Our Future* brochure which repeats many of the erroneous findings, questionable assumptions and flawed recommendations found in the OPA Report, and which has been aptly characterized as "nuclear junk mail" by the Ontario Clean Air Alliance.

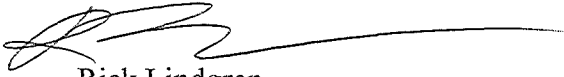
These concerns are compounded by the actual format and structure of the public meetings/open houses convened by the private consultants who were retained by the Ontario government to carry out the "consultation." Some of the key problems include:

- limiting the public meeting sessions to only two hours, which was too compressed and wholly inadequate;
- showing an introductory video clip that consumed valuable public input time, and that did not constitute an objective (or accurate) statement of the issues under consideration;
- limiting participants to three minutes per assigned topic (i.e. "Conservation", "Trade-Offs", "Nuclear", etc.);
- forcing participants to compartmentalize their comments into the separate topics (although what is being discussed is an integrated plan, not unrelated parts thereof);
- failing to provide broadcast or webcast access to the sessions; and
- failing to provide timely public access to the records, transcripts or minutes of the meetings.

In light of these and other significant deficiencies, I could not take seriously the PowerPoint slide shown by the organizers of the Kingston meeting to indicate that "We're here to listen." If this claim were true, the Ontario government would have undertaken further and better consultation efforts to ensure that all Ontarians have a fair and reasonable opportunity to participate in this critically important debate.

For these reasons, I would strongly urge your government to develop and implement proper and more meaningful public consultation on the proposed content of the forthcoming Integrated Power System Plan (IPSP). At the very least, this public consultation should occur under the auspices of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, which should be fully applied to the IPSP at the earliest opportunity.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Lindgren', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Lindgren
Box 93
Wolfe Island, Ontario
K0H 2Y0

cc. The Hon. Donna Cansfield, Minister of Energy
Coordinator, Energy Economics