

Ministry
of the
Environment

Office of the Minister

135 St. Clair Ave. West
12th Floor
Toronto ON M4V 1P5
Tel (416) 314-6790
Fax (416) 314-6748

Ministère
de
l'Environnement

Bureau du ministre

135, avenue St. Clair ouest
12^e étage
Toronto ON M4V 1P5
Tél (416) 314-6790
Téléc (416) 314-6748

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January 5, 2006

Ms. Theresa McClenaghan
Counsel
Canadian Environmental Law Association
130 Spadina Avenue, Suite 301
Toronto ON M5V 2L4

Mr. Mark Winfield
Director, Environmental Governance
The Pembina Institute
124 O'Connor Street, Suite 601
Ottawa ON K1P 5M9

Dear Ms. McClenaghan and Mr. Winfield:

Thank you for your letters dated December 15, 2005, regarding the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) Supply Mix Advice Report, released December 9, 2005, and the Integrated Power System Plan to be developed by the OPA in the coming months. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Minister of the Environment.

The Ministry is considering your request to make the OPA Integrated Power System Plan subject to the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) and to a Joint Board hearing of the Ontario Energy Board and Environmental Review Tribunal. Among several factors, the previous decision by the Government to subject the Ontario Hydro Demand/Supply Plan in 1989 to the requirements of the EAA and to a hearing process will be considered as part of our decision-making process.

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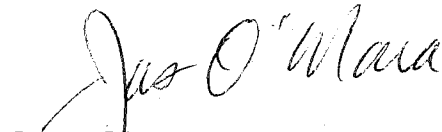


Ms. McClenaghan and Mr. Winfield
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As the ministry responsible for the Environmental Registry posting of the OPA Supply Mix Advice Report (Posting No. PO05E0001), the Ministry of Energy shall be able to respond to your request regarding an extension to the public comment period. We appreciate that your request was made on behalf of the Canadian Environmental Law Association, the Pembina Institute, as well as representatives of the Sierra Club of Canada, Citizens Environmental Alliance, Northwatch and the Provincial Council of Women.

Should you have any questions relating to environmental assessment matters associated with the OPA Supply Mix Advice Report or Integrated Power System Plan, please contact Samantha Kassel, Project Officer of this Branch, who is available to assist you. She may be contacted by telephone at 416-314-8214, or email at samantha.kassel@ene.gov.on.ca.

Yours sincerely,



James O'Mara
Director

Environmental Assessment & Approvals Branch

c: Mr. Dan McDermott, Ontario Chapter, Sierra Club of Canada
Mr. Derek Coronada, Citizens Environmental Alliance
Mr. Brennain Lloyd, Northwatch
Ms. Milica Kovacevich, Provincial Council of Women
Hon. D. Cansfield, Minister of Energy

Minister of Energy

Hearst Block, 4th Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Tel.: 416-327-6715
Fax: 416-327-6754

Ministre de l'Énergie

Édifice Hearst, 4e étage
900, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Tél.: 416-327-6715
Télec.: 416-327-6754



JAN - 9 2006

Ms Theresa McClenaghan
Counsel
Canadian Environmental Law Association
301-130 Spadina Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 2L4

Mr. Mark S. Winfield
Director, Environmental Governance
The Pembina Institute
c/o Centre for the Environment
Innis College
University of Toronto
2 Sussex Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1J5

Dear Ms McClenaghan and Mr. Winfield:

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment, and myself regarding the recent report by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA).

I am sure you are aware that there has already been significant consultation around the OPA report. The first round of public consultations was held by the OPA earlier this summer and throughout the fall. We are currently in the second round of public consultations. The report is posted for comment on the Environmental Bill of Rights website for 60 days. It is also posted on the Ministry of Energy and OPA websites.

In the first round of public consultations, the OPA advertised in more than 40 newspapers across the province for submissions from the public, and 175 submissions were received. The OPA also invited special interest and expert groups to meet to present their views, and 25 groups responded. A total of 60 senior power industry and special interest people were randomly selected for an extensive telephone interview. In addition, Decima Research interviewed 800 Ontario residents in an online poll for their views and values relating to Ontario electricity matters.

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The Premier has recently indicated that there will be a third round of consultations in the new year. I am confident that these three rounds of consultation will offer extensive opportunity for interested parties to express their views on the issues raised by the OPA report.

I would be pleased to meet with you at any time to discuss your concerns.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donna Cansfield".

Donna Cansfield
Minister

c: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier
The Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment
John Yakabuski, MPP, Energy Critic for the Official Opposition
Howard Hampton, MPP, Leader and Energy Critic for the New Democratic Party
Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario