

Rick Lindgren

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Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 12:53 PM
Subject: Board report

Hi Sarah:

Further to our email exchange this morning, here are two major policy developments that should be briefly reported to the CELA Board today.

1. ONTARIO'S LONG-TERM ENERGY PLAN

Along with our clients (Greenpeace, Pembina and David Suzuki Foundation) and other Energy-Vision members, CELA has been actively involved in responding to Ontario's proposed long-term energy plan.

This plan, which was announced on June 13th, includes a large nuclear component (50% of our energy supply), delays certain coal plant closures, and generally downplays renewables, efficiency and conservation.

Despite the DSP precedent, the Ontario government has exempted this provincial plan from EA Act coverage. The exempting regulation itself was passed without public notice/comment, contrary to the EBR, and triggered considerable criticism from the Environmental Commissioner and opposition critics.

In response, CELA has, among other things, filed an EBR Application for Review which requests that the exempting regulation be revoked. CELA has also signed on to various press releases and an open letter to the Premier from a dozen provincial/national ENGO's regarding Ontario's energy future.

As the Ontario Power Authority begins to "consult" on the energy plan content, CELA will continue to work with our colleagues to secure a sustainable energy future, and to ensure compliance with the EBR and/or EA Act. More information about this issue is available on the CELA website.

2. PROVINCIAL EA REFORM

Ironically, just before the proposed energy plan was unveiled in mid-June, the Minister of the Environment announced her intention to act upon the recommendations of the EA Advisory Panel (of which Alan Levy and I were members).

However, few details were released about the precise timing, nature and scope of the proposed reforms. Nevertheless, the Minister has made it clear that legislative amendments are not going to be pursued. Thus, we can anticipate changes to EA regulations, policies, guidelines, and institutional arrangements, but it remains to be seen whether the overall reform package will be fully responsive to the recommendations of the EA Advisory Panel.

CELA staff will be closely monitoring these proposed changes as they are announced in the coming months, and we will be responding accordingly.

Thanks,
RL

7/10/2006