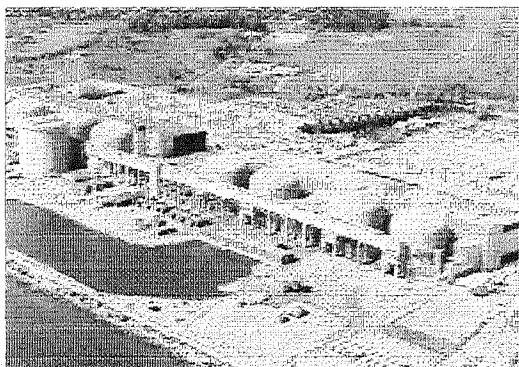




The costs of repairs to the Pickering nuclear plant have soared into the billions.

Ontario *can* phase out coal and nuclear and meet everyone's electricity needs!

The Ontario government may go ahead with an ambitious and reckless plan to invest a minimum \$40 billion to build new nuclear power plants in the province.

A decision is imminent. Energy Minister Cansfield has said she wants to decide in March. Premier McGuinty hasn't given the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) sufficient time to develop

OPA report of the to justify this move.

Unfortunately, the OPA admits its report is only preliminary and key information is lacking. Yet, the OPA accepts unsupported claims of nuclear costs from a proven unreliable source, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL).

This is not new. Ontario Hydro routinely produced inflated projections of future demand for electricity to justify its ambitious construction plans. Sierra Club of Canada's full review of the OPA report will be posted at www.sierraclub.ca. The OPA estimated the ongoing growth in demand for electricity at 0.9% or almost twice the actual growth rate since 1990 of 0.5% and that reverses a 50-year trend of falling electricity growth rates in

What should be done

Nuclear Power is unacceptable. Fortunately, there are other better options.

The government should send the report back to the OPA and give it the time and resources necessary to examine the alternatives and provide a realistic plan that does not rely on expensive, unreliable, unsafe nuclear power.

The OPA should be mandated to develop a sustainable electricity plan for Ontario that includes a phase out of nuclear power.



a balanced report that includes a full assessment of demand management, energy efficiency and conservation. The government has rejected calls for a full environmental assessment. Instead the government is conducting "consultations" in 12 locations on three nights with only two weeks notice. Haste makes waste and in this case the waste will be radioactive. The government is relying on the recent

"Nuclear power is by far the most expensive of the alternative sources of new supply available to Ontarians, terminally addicted to vast subsidies, as Ontario Hydro, on whose Board I sat for five years, has amply demonstrated. Why would a Premier who just announced he has to subsidize large power users because they can't pay today's rates, choose to opt for more nuclear? That choice will only guarantee higher rates into the distant future. Perhaps he has been listening to what the previous Chairman, Bill Farlinger, called the "nuclear cult" managing OPG."

"Not only is nuclear a financial disaster but also, after 35 years of effort, since the Hare and Porter reports, Ontarians still refuse to accept the siting of a repository for the safe management of the legacy high-level wastes generated by our plants. Until they do, and thereby prove that it is a socially viable technology, there should be a moratorium on all new plants."

*Jim MacNeill, O.C.
Secretary General of the World Commission on Environment*

Ontario. Using the current growth rate would have put off the need to add significant new supply well into the future and provide time for efficiency, renewables and new technologies to be deployed at lower cost than new nuclear plants. The OPA estimate of the potential for energy efficiency and conservation is based on flawed inadequate research. The OPA did commission a study, but did not provide sufficient funds or time to gather all the facts.

The OPA wind power estimate excluded at least

See OPA Report

Sierra Club of Canada demands nuclear power be phased out, not expanded

Sierra Club of Canada opposes nuclear power because it causes ongoing environmental damage and presents a risk of catastrophic accidents. There are less risky and less damaging sustainable ways of meeting the electricity needs of consumers and industry. In fact, nuclear power is the most expensive and least reliable option.

The operation of nuclear power plants presents an ongoing and constant threat of radioactive contamination that could kill thousands and make vast areas uninhabitable for generations. The Standing Parliamentary Committee on Forestry, Energy and the Environment report

See Nuclear Phase Out

**All nuclear
power
reactors can
melt down.**

Support the Sierra Club Anti- Nuclear Campaign!

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**Sierra Club of
Canada
National Office
412 - 1 Nicholas St.
Ottawa, ON
K1N 7B7**

**Online at:
www.sierraclub.ca**

Phase Out Nuclear

called "The Eleventh Hour" (January 1988) noted that CANDU (Heavy water reactors) emit more than 100 times the tritium and 40 times more Carbon 14 than other reactor designs.

Canadian exports of nuclear materials and nuclear technology have contributed directly to the proliferation of nuclear weapons in India and Pakistan and could enhance the capabilities of other countries. There are inherent risks posed by nuclear energy for the health and safety of people of all ages (birth defects, cancers, leukemia).

There is no proven method to safely dispose of high-level radioactive wastes produced by nuclear reactors, or the hundreds of millions of tonnes of dangerous radioactive wastes left over from uranium mining and processing.

Canada's nuclear power industry is located principally in Ontario, where cost over-runs and unexpected breakdowns have created a \$35 billion debt that will take a generation to pay back. The nuclear industry depends on federal and provincial subsidies. It is estimated that the federal government has spent over \$16.6 billion of taxpayers' money on subsidies, and it continues,

with \$200 million annually going to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL). However, Canadian construction and export sales of CANDUs have dried up, and the massive taxpayer subsidies cannot possibly be repaid.

There are energy alternatives that are less expensive and far more acceptable from the point of view of public health, environmental integrity and world peace (especially technologies of energy efficiency, conservation of energy, and decentralized renewable sources of energy). The need for extreme security measures in light of the threat of nuclear terrorism in the aftermath of September 11th is one of many reasons to reconsider our commitment to nuclear power.

A nuclear plant is twice the cost of a high-efficiency natural gas plant. Environmental problems include routine radiation releases and the unsolved problem of isolating deadly radioactive waste for millennia to come.

Canada's commitment to nuclear energy has left a legacy of over 193 million tonnes of radioactive tailings, over 23 million kilograms of high level radioactive waste, which must be kept in spent fuel pools to keep the material from melting down from its on-going nuclear decay.

OPA report is flawed

1,500 kilometres of shoreline with great potential for energy generation.

It suggests the problem of nuclear waste has been adequately addressed by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). However, the NWMO has done little more than re-package and re-name the concept of deep geological disposal as "adaptive phased management" to make it more palatable to the public. The uncertainties and risks associated with the management of nuclear waste remain largely unresolved.

In the report, solar power is relegated to use in remote areas that are off-grid and is undermined by concerns about decommissioning batteries. Yet, 78% of the solar installations around the world are connected to the grid and don't use batteries. Germany which has a climate similar to Ontario is pushing ahead aggressively with solar installations.

The OPA report accepted inflated reliability estimates for nuclear power far higher than Ontario has experienced with the existing reactors. The OPA report disregarded recent history and accepted the nuclear industry's cost estimates for construction and operation of the new CANDU 6 reactor. No nuclear power plant built in Canada

has ever come in on budget or met its operational expectations.

The CANDU 6 is only a design concept. No prototype has been built and there is no operational experience upon which to base future projections. Yet, the OPA report advised the government to invest \$40 billion in this unproven nuclear technology.

What can you do!

Join the Sierra Club of
Canada to fight climate
change, nuclear power
and promote sane
alternatives.

Get informed to stop
nukes. Check out
these sites:
www.sierraclub.ca
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Write To:

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