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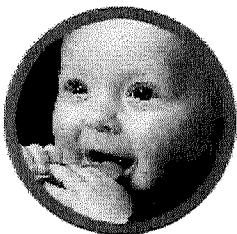
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Ontario's energy plan needs an environmental assessment

Ontario's McGuinty government is caving in to the nuclear industry and re-writing its environmental protection laws to allow its \$40 billion dollar nuclear electricity plan to by-pass an environmental assessment.

In March 2006, Greenpeace the David Suzuki Foundation and the Pembina Institute released a legal opinion, prepared by the Canadian Environmental Law Association, showing that the government's electricity plan (known as the Integrated Power Supply Plan or IPSP) would be required to undergo an environmental assessment under the Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act.

But a day after the McGuinty government announced it would spend over \$40 billion dollars rebuilding old and building new nuclear reactors, the [Globe and Mail](#) revealed that the government had secretly passed a regulation to 'exempt' its nuclear electricity plan from an environmental assessment!

This is the latest example of how the McGuinty government has blocked any meaningful public discussion on Ontario's energy future despite promising "open and public debate" on the future of nuclear power.

An environmental assessment of the plan is the best way for Ontarians to understand the risks and costs of the government's electricity plan, and to assess the green energy alternatives to its multi-billion dollar nuclear plan. A good electricity would stand up to public scrutiny.

Tell the Ontario government to withdraw the proposal to exempt its nuclear electricity plan from a provincial environmental assessment!

Below is the email that will be sent to the Ontario government, please add your comments:

Dear Premier McGuinty:
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I am writing to express my strong opposition to your government's decision to exempt its \$40 billion nuclear electricity plan from an environmental assessment under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (EBR Registry No.XA06E006). There is no excuse for the government's decision to by-pass a proper environmental review on its plan, and I urge government to revoke regulation *O.Reg. 276/06*, which exempts the nuclear plan from an environmental assessment.

Because of the vast scale of your government's nuclear energy plan, and its enormous economic, social and environmental implications for the Ontario, meaningful public scrutiny of the plan is an absolute necessity. An environmental assessment of the plan (known as the Integrated Power Supply Plan (IPSP) is the best way for Ontarians to understand the risks and costs of the government's electricity plan, and to assess the green energy alternatives to its multi-billion dollar nuclear plan.

Please note that Ontario's last long-term electricity plan was rightly subject to a review under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act in 1989. The plan, which called for up to 15 new nuclear reactors and many more dirty coal fired-electricity stations, was abandoned after the environmental assessment hearings challenged the plan's assumptions, and electricity demand forecast in the plan failed to materialize.

That environmental assessment saved Ontarians tens of billions of dollars and protected the environment from yet more unneeded dirty coal and nuclear stations. A valid electricity would stand up to public scrutiny. I have no confidence that your government's nuclear electricity plan is economic or good for the environment.

Again, your government should immediately withdraw its proposal to exempt its nuclear electricity plan from a provincial environmental assessment.

In the interim, your government should proceed with ambitiously developing green energy and conservation, which can meet our energy needs over the next 10-15 years, while your nuclear plans are subject to an environmental assessment as required by the Environmental Assessment Act.

Sincerely,

First Name:

(sent)

Last Name

(sent)

Address:

(not sent)

City :

(sent)

Postal code:

(not sent)

email :

(sent)

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