

MEDIA RELEASE

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THREE DAYS INADEQUATE CONSULTATION FOR 83 BILLION DOLLAR ELECTRICITY PLAN

Canadian Environmental Law Association, Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development, Greenpeace Canada, Sierra Club of Canada, and Toronto Environmental Alliance today registered their outrage and disappointment with the public consultation on the province's electricity supply mix announced by the provincial government to commence next Monday.

Environmental, health and social justice organizations last week formally asked the Premier to announce a Walkerton Inquiry style consultation in seeking public input into the critical decisions this government is about to make regarding Ontario's long term electricity supply mix. What the province announced instead, on ten days' notice, was two hour meetings in a dozen cities across the province. In each case, four of the cities' meetings will occur simultaneously.

"This alleged public consultation is a far cry from the kind of credible, transparent, thoughtful approach that Justice O'Connor led in the Walkerton Inquiry," stated Theresa McClenaghan, counsel for the Canadian Environmental Law Association. "The issues at stake here in the electricity plan are no less significant than were the issues associated with a reliable drinking water system for the province."

"The province is poised to develop an \$83 billion dollar plan based on out-moded technology that has never lived up to its' promoters' promises," stated XXX. "This government has not taken seriously the demands of the people of Ontario to have a say in this decision."

"This kind of consultation continues the process of rail-roading nuclear power ...," stated Shawn-Patrick Stensil / Dave Martin ** of Greenpeace International "It seems clear that decisions have already been made and this consultation is no more than window dressing on the part of the government."

"Premier McGuinty should break free of the nuclear cult that has invaded his office and engage in a meaningful energy dialog with real Ontarians," said Dan McDermott of Sierra Club of Canada.

"Four days of consultation for an 83 billion dollar investment plan with consequences that may last hundreds of thousands of years is inadequate," stated Mark Winfield of the Pembina Institute of Appropriate Development and co-author of Power for the Future, which shows how we can have a reliable electricity supply by 2020 once coal generation has been phased out and the existing nuclear power plants have reached the end of their life spans, and a strong adoption of energy efficiency measures across society.

“A decision as big as building a 20 year energy supply with nuclear power as the main component deserves a full environmental assesment not 3 days of public meetings. The process that the McGuinty government has chosen shows they are not brave enough to put forward an open, transparent and democratic forum to have a meaningful debate on a 83 billion dollar plan and we refuse to recognize the input from these meetings as proper public consultation. It’s a dog and pony show,” stated Kim Fry of Toronto Environmental Alliance.

