

June 3, 2009

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Assembly Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Premier McGuinty,

We would like to congratulate you and the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure on the passage of the Green Energy Act (GEA). We write today to ask you ensure the Green Energy Act has both the time and space it needs to produce results and foster a modern, 21st century energy system in Ontario.

Contrary to the intent of the Green Energy Act, the Ontario Power Authority's (OPA) current electricity plan caps the long-term growth of green power and jobs in order to maintain and expand nuclear generation in Ontario.

Conditions have changed greatly since OPA established the current electricity plan's assumptions in 2005. These factors, along with the Green Energy Act's goal of expanding green power, urgently call for reconsideration of your government's intention to purchase additional nuclear reactors:

- Electricity demand is dropping (even after accounting for the effects of the economic crisis), eliminating the need for additional reactors.
- Nuclear costs are almost triple what they were estimated to be 2005, and nuclear vendors are unwilling to take on the risk of cost over-runs.
- The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has warned surplus nuclear base-load capacity is already threatening system stability. Already we are paying companies to consume excess electricity.
- The passage of the Green Energy Act establishes a framework to allow green energy to expand beyond the marginal long-term caps set in 2005.

New nuclear stations are neither economical nor needed at this time. A choice can be made to defer this decision until the next Integrated Power System Plan (IPSP) to see where both costs and demand are headed, and provide the Green Energy Act with the time and investment focus it needs to produce results.

We ask you to seize an opportunity to expand green power and jobs. The aging Pickering B station is scheduled to retire beginning in 2013, opening up 2000MW of space on the grid that can be supplied by a portfolio of green power options. Pickering's looming retirement offers the smartest opportunity to open up space for putting the Green Energy Act to work.

Ramping up green energy to replace the Pickering station is a prudent and flexible direction for Ontario that will create jobs and a more diverse electricity system. Buying a new reactor when demand is dropping, however, means less space for green energy to grow and higher financial risks to Ontarians.

Premier, to ensure the Green Energy Act meets its potential, we ask you to:

1. **Give Green Energy Time to Grow.** Forgo, or at a minimum delay, the purchase of new nuclear reactors until the Ontario Energy Board can assess whether new reactors are needed and cost-effective during the next review of IPSP in three years.
2. **Give Green Energy Space to Grow.** Retire the Pickering nuclear station and replace it with green energy to provide space on the grid for green sources of energy, above and beyond what is in the current electricity plan.

Yours truly,



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