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Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 5:14 PM
To: Kelly, Denis; deborah.weiss@rogers.com
Subject: Deposition Request

Dear Sir / Madam,

This is a request to make a verbal deposition to York Regional Council at their meeting on June 19th, 2008. This is a critical issue that affects the environment, primarily of York Region, but also Ontario and beyond. In August 2005, the London Economics International, a Boston Massachusetts based consulting firm who had been engaged to provide assistance in the development of an integrated power system plan for Ontario reported that information supplied by the OPA and IESO, based on the projections of 2004-2005 indicated that there may be a need for peaking capacity in Ontario, and York Region could be a potential site. After encountering serious opposition from communities such as Vaughan, the OPA's vision shifted to more rural areas in the northern part of York Region.

The OPA's Integrated Power System Plan is now the subject of major hearings at the OEB, where 300 substantive interveners, including professional, environmental, and community groups, have questioned many aspects of the plan including its infliction of additional fossil fuel facilities on Ontario when it is well known that hundreds of deaths and hundreds of thousands of illnesses are attributed by the Ontario government to pollution from fossil fuel electricity generation. In addition, the plan gave short shrift to conservation, methodology, and use of renewable energy. Economic growth and electrical consumption are both declining in the province of Ontario, so the assumptions of 2005 are questionable at this time, as is the half billion dollar taxpayer cost.

Most councils have been responsive to the public outcry against unneeded additional fossil fuel plants, and it has been pointed out that a small decrease in electrical exports to the US would alone negate the need for the proposed gas generator. The expansion of nuclear capability further emphasizes this perspective. Further, the OPA has clearly stated that an underground transmission line is a viable option to building a new gas generator.

From a King Township perspective, the facility would be devastating. It would obliterate the efficacy of scientific research being performed at the University of Toronto Research Centre, contaminate the Garden Basket of Ontario, the Holland Marsh, and make it virtually impossible to bring new renewable sources such as the First Nation's power generation windmill facility in Georgina on stream.

This is an urgent situation because the OPA is forging ahead on the assumption that a fait accompli would be costly to derail once contracts have been signed even before the OEB hearings on the IPSP. York Region, a leader in environmental concern, energy management, and fiscal responsibility should echo the sentiments expressed on June 16th by mayor James Young of East Gillimbury. He has taken a progressive and responsible initiative in addressing the problem and concluded "that the Town of East Gillimbury opposes and will work to oppose gas fired peaking generation anywhere in Ontario as a solution for the public's energy needs."

Harten Consulting, an OEB intervener
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