

B.2. D. Gordon
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My name is Debbie Gordon and I am a founding member of

MegaWHAT? A Citizens' Collective who supports energy conservation and energy generation that protects the natural environment and human health while promoting a greener economy.

MegaWHAT? Has never said we do not want electricity generation in northern York Region. We started out just 15 of us and are now an organization supported by residents right across the affected areas.

I am a volunteer who lives in Georgina and last week we received a letter from Pristine Power telling us we are now their secondary site. I am here today to say MegaWHAT? feels this power plant is a poor solution anywhere.

Your Economic and Planning committee is to represent our interests. You cannot set yourselves at arms length from a process that affects the economic, environmental and human health of residents of York Region.

You can't even say it was the best plan because there never were alternative plans considered.

Remember we have the delicate Holland Marsh that produces most of our produce for Ontario to our west and Lake Simcoe in crisis to our north. To the south we have Markham and Stouffville who don't want transmission lines. Over 500 residents turned out to Woodbridge in 2005 to oppose a Mega power plant, Newmarket also refused one in 2005.

We have a supporter of Megawhat? here today Deborah Weiss. She was the only resident from all the communities who served on the working group... She was there and was part of the solution and can tell you. The decision to use large Scale inefficient gas fired generation was not what came out of that process.

Three MPPs, our municipalities and MegaWHAT? have asked the Minister of Energy Gerry Phillips last winter and now the Honorable George Smitherman that the working group be reconstituted.

The group would include the elected and community representatives from our communities to look at all solutions with an emphasis on one that will bring prosperity to our area while not affecting the health of residents or these significant features..

Things have changed dramatically since 2005. Climate change has become more urgent. The green economy is one of the fastest growing industries. Communities who create their own energy are putting those dollars back in their communities. A dairy farmer with

70 milking cows can use biogas production to turn the manure into methane at a \$50,000 profit a year. He will most likely spend those dollars in York Region. Energy savings that businesses make with using more renewable energy will be money they can invest back into their business.

I recently attended an OPA open house and pressured them to tell me why they didn't put out the RFP to all the energy generation industries, such as wind and solar. I was told they couldn't. We don't have a SMART grid. I should go home and look up on GOOGLE Smart Grid. I did.

If the reality of smart energy is it needs a smart grid, why are we putting antiquated energy generation on an old antiquated grid? If we are going to attract progressive businesses we need the grid and technology to go with it. Electricity is a new frontier for us in Ontario and we should be on the leading edge. Not making the same mistakes over and over.

York Region prides itself on being a leader with our Natural Heritage Study, Water for Tomorrow conservation plan, Greening Strategy... York Region must also be a leader in energy conservation and renewable energy generation that protects the natural environment and human health while promoting a greener economy..

I'm sure the Region is aware that businesses have offered to build so many electrical facilities using solar and wind power that the OPA was astounded to have their 10 year target reached in one year. Is the Region aware that the OPA is now rewriting the rules excluding many of these facilities, stating that the Ontario grid does not have sufficient room after earmarking much of it for nuclear and gas.

The first wind farm project in York Region on Georgina Island was recently derailed by the OPA. After \$750,000 was spent they changed the Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program to only 10MW projects for communities from being 20 MW. This affects how financially viable these projects can be.

I am here today to present some questions to the Economic and Planning Committee our communities would like answered from your committee. It is your responsibility to know the answers.

The OPA is clearly not penalizing proponents for having sites in the Ontario Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine, and Lake Simcoe Watershed and in 2 cases right beside a nature reserve. Instead they are rewarded with points if they succeed in persuading municipalities and York Region to not be good stewards of this legacy. Furthermore YR and the municipalities should be outraged that they are in a position whereby they are tempted to be persuaded by promises of "considerations"

Greenbelt Plan 2005

4.2.1 General Infrastructure Policies

For lands falling within the Protected Countryside, the following policies shall apply:

1. All existing, expanded or new *infrastructure* subject to and approved under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Planning Act*, the *Aggregate Resources Act*, the *Telecommunications Act* or by the National or Ontario Energy Boards, or which receives a similar environmental approval, is permitted within the Protected Countryside, subject to the policies of this section and provided it meets one of the following two objectives:

Objectives:

- a) It supports agriculture, recreation and tourism, rural settlement areas, resource use or the rural economic activity that exists and is permitted within the Greenbelt; or
- b) It serves the significant growth and economic development expected in southern Ontario beyond the Greenbelt by providing for the appropriate *infrastructure* connections among urban growth centres and between these centers and Ontario's borders.

***Does the OPA's Plan satisfy these two objectives?* [No]**

Bill 99 *The Lake Simcoe Protection Act* (proposed)

1. Purpose:

"to protect and restore the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe Watershed."

4. Objectives of the Plan:

- (a) "to protect, improve or restore the elements that contribute to the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe Watershed, including, (i) water quality"
- (f) "to improve the Lake Simcoe watershed's capacity to adapt to climate change"

***Does the OPA's Plan satisfy the Act's Purpose and these Objectives of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan?* [No]**

Air Pollution in the Greenbelt Area

Ontario's South Central Region, which includes the Greenbelt and the Lake Simcoe watershed, incurs a total of \$2.1 billion per year due to air pollution, including \$4.2 million in health damage costs, \$40.8 million in economic losses due to agricultural crop damages, \$785 million in economic losses due to visibility reduction, and \$270 million in soil damage. (Yap, D., Reid, N., de Brou, G., and Bloxam, R. 2005. *Trans-boundary Air Pollution in Ontario*. Ontario Ministry of Environment)

Will the OPA's Plan reduce air pollution in the Greenbelt and the Lake Simcoe Watershed? [No]

Does the OPA plan protect the "hydrological integrity" of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan? [No] Personal Opinion

Is this a secure plan of providing electricity from storms, flood, fires, human errors and terrorist attacks?

What is the health risk if the plant in fact runs more than 10% of the time as OPA states it may in certain situations?

So we ask you to request that The Minister George Smitherman acknowledges our elected officials and citizens and reconstitutes the Working Group.

This is our energy destiny for at least the next 20 years. You don't want to be on the wrong side of history.

Thank you, we look forward to the answers to these questions.

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