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Oakville Beaver

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McGuinty Liberals blow smoke on Oakville power plant

I saw a disturbing photo recently. It was a picture of a huge plume of white vapour coming from the new gas-fired electrical generating station in Halton Hills, just off Highway 401.

The McGuinty Liberal government wants to build an even larger plant in southeast Oakville that is only a few hundred meters from houses, schools, rail lines and arterial roads. The government refuses to budge despite all the evidence that building such a plant on a small piece of property so close to built up areas is not a good idea.

Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn as run some interference for his Liberal pals. He introduced a bill requiring a 1500 meter setback for power plants from schools and residential areas. Sounds good, eh? The problem is his bill provides a gaping loophole under which the Oakville power plant could still be built.

When I tried to close that loophole Mr. Flynn's Liberal colleagues stopped me.

It is patently obvious that building such a power plant, which issues a low rumbling hum, spews clouds of vapour, and in the case of a similar plant in Connecticut, can explode with deadly consequences, has no place in built up areas. Even the Premier must see that. After all he can clearly see the pain that the HST will cause for Ontarians. He can see the fiscal and employment effects of massive deficit spending and he can see sympathize with those affected by noxious weeds now

that chemical control methods have been outlawed.

Oh wait, maybe he doesn't see. Maybe the vapour cloud of Liberal Party perceptions has rendered him blind to what people want. Maybe he's got an agenda that simply disregards what is reasonable in favour of short-sighted solutions to big problems.

So we're running short of tax revenue – according to the Premier don't try to grow the economy, just raise taxes. So we are spending huge amounts of money we don't have – according to the Premier, don't cut back on the hugely bloated government, just keep borrowing. So people in the west of the GTA need electricity – just build a power plant as close to the users as possible.

So maybe we need a power plant, but why are the McGuinty Liberals so wedded to this location for the power plant?

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