



TED CHUDLEIGH, MPP

Halton

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CHUDLEIGH: ALTERNATIVE POWER PLANT PROPOSAL 'MAKES SENSE'

Opposition asks why government refuses the Nanticoke alternative

(Queens Park) – Yesterday, the Mayors of Oakville and Haldimand listened as Ted Chudleigh, MPP (Halton) pressed the Liberal government to consider Haldimand County as an alternative location for the opposed Oakville power plant.

“The people of Oakville have told you they don't want the proposed gas-fired power plant in the polluted Clarkson-Oakville airshed, and I agree with them,” said Chudleigh. “The mayors of Haldimand, Mississauga and Oakville have written you a letter expressing their support for an alternative location: the Nanticoke industrial park...will you listen, Minister?”

With little acknowledgement from the government, Chudleigh noted that this proposal is a win-win situation for the residents of Oakville and Haldimand County and restated his question: “This proposed plant is close to homes, it's close to daycare centres and it's close to schools. Haldimand-Norfolk wants the power plant at Nanticoke and has long-term experience and infrastructure to provide Ontario with a reliable energy supply...this proposal just makes sense. You have this proposal. When can the Mayors of Haldimand, Oakville and Mississauga expect a response from your government?”

Again, the Liberal government did not answer the question or address the safety concerns that are not covered under current provincial standards.

“I'm flabbergasted,” said Chudleigh. “We have a win-win situation here and Dalton McGuinty is turning his nose up at the people of Oakville and Haldimand.”

“There's a time to stick to your decisions and there is a time to admit you were wrong,” added Chudleigh. “When it's the health and safety of residents that are in question I'm surprised the Premier has to think twice. This is an undesirable precedent the Liberals have set for people across Ontario.”

Mayor Trainer and Oakville Mayor Rob Burton hosted a media conference later in the day to further make the case for the Nanticoke Option.

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Background Information – Hansard June 1, 2010 (Oral Questions)

Mr. Ted Chudleigh: My question is to the Acting Premier. The people of Oakville have told you they don't want the proposed gas-fired power plant in the polluted Clarkson-Oakville airshed, and I agree with them. The mayors of Haldimand, Mississauga and Oakville have written you a letter expressing their support for an alternative location: the Nanticoke industrial park. The mayors of Oakville and Haldimand are here today to ask you to stop ignoring this alternative solution. Will you listen, Minister?

Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne: We are committed to meeting the power needs for the southwest GTA. We understand that along with that goes the responsibility to reduce harmful air pollution. What we are committed to doing is improving the power supply in the region. We know that the demand is growing at more than double the provincial average, so this is an extremely important aspect of the solution for the GTA. We're listening to the community; we know that their concerns have been brought forward. I know that our member for Oakville has been a terrific advocate for his community; he is paying very close attention. We're working with our municipal partners, but we're also mindful of our contractual obligations. We understand that there is a bigger picture here. We need to increase the power for this area, and we'll continue to work with the community.

The Speaker (Hon. Steve Peters): Supplementary?

Mr. Ted Chudleigh: This is a very rare win-win situation. Oakville doesn't want the gas plant which you are proposing to put in an already-stressed and highly polluted air shed-

The Speaker (Hon. Steve Peters): Stop the clock. Please continue.

Mr. Ted Chudleigh: This proposed plant is close to homes, it's close to daycare centres and it's close to schools. Haldimand-Norfolk wants the power plant at Nanticoke and has long-term experience and infrastructure to provide Ontario with a reliable energy supply. The Nanticoke industrial park site is consistent with the proposed integrated power supply plan. Acting Premier, this proposal just makes sense. You have this proposal. When can the mayors of Haldimand, Oakville and Mississauga expect a response from your government?

Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne: To the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. John Gerretsen: As the member well knows, back in November, the southwest GTA task force was established under the head of Dr. David Balsillie, who will be reporting at the end of June. He also knows that any proponent for a power plant needs to complete all the environmental approval requirements under both the Environmental Assessment Act and the Environmental Protection Act. Our Ministry of the Environment officials will ensure that the proponents' plan will meet or exceed provincial standards and be operated in a totally environmentally responsible way.