

Achieving the Ontario Coal Phase-Out Before the June 2010 G20 Summit in Toronto

A major opportunity to demonstrate Ontario's climate leadership

- ▶ Ontario's coal phase-out is the single largest greenhouse gas reduction initiative in North America. It is equivalent to taking seven million cars off the road. By achieving a virtually complete coal phase-out before the June 2010 G20 Summit in Toronto, Ontario can demonstrate badly needed climate leadership for Canada and the World.
- ▶ We can achieve a coal phase-out today without jeopardizing the security of our electricity supply. Our current coal-free electricity generation capacity is 23% greater than our forecast peak day demand for the summer of 2010 and 27% greater than our forecast peak day demand for the summer of 2014.
- ▶ According to a Government of Ontario study, our coal-fired electricity generation in 2009 caused approximately: 240 premature deaths; 335 hospital admissions; 400 emergency room visits; and 120,000 minor illnesses (e.g., asthma attacks).

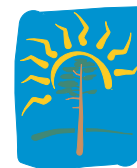


- ▶ Coal generation is no longer even profitable for Ontario Power Generation (OPG). For the first nine months of 2009, OPG received a \$294 million subsidy from Ontario's electricity consumers to compensate it for the operating losses of its Nanticoke and Lambton coal-fired power plants.
- ▶ According to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator, the reserve margin (available generation in excess of peak demand) required to meet North American reliability standards is 17%. This means we

no longer need our dirty coal plants to meet reliability standards, since our coal-free generation capacity actually exceeds our peak demand by 23%.

- ▶ Nevertheless, according to the Ontario Power Authority we need to retain some of our coal capacity on standby reserve until December 31, 2014 because the "Pickering nuclear units could reach the end of their operating lives sooner than expected."
- ▶ However, the need to maintain some of our dirty coal plants on standby reserve until the legally binding date for a complete coal phase-out (December 31, 2014), does *not* mean that we should actually produce dirty coal-fired electricity when we don't absolutely need to. In fact, in 2009, most of Ontario's coal-fired generation was exported to the United States.
- ▶ Please contact Premier McGuinty and ask him to direct Ontario Power Generation to put its dirty coal plants on **standby reserve** immediately and **only operate them if they are absolutely needed to keep the lights on in Ontario.**

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