



## Coal phase-out ► *Finishing the job* regulation

The Government of Ontario has developed a draft coal phase-out regulation that, if approved, will require an end to coal burning at Ontario's four remaining coal-fired electricity generation stations as of December 31, 2014. Such a legally binding regulation requiring the phase-out of our dirty coal plants would be a very important step forward in the battle to clear the air and fight dangerous climate change.

Unfortunately, however, the draft regulation does not currently require any reductions in Ontario's coal-fired electricity generation during the seven-year period leading up to the final deadline. Ontario's historical experience and the Ontario Power Authority's analysis both show that we can achieve significant reductions in our coal-fired electricity generation *before* December 31, 2014.

1. Since 2003 the McGuinty Government has significantly reduced our coal-fired electricity generation capacity and output. Specifically, by closing the Lakeview Generating Station in Mississauga (1138 megawatts), the McGuinty Government has reduced the province's total coal-fired electricity generation capacity by 15%. In addition, between 2003 and 2006 the total output of our coal plants has fallen by 32%, from 36.3 billion kWh in 2003 to 24.7 billion kWh in 2006.
2. Ontario's electricity generation capacity is going to increase dramatically over the next few years as additional wind, water, solar, biomass and high-efficiency natural gas-fired power plants come on line. As a result, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) is forecasting that we will need coal-fired electricity generation for less than 1% of our domestic electricity needs in 2010.<sup>1</sup>
3. According to the OPA, Ontario can reduce the capacity of its Nanticoke and Lambton coal-fired power plants by 1,000 MW in 2011 and by an additional 2,000 MW in 2012 without jeopardizing our security of supply.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, according to the OPA, we can reduce the total capacity of these two giant coal-fired power plants by 50% by 2012.
4. According to the OPA's worst case scenario, Ontario's required coal-fired electricity generation will not exceed 15 billion kWh per year in 2012, 2013 and 2014.<sup>3</sup> That is, under the OPA's worst case scenario, our coal-fired electricity production will be 40% lower than it was in 2006.<sup>4</sup>
5. In 2001 Ontario's former Minister of the Environment, Elizabeth Witmer, issued a regulation requiring the phase-out of coal burning at the Lakeview Generating Station by April 2005. However, Mrs. Witmer's regulation also required Lakeview to reduce its smog-causing nitrogen oxides emissions by 23% during the four-year coal phase-out transition period.
6. In 1985 Ontario's then Minister of the Environment, Jim Bradley, issued his "Countdown Acid Rain" regulation which required Ontario Hydro to dramatically reduce its sulphur dioxide emissions by January 1, 1994. But Minister Bradley's regulation also established an initial emission cap for the period 1986 to 1989 and an even lower interim cap for the period 1990 to 1993.<sup>5</sup>

## What the draft regulation should include:

The McGuinty Government can make its draft regulation a real climate winner by including interim targets for reducing coal-fired electricity generation that reflect the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the near term.

At a minimum, the regulation should be amended to:

- Set minimum interim coal-fired capacity reduction targets for Nanticoke and Lambton in keeping with the OPA's projections.
- Cap Ontario's coal-fired electricity generation at 15 billion kWh per year in 2012, 2013 and 2014.
- Immediately ban non-emergency coal-fired electricity exports.

The deadline for public comment on the draft coal phase-out regulation is August 11, 2007. Go to [www.ebr.gov.on.ca](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca) and enter Registry No. 010-0945. You can submit a comment online by clicking the "Submit comment" button in the right-hand margin on the posting page.

You can submit comments by mail or fax to:

David Argue  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Ministry of the Environment  
Air Policy and Climate Change Branch  
135 St. Clair Avenue West  
Floor 4  
Toronto Ontario  
M4V 1P5  
Phone: (416) 314-4908  
Fax: (416) 314-4128

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### Endnotes

- 1 OPA, *Ontario's Integrated Power System Plan: Discussion Paper 7: Integrating the Elements – A Preliminary Plan*, (November 15, 2006), p. 5.
- 2 OPA, *Discussion Paper 7: Integrating the Elements*, p. 48; and *Addendum to Discussion Paper 7*, (April 2007), p. 2.
- 3 *Discussion Paper 7*, p. 49; and *Addendum*, p. 4.
- 4 In 2006 Ontario Power Generation produced 25 billion kWh of coal-fired electricity. OPG, *Sustainable Development 2006 Report*, p. 37.
- 5 Ontario Ministry of the Environment, *Coal-Fired Electricity Generation In Ontario*, (March 2001), p. 33.

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