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For immediate release

Kill-a-watt, don't build a watt: Green Party of Ontario

TORONTO, ON (May 14, 2008) - The McGuinty Liberal plan to build an unnecessary, oversized, electricity generating station in the Northern York Region is neither environmental sound, fiscally prudent or energy smart. Plans for the proposed 350MW simple-cycle generation station should be scrapped in favour of local peak demand reduction and conservation programs.

"The Ontario Liberals are wasting \$230 million of taxpayers' dollars when smart technology could do the job at half the cost." says Frank de Jong, GPO leader. "This generator is a white elephant that should not be built."

Local peak demand can be met and general demand reduced by installing small, efficient, inexpensive natural gas combined heat and power units in apartments, schools, factories, commercial and government buildings throughout the region.

Combined heat and power technology beats Energy Minister Phillips' proposal on all counts. Decentralized CHP installations are more robust, less expensive, contribute to peak power, avoid line loss, contribute less than 50% of the climate gasses and are far more efficient than single-cycle generation (80 to 90% versus 36%).

If installed across the province CHP systems would help eliminate the need for more nuclear reactors. The province already has sufficient peak demand capacity in the Lambton Generating Station near Sarnia, which can be converted to gas as coal is phased out.

"A conservation culture will take hold only if Ontario charges consumers and businesses the true cost of electricity." says de Jong. "Then conservation and renewables will become cost-effective without subsidies."