



**FRANK KLEES, M.P.P.**  
Newmarket-Aurora

May 9, 2008

The Honourable Gerry Phillips  
Minister of Energy  
Hearst Block, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto M7A 2E1

Dear Minister Phillips:

**Re: New Power Supply for Northern York Region**

Further to our recent discussion concerning the proposal to build a 350 to 400 MW simple-cycle gas-fired power plant in Northern York Region (NYR), I want to re-affirm my request that additional time should be given to ensure that residents, stakeholder groups and the potential host communities are given the opportunity to fully understand the implications of the project. Given the growing public concern over the current proposal, I strongly recommend that we take the additional time to re-assure the public that all options have been considered and that the best available option will be implemented.

In 2005, the Northern York Region Working Group (Ontario Power Authority, municipal officials, local electric utility representatives and concerned citizens) endorsed a three-pronged strategy to meet NYR's electricity needs:

1. The aggressive promotion of energy conservation and demand management.
2. The installation of a new transformer station at Holland Junction.
3. A new gas-fired power plant in NYR.

As you know, I supported the Working Group's recommendations in 2005 and I continue to believe that NYR will need new gas-fired generation as our population and economy continue to grow.

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Nevertheless there is a lack of consensus in our communities as to the size and type of gas-fired generation that is appropriate. For example, how much gas-fired generation do we need? Should we build one large power plant or numerous small-scale power plants? What type of gas generation is appropriate: simple-cycle, combined-cycle or combined heat and power or a combination of these options? I believe these are important questions that have not had sufficient discussion and deserve serious consideration.

For that reason, I urge you to re-constitute the Working Group to review all the facts and to examine whether a 350 to 400 MW power plant is in fact, the best option for NYR. I believe that the Towns of Aurora and Georgina and the Township of King support this request to re-constitute the Working Group.

In 2005 the Working Group process was very successful and efficient. It came to its conclusions after only five full day meetings. Re-constituting the Working Group to provide you with a second opinion will not prevent the OPA from contracting for a 350 to 400 MW power plant in December 2008, as per their current schedule, if it is ultimately determined that this is the best option for NYR. I urge you to consider this request and look forward to working co-operatively with your Ministry and the OPA to arrive at a solution that will be in the best interest of all concerned.

Yours sincerely,



Frank Klees. MPP

cc: Julia Munro, MPP  
Helena Jaczek, MPP  
Mayor Phyllis Morris, Town of Aurora  
Mayor Van Bynen, Town of Newmarket  
Mayor James Young, Town of East Gwillimbury  
Mayor Rob Grossi, Town of Georgina  
Mayor Margaret Black, Township of King  
Bill Fisch, Chair, Regional Municipality of York  
D. Brian Hay, Ontario Power Authority