



# News Release

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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## MPP Enters Power Plant Debate

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees wants the Minister of Energy to get a second opinion before committing to the construction of a 350 MW power plant in northern York Region.

"There is no doubt that we need additional generation capacity, " said Klees. "There is not consensus however, about the size and type of generation plant that's best to meet our needs and whether sufficient thought has been given to alternative options. Before a multi-million dollar decision is made that will affect our communities for generations to come, it just makes good sense that we should make sure that we've considered all the options available to us."

Klees believes that rather than simply forge ahead with the construction of a 350 MW gas-fired plant as proposed by the Ontario Power Authority, a broader strategy should be considered that would include incentives for numerous small-scale power plants. He points to the condominium project in his own neighbourhood in Aurora as an example of how small-scale power generation technology can relieve the demand on the central power grid, produce clean energy and reduce cost to the end user.

"We should be encouraging and providing incentives to businesses large and small, hospitals and government buildings to make the switch to technology that's available to us and has been used with great success in other jurisdictions for years," Klees said. "Not only is it clean, it affords a degree of self-sufficiency that is simply not possible through the central grid."

Klees is hopeful that the Minister will respond positively to his request to re-constitute the Northern York Region Working Group for the purpose of giving full consideration to the alternatives to the current plans for a full scale gas-fired generation plant.

As for the location of the plant, Klees insists there can be no justification for locating it near existing residential development, noting that it would be irresponsible to do so given the number of potential sites available where residential development does not come into play.

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Letter to Minister attached

**References:**

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