

To the editor:

I read with interest recent articles in the Star relating to the environmental impact of proposed power plants in Oakville, York Region. The editorials suggest that the criticisms were not justified as the plants are peaking plants. I would suggest that before such a position is taken by Canada's leading newspaper, a review of the facts should be made. Because I am a resident of Oakville, I will finish my comments based on my understanding of the Oakville Power Plant.

TransCanada has indicated that the facility will be in use more than 200 days per year. Is this a peaking facility? Ask TransCanada for a copy of their presentation to the residents of Oakville.

Perhaps a further review of the facts would help your readership decide if the citizens in the affected communities are over reacting. Here are some of the facts relating to the proposed Oakville Power Plant:

- The power plant will be one of the largest natural gas power plants in Canada (almost 900 megawatts); see 840 mega watt Brampton's Goreway Power Plant left below and the plant location in Oakville. This is like building a large factory at Young and Bloor. Please see the attached link for perspective on the plant <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sXuVcm2OGA>

- The facility will be responsible for pollution to an already over-taxed air-shed. The Air Shed in the Oakville Mississauga area impacted by the power plant is already 14% higher than the Provincial average and this statistic is based on an environmental study prepared 4 years ago. It will more than double the existing level of industrial air pollution in the Oakville / Clarkson Air shed. The existing levels were determined in studies done by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and indicate that in fact air pollution in this Air shed is already among the worst in the province.

- The power plant will be within 400 metres of thousands of existing residences and at least 10 schools and day care centers; generally in the middle of a large, mature, urban area, the Clarkson Air shed, which includes all of Oakville east of Trafalgar Road.

- Coal-fired electrical plants slated to close (Nanticoke), would welcome a gas-fired plant replacement - but Smitherman, McGuinty and the OPA repeatedly indicate that this option is not up for discussion; but without explanation.

- There is an undertaking but no guarantee that the environmental impact of the power plant on the community will be negligible. Further there is no specific remedy if emissions are determined to be worse than current levels.

- The underlying logic of the decision to choose the Ford site acquired by TransCanada has not been disclosed. The Town of Oakville was not consulted in advance of the decision by either Ford or TransCanada according to the CAO of the Town.

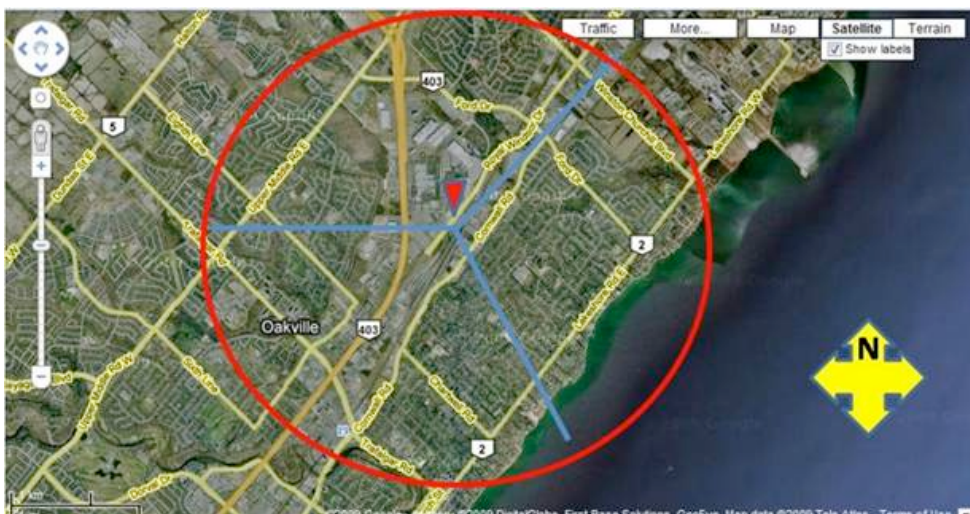
- All of the provincial, regional and municipal political representatives are opposed to the site selection. Kevin Flynn, MPP and former **Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of the Environment** has written to his constituents indicating the government did not provide transparency in the site selection process and indicates that the decision is illogical. In fact until this communication he would not and did not represent the constituents of Oakville because he was prohibited from doing so by the Integrity Commissioner. The residents of Oakville were not represented provincially by their own MPP and the Municipality was ignored. (See attached)

I would encourage you to spend the time and effort to investigate the facts including submissions to the OMB. There needs to be a clear communication of the logic behind the site selection

compared to other sites, the basis for the decision, summary of environmental including noise, visual, and economic impact of the various sites. This should be open to public scrutiny. Ask yourself the questions: Why did the government choose this site. Why has the underlying logic to the decision not been made public? Is Ford receiving a long term incentive to help TransCanada's success in the bidding process? Why was an environmental update not undertaken before the decision was made? Why was Nanticoke or other locations not chosen instead of a site in the middle of a residential community? Why was the parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of the Environment not privy to the facts? How can the constituents of Oakville be represented in the process if he is precluded by the Integrity Commissioner?

Your readership, deserves to understand why health and well being is being sacrificed by a process that is driven by political motivation and unclear economics.

Extract from a presentations made by a citizens group:



To the left is the 840 megawatt Goreway facility. To the right is the proposed location of the Oakville power plant. The Power Plant in Oakville is being placed just north of Cornwall between Morrison Road and Maple Grove, 400 meters from homes, and will be visible to all of Oakville

from the QEW. The above circle outlines homes within 3km of the plant.

--Former Director of Oakville Hydro Corporation