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June 4, 2004

**To: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier**
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

**Re: Choose a Cost Effective & Low Impact Future for Ontario's
Electrical Sector**

Dear Premier:

I am writing on behalf of the OPHA to encourage you to choose a cost-effective and low impact future for Ontario's electrical sector.

Our members applaud your government's commitment to phase out coal-fired power plants by 2007. However, we feel strongly that this must be accomplished without reinvesting in nuclear energy. While we appreciate that nuclear energy eliminates the smog, climate change and mercury concerns presented by coal-fired power plants, we feel that it presents other health, environmental and security concerns that are equal to, or greater than, those presented by coal-fired power plants.

A report released by the Pembina Institute in May demonstrates that it is both possible and cost effective to select a low impact energy future that eliminates our dependence on coal-fired power plants and nuclear generating facilities.

The Pembina report, which uses electricity supply, demand, and cost estimates prepared by the Energy and Materials Group at Simon Fraser University, indicates that:

- Electricity demand in Ontario could be reduced by 40% from a business-as-usual scenario by 2020 with the implementation of policies that encourage the use of energy efficient technologies, co-generation, and a shift from electricity to gas for heating;
- Renewable energy sources -- wind, hydro and biomass (i.e. use of methane from sources such as landfill sites) -- could provide 31% of the electricity supply needed under an energy efficient scenario by 2020; and

- A "residual" 4,500 MW of power generating capacity would be required to provide 24% of the electricity supply needed under an energy efficient scenario by 2020 (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Estimated Grid Demand and Supply Mix, 2010-2010 (GWH)

Source	2010	2015	2020
	GWh / MW	GWh / MW	GWh/MW
Policy Change Demand	136,257	117,246	103,873
Existing Hydro	33,572 / 7,665	33,572 / 7,665	33,572 / 7,665
Existing Nuclear	51,246 / 9,000	22,776 / 4,000	0 / 0
Existing Gas & Oil	12,208 / 4,645	12,208 / 4,645	12,208 / 4,645
New Hydro	4,380 / 1,000	6,570 / 1,500	8,760 / 2,000
Wind	7,884 / 3,000	13,140 / 5,000	18,396 / 7,000
Biomass	3,504 / 500	4,205 / 600	5,606 / 800
New CCNG	23,915 / 4,200	25,054 / 4,400	25,623 / 4,500
Total	136,709 /30,010	117,525 /27,810	104,165 /26,610

The Pembina study compares three technologies that could be used to meet the 4,500 MW of "residual" power generating capacity - combined cycle natural gas (CCNG), integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC), and nuclear - and recommends CCNG on the basis of cost-effectiveness and health and environmental impacts (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: Estimated Costs & Time to Service, 3 Generating Technologies

Technology	Capital Costs (\$ per MW)	Cost of Electricity (per kWh)	Time to Service
Nuclear: New Refurbished	1.124 - 1.52 million 2.1million	7.8 cents	7 years 3-6 years
CCNG	1.0 million	5.18 cents	2 years
IGCC	1.8 million	4.6-5.1 cents	2-3 years

In fact, the Pembina report concludes that it would cost \$16 billion less to meet the province's electricity needs with the energy efficient scenario outlined by Table 1 (i.e. \$23 billion) than it would to meet the province's needs with a more modest commitment to energy efficiency and 15,000 MW of generating capacity provided by nuclear generating facilities (i.e. \$39 billion).

The province is at a crossroads. It can decide to re-commit to a high impact technology that presents long-term concerns for environmental integrity, public health, safety and security, or it can make an ambitious commitment to energy efficiency and low impact technologies. We believe that Ontario's energy future should be a sustainable one.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Peter Wiebe
President

cc: Dwight Duncan, Minister of Energy
George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of the Environment
Kim Perrotta, OPHA Environmental Health Manager