

Electricity

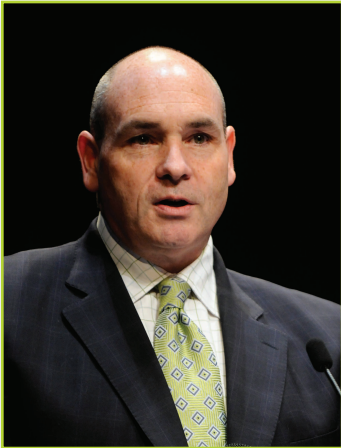
Solutions for Southwestern GTA



ETOBICOKE • MISSISSAUGA • OAKVILLE

Hundreds Attend Town Hall to Discuss Electricity Solutions with Energy Minister

Ontario's fast-growing communities – Oakville, Mississauga and Etobicoke – need a reliable source of electricity



Hundreds of residents in the southwestern Greater Toronto Area took part in a recent town hall meeting to discuss Ontario's integrated electricity system. In the wide-ranging discussion, residents talked about Ontario's focus on renewables and conservation, leading to a more diverse, sustainable supply mix. The push to cleaner, greener forms of electricity generation will support Ontario's ambitious plan to phase out dirty coal-fired generation by 2014.

Shutting down coal will significantly improve air quality for all Ontarians by dramatically lowering greenhouse gas emissions, the overflow crowd learned. It will be Canada's single largest climate change initiative and is equivalent to removing up to seven million cars from Ontario roads.

Residents learned how a plan to build a natural gas power plant in the area to address the region's long-term energy needs fits into this diverse mix of energy sources.

The new plant is necessary because of the region's strong growth, which is reflected in a peak electricity load that is more than double the provincial average, George Smitherman, Ontario's Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, said in answering one of many questions from audience members at the Mississauga Living Arts Centre on Oct. 28.

"I understand very well that nobody really wants more energy infrastructure in their backyard," Minister Smitherman told the crowd. "But that doesn't lessen the necessity that we have to make sure that when people flip the switch, the electricity is available."

Southern Oakville, Mississauga and Etobicoke are all potential locations for the plant. The final site is expected to be announced in June 2009. It will be designed to run about 15-40 per cent of the time, during periods of heavy demand. It could generate as little as one-sixth of the greenhouse gas emissions produced by the former Lakeview coal plant.

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Public Information Forums Planned for February

Last fall, residents participated in a Town Hall and several information sessions to learn about proposed new electricity solutions for the region and express their viewpoints and concerns. Many residents participated and spoke up.

The Ontario Power Authority is holding three more sessions on local energy solutions. Interested residents are urged to attend one or all the sessions.

Wednesday, February 4, 2009	at the Living Arts Centre (4141 Living Arts Drive, Mississauga)	5:00-7:00 Open House 7:00-8:30 Discussion
Tuesday, February 17, 2009	at Franklin Horner Community Centre (432 Horner Avenue, Etobicoke)	5:00-7:00 Open House 7:00-8:30 Discussion
Wednesday, February 18, 2009	at the Hilton Garden Inn, Oakville (2774 South Sheridan Way, Oakville)	5:00-7:00 Open House 7:00-8:30 Discussion

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The western GTA is a major load centre, requiring a range of 3,500–4,500 megawatts of generation capacity to meet peak demand. When Mississauga's Lakeview coal-fired generating station was closed down in 2005, it removed 1,140 megawatts of electricity from the grid.

Because of the interconnectedness of the electricity system, a weak link "can cost you quite a bit," said Minister Smitherman, pointing out that the region's needs must be reliably met as it continues to grow. Natural gas plants are a fast, reliable and "on-demand" source of electricity that can step up to the plate when more variable energy sources like wind and solar power aren't available, he added.

"We do need new generation, we do need transmission, we do need conservation. It is an integrated plan and we need all three."

– Peter Love, Ontario's Chief Energy Conservation Officer

businesses, the province's energy planner – the Ontario Power Authority – intends to focus on continuing conservation programs while also upgrading the area's supply capacity by building this natural gas plant of about 850 megawatts, said Colin Andersen, the OPA's chief executive officer.

Ontario's coal plants, including the Nanticoke Generating Station – the largest coal-fired plant in North America – currently generate more than 6,000 megawatts of electricity. That represents 15 per cent of the province's current power supply.

"Conservation is the cheapest energy that you can buy, and I'm bound and determined to buy just as much as possible of what we can produce here in the province of Ontario."

– George Smitherman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure

To ensure there is adequate and reliable long-term electricity supply for the region's homes, schools and

"We're working vigorously to eliminate Ontario's use of coal," said Minister Smitherman, pointing out that Lakeview was the first plant to be shut down under the off-coal plan. He said the province is proud of its decision not to build a new power plant on the Lakeview site, so it could be integrated into cherished waterfront land.

Last year, more than 75 per cent of the electricity used in Ontario was produced by hydroelectric and nuclear power.

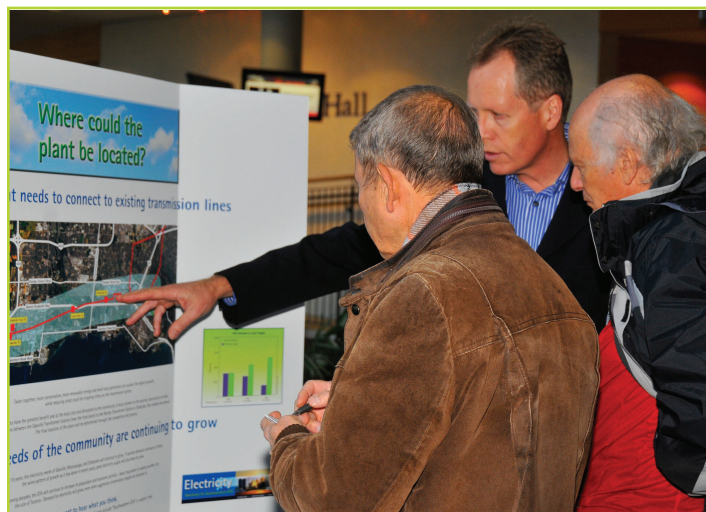
Countries with significantly more renewable energy generation than Ontario, such as Germany, Spain and Denmark, also rely on coal plants and nuclear generation to ensure the reliability of their electricity systems.

The OPA's plan is "a very ambitious agenda: a cleaner and greener plan that doubles renewables, completely replaces coal and sets the most aggressive conservation targets in North America," Andersen told the audience.

The province's overall conservation target – a reduction of 6,300 megawatts – is significantly higher than other jurisdictions, said Peter Love, Ontario's chief energy conservation officer. In

the western GTA alone, the conservation target is 500 megawatts, which is enough electricity for 400,000 homes.

"Conservation is the cheapest energy that you can buy," added Minister Smitherman.



For summaries of each town hall speaker's remarks or to read a transcript of the event, visit www.powerauthority.on.ca/SWGTA/

Energy Minister Responds to Community Concerns

Air quality, health issues and environmental impact were among the major concerns raised by residents of the southwestern GTA at a recent town hall meeting about plans to build a natural gas power plant in the area.

While the new plant's location has not yet been determined, the successful bidder will meet all established criteria, including strict environmental regulations, George Smitherman, Ontario's Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, told the audience. Southern Oakville, Mississauga and Etobicoke are all potential locations for the plant. The final site will be announced in June 2009.

A representative of the Markland Home Association said its members are concerned about the effects a natural gas plant near their community might have on their health.

Another residential group, the Lorne Park Estates Association, told the meeting that its members were worried because they believed the plant's location had been selected before their health concerns were addressed.

Other audience members praised the government's energy initiatives. "Ontario's leadership in energy conservation and the eliminating of dirty coal-fired energy and also the elimination of the Lakeview site, is decisive," said one.

A final decision about the plant's location will be made after extensive public consultation, Minister Smitherman assured the audience. He said the new plant could generate as little as one-sixth of the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by Mississauga's former Lakeview Generating Station. Lakeview was closed in 2005 as part of the province's commitment to end all coal-fired electricity generation by 2014.

The off-coal plan will significantly reduce hazardous air emissions, benefiting all Ontarians, including the residents of the southwestern



GTA – some of whom live downwind of the Nanticoke Generating Station's airshed, the Minister said. Nanticoke is the largest coal-burning generation facility in North America.

The new natural gas plant – which will operate 15-40 per cent of the time – will have an "extraordinarily lower impact" on the environment than the Nanticoke plant, the Minister said, emphasizing that there is no bigger commitment a government can make to the health of its citizens and their environment than eliminating coal plants.

In response to questions from the audience about the procurement process, the Ontario Power Authority's JoAnne Butler outlined the detailed approval process that project proponents must meet. These include environmental reviews, as well as compliance with a range of financial and technical criteria.

Under the current timetable, a request for proposals will be issued in February 2009, with evaluation and notification taking place in June 2009, said Butler, the OPA's vice-president of electricity resources.

Click on the link below to view project story boards displayed at the town hall and subsequent public information centres.

www.powerauthority.on.ca/SWGTAT/

Three communities host outreach events

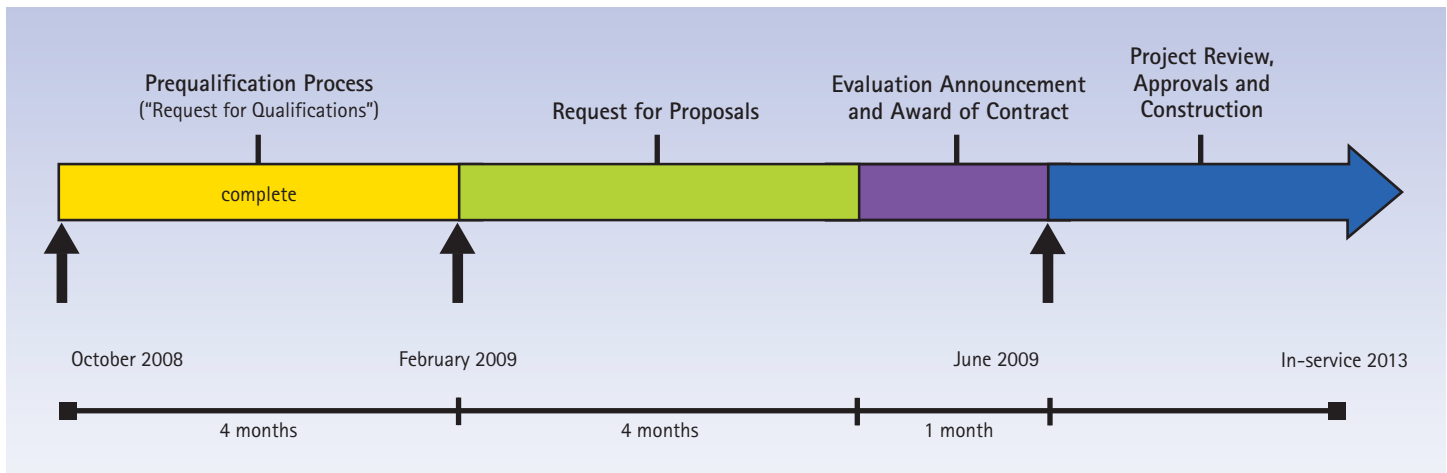
Following a successful town hall in October, the Ontario Power Authority held a series of public information centres in November on the new natural gas power plant planned for the southwestern GTA.

The six sessions – two in each of the communities of Oakville, Mississauga and Etobicoke – were well attended. They provided the community with useful information on the project through a series of story boards, and allowed residents to ask questions and express their views to OPA staff.

Topics raised included concerns that the new plant could aggravate air pollution in the region. Some residents were worried that the plant might affect property values and others were surprised to learn that the site of the former Lakeview Generating Station would not be considered as a location for the new facility.

At the sessions, OPA staff stressed that potential project sites have not yet been identified. They discussed the need for the project, both to meet the local power reliability and security issues in the region, and as one of a number of similar projects underway that will enable the province to eliminate Ontario's use of polluting coal-fired generation by the end of 2014.

Project Milestones and Timeline



In August 2008, the Ontario government asked the OPA to launch a competitive procurement process to build a natural gas power plant in the southwestern GTA.

The OPA then issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in October 2008, designed to identify proponents that have the required technical skill, experience and financial resources to complete such a project. The RFQ document provides enough project detail to help proponents decide if they want to participate. Interested proponents submit their technical, financial and overall experience in building and operating these types of projects to the OPA in this stage.

Responses to the RFQ were due by the end of November 2008. The submissions were reviewed by an independent evaluation team and monitored by a fairness advisor. This evaluation has identified four companies – Invenergy Canada Development Partnership, Northland Power Inc., Portlands Energy Center L.P. and Sithe Global Power Southdown ULC – based on their project experience, technical expertise and financial resources.

These companies are now eligible to compete in a comprehensive, independently evaluated Request for Proposals (RFP) process set to begin this February. RFP submissions are expected in late May 2009. A single proponent will be chosen by late June.

The new power plant, to be in-service by the end of 2013, will help ensure a reliable, adequate and secure electricity supply in one of the fastest-growing regions of the province.

The plant will support the province's drive to reduce the greenhouse gases linked to climate change by eliminating coal-fired generation and replacing it with cleaner forms of electricity. Gas-fired generation will also complement the growth of renewable sources of electricity, by supplying on-demand power at times when more variable sources such as wind and solar aren't available.

Building a project of this nature requires many specialized and general construction trades and services. Hundreds of people will be needed during construction, which can last from two to three years. Once the facility is operating, there would likely be 20 to 40 full-time staff.

Stay informed

Electricity Solutions for the Southwestern GTA is published by the Ontario Power Authority to describe plans to address the specific electricity system needs of local communities, including portions of Mississauga, Oakville, Etobicoke, Halton Hills, Vaughan and Toronto. For more information, visit our project website at www.powerauthority.on.ca/swgta.

If you have any questions or comments for the OPA, please contact us at info@powerauthority.on.ca (please put Southwestern GTA in the subject field) or call us toll-free at 1-800-797-9604.

The OPA is dedicated to long-term planning of an electricity system that is sustainable and reliable for the benefit of Ontario customers. We coordinate conservation programs and procure supply from diverse resources.