

Security of Electricity Supply **(Submitted by the Markham Board of Trade and Burlington Chamber of Commerce)**

Issue:

The cost, availability and security of electricity are matters of growing concern to businesses and citizens.

Background:

Because of the 2003 blackout and the increasing incidence of brownouts, businesses have realized how fragile our energy supply is and with deregulation how costly it has become. Such problems are very disruptive to business and discourage investment and growth. A secure supply of reasonably-priced electricity that is sufficient to accommodate growth forecasts is essential if Ontario is to continue to grow and prosper. At the same time, Ontarians are legitimately concerned about the environmental effects of some types of generation and about the location of new power generation facilities, transformer stations or high-voltage power lines in their municipalities.

Recommendations:

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce urges the Government of Ontario to:

1. Expedite the long term development and implementation by approving the Integrated Power System Plan and develop short- and medium-term targets needed to achieve longer term objectives.
2. Support distributed generation that involves locating generation capacity closer to electricity load centers.
3. Reduce the politics and bureaucracy around electrical generation and transmission that delay decision-making and discourage innovation and streamline the approval process to ensure adequate electricity supply.
4. Conduct open and honest consultation and provide public education on the realities of electricity supply in Ontario.
5. Examine the current and future challenges and propose alternative solutions for further deregulation supported by most advantageous cost -benefits ratios.
6. Further promote aggressive conservation and consumer demand management programs.
7. Encourage private investment and competition in the energy sector by stabilizing the energy market and providing appropriate incentives to investors.
8. Take a strong leadership role and not allow "NIMBYism" to delay or stop projects that have gone through the appropriate EA process and are important for the future of Ontario.

9. Support development of cogeneration projects (i.e., the simultaneous generation of electric power and recovery waste heat) to displace purchased fuel wherever cogeneration generators can be located proximate to industrial/commercial thermal loads.