

Joint Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayors Express Concerns Over Peaker Plant to Minister Smitherman

Monday, November 24, 2008 -- Northern York Region and Bradford West Gwillimbury (Simcoe County) – On Friday, November 21, 2008 Mayors of Aurora, Bradford West Gwillimbury, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Newmarket and Whitchurch Stouffville were successful in having a long-requested meeting with Ontario Energy and Infrastructure Minister George Smitherman to address resident and local concerns about the proposed gas-fired peaker plant.

The OPA is currently considering six proposals for the construction of a 350 Megawatt simple-cycle natural gas-fired electricity generation facility. There are three potential sites in the Township of King, two in East Gwillimbury and one in Bradford West Gwillimbury. Together, the Northern York Region/Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayors raised health, environmental, and geographic concerns over the natural gas-fired peaker plant procurement process raised by some stakeholders and residents.

Minister Smitherman responded to the Mayors' concerns by acknowledging the collective position that they are "unwilling hosts," but assuring them that the need for power is real and that the procurement process is continuing with an expected mid to late December announcement of the selected proponent and site. The Minister outlined to the Mayors why the facility is the best solution for Northern York Region's/Bradford West Gwillimbury's growing energy needs, as well as explaining how this solution is part of the Province's overall commitment to reduce dependability on coal-fired generation. Smitherman also stated that the Province will continue to promote conservation and the use of renewable energy where possible.

Minister Smitherman committed to attending an OPA organized public Town Hall meeting in the municipality of the selected site in early 2009.

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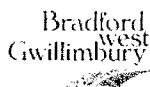
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East Gwillimbury



TOWN OF
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

ATTACHMENT "A"