



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

VIA FACSIMILE and Regular Mail

February 14, 2006

Premier D. McGuinty
Legislative Building Rm 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
416- 325-3745

Minister D. Cansfield
Minister of Energy
900 Bay Street, 4th Floor
Hearst Block
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2E1
416-325-5316

Re: Power Supply Mix Public Consultations

Dear Premier McGuinty and Minister Cansfield:

As you know, the undersigned organizations, along with many others have been extremely concerned that there be an opportunity for meaningful, thorough and thoughtful consultations with the people of Ontario regarding our future electricity supply mix. After Premier McGuinty in December 2005 promised further consultation with the people of Ontario and a full environmental assessment of the resulting supply mix plan, we applauded.

However, today, we write to provide our formal complaint about the public supply mix consultation as it has been announced and carried out so far at the four public input sessions held yesterday. The overwhelming concern that people have is that this consultation process as it has been conducted is SO bad that it can only indicate an unwillingness to truly consult and listen to the people of Ontario. Adjectives used by those attending the four meetings last evening have included "appalling", "the worst public consultation I have ever experienced", "badly handled and inflammatory", and "disgraceful".

We would appreciate your prompt response to our complaint and would like your commitment to rectify the abysmal consultation process as we set out below.

- **Complaint No. 1**

The public consultation is being held in four cities at a time, making it impossible for you or others to attend those being held simultaneously to hear the input being provided across the province.

Requested Response No. 1: An additional consultation process, modelled after the Walkerton Inquiry should be announced, which could be used as part of the process for developing the terms of reference for the environmental assessment of the supply mix plan for the province.

- **Complaint No. 2**

The input is not transparent. There is no cable or television broadcasting of the input sessions, nor any transcripts which would allow people to read or hear what others are saying, and add to or respond to the input as would be appropriate.

- **Complaint No. 3**

Some of the input is being mis-recorded and most of it is not being recorded at all. There are specific examples at some of the meetings whereby the statement made by the member of the public was seriously re-stated by those recording points made so as to lose the meaning of the statement.

Requested Response No. 2: If recordings of the meetings were made, please provide transcripts on the Ministry of Energy web page. If they were not, please provide such summaries and records of the input as you are in the process of preparing, and post that to the Ministry of Energy web page. Finally, please arrange to have the remaining meetings recorded, broadcast to cable or television and transcribed and transcripts posted to the Ministry of Energy website for the benefit of the people of Ontario.

- **Complaint No. 4**

The meetings in each city are only two hours long and most were cut short before people could have a chance to provide input.

Requested Response No. 3: See request No. 1 above. In the meantime, please add further cities to your consultation schedule across the province, with much longer times allocated for input.

- **Complaint No. 5**

Despite many queries from many of us, there was no advance information provided as to the format of the meetings. Nevertheless it appeared that there was a format that the facilitators had been instructed to follow, with a specific order of topics and time limits. No member of the public was aware of this ahead of time, with the result that in many of the meetings, people were cut off from speaking to the issues that they had attended to address.

Requested Response No. 4: See request No. 1 above. Furthermore, for the remaining meetings, please instruct your facilitators to disregard the topic lists and just to allow members of the public to provide their input on the topics they came to speak about as they reach the microphones.

- **Complaint No. 6**

There is no context for this input. Who is assessing the input and on what basis? Will that process be transparent? Where is the opportunity to test the information being provided to you?

Requested Response No. 5: Please advise as to who is assessing the input, on what basis, how transparency will be assured and how the information will be able to be tested by interested members of the public.

- **Complaint No. 7**

The video used to introduce the meetings at each city contains errors and serious biases, including biases against renewable energy and conservation. This video should be immediately withdrawn from use at the remaining meetings and instead, representatives from the Ontario Power Authority or Ministry of Energy should attend to introduce the report and take questions on it from the audience.

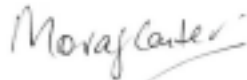
Requested Response No. 7: Please publicly withdraw the video and instruct the facilitators for the remaining meetings not to show the video that was used last evening.

The signatories below each attended one of the meetings on February 14, 2006 and would be able to provide more information and detail should you require same. We thank you for your attention, and look forward to your immediate response. Please contact us by telephone or email, fax or mail correspondence to us as set out below.

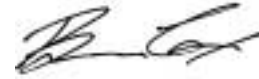
Yours truly,



**Sierra Club of Canada
Elizabeth May**



**David Suzuki Foundation
Morag Carter**



**Greenpeace
Bruce Cox**



**Canadian Environmental Law Association
Ken Traynor**



**Toronto Environmental Alliance
Kim Fry**