



# Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

38th Parliament

## JOHN YAKABUSKI, M.P.P. - RENFREW-NIPISSING-PEMBROKE

October 19, 2005

House Question

### HYDRO GENERATION

**Mr. John Yakabuski (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke):** My question is for the Minister of Energy. Your policy to shut down all coal power plants by 2009 made no sense two years ago and it makes no sense today. The former minister had tunnel vision on this subject, to the point where it clouded his judgment such that he referred to opponents of his policy as Neanderthals. Are you going to continue to take your marching orders from him and board that runaway train, or will you show some enlightened forward thinking, open-mindedness, with regard to clean coal technology here in the province of Ontario? Will you shut down this irresponsible policy?

**Hon. Donna H. Cansfield (Minister of Energy):** Thanks to the honourable member for the question. Our commitment is firm: We are shutting down coal-fired plants. I'd also like to refer to the issue of clean coal technology. It is true that you can put scrubbers in for reducing SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>, but you cannot reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> and mercury emissions. There is no such thing as clean coal technology. Let me repeat: There is no such thing as clean coal technology. You can make it cleaner, but you cannot have clean coal technology.

**Mr. Yakabuski:** I would suggest that some scrubbers need to be installed, but perhaps on the energy minister, because what she's spewing out is not good for us here in this House. Business leaders, manufacturers, industries and energy providers in this province have told me that this government's coal policy will plunge this province into darkness and our economy into a severe downward spiral, perhaps a recession. It is not too late, Minister, to start thinking for yourself, thinking on behalf of Ontarians and not this ridiculous Liberal Party policy. Rethink your decision to shut down 25% of our generation capacity before 2009. Think about it, and rethink it today, Minister.

**Hon. Mrs. Cansfield:** Actually I'm pleased to be able to stand up and tell you that with the 394 megawatts of new renewable supply, we have brought \$700 million into this province, and for the first time in Fort Erie we have a wind turbine manufacturer that will bring over 100 new jobs to that district.