



# Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

38th Parliament

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

Member's Question

April 24, 2006

### COAL-FIRED GENERATING STATIONS

**Mr. John Yakabuski (Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke):** My question is for the Minister of Energy. Given the fact that the Premier admitted last week that your coal replacement plan is not working, describing natural gas as “volatile” and wind as “expensive and unreliable,” why have you refused while other jurisdictions have taken advantage of technologies available to them with regard to clean coal power? Why have you refused to even consider this clean, reliable, economical source of electricity for the province of Ontario?

**Mr. Yakabuski:** Minister, given your own response that it was as good as natural gas or equal to natural gas in your own statement, and the fact that your replacement of natural gas is not adequate and wind is a dream, and, given the fact that, last year, we produced record amounts of power from coal-fired stations and imported record amounts of coal-fired power from the United States, how do you square it with the environmentalists in this province and in your caucus that, on one side, you condemn the use of coal but, on the other side, you have refused to invest one nickel in the technologies available to clean up our own coal plants while you continue to run them and it is very likely that we will continue to run them long before your coal closeout deadline? Why will you not invest in cleaning up those coal plants on behalf of our environment?