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38th Parliament

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

Members Statement – AECL

December 15, 2004

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. facility at Chalk River in my riding of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke.

It was truly a fascinating experience, one which I would encourage all members of the Legislature to take advantage of. This is where Canada's Nuclear Program was conceived with the first sustained fission reaction outside the United States on September 5, 1945. Since that time AECL has been the world leader in nuclear technology. Its advanced CANDU reactor is world class, made in Canada, cost competitive and can be put into service in a relatively short period of time. Mr. Speaker, there is no question that AECL is poised and ready to meet the demand for electricity in Ontario's future.

As part of my tour I stood atop the NRU reactor which produces over 60% of the world's supply of medical and industrial isotopes. I wish to thank Paul Fehrenbach, Donna Roach, Neil Mantifel and the over 1800 employees of AECL Chalk River who made my visit so informative and enjoyable.

I encourage Minister Duncan to keep AECL uppermost in his thoughts as he proceeds with the plan to deal with our energy needs.

I would also like to take a moment to wish all Members of this Assembly, my constituents in Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and all Ontarians a blessed and Merry Christmas and a happy healthy new year.