



Legislative Assembly

**JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP**  
**Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke**

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **McGuinty Energy Scheme Short Circuits on Business**

**Toronto** – Opposition Energy Critic and Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski says he was shocked and appalled to hear about the closure of ERCO Worldwide’s Thunder Bay sodium chlorate plant, announced yesterday by its parent company, Superior Plus. President Paul Timmons noted that high electricity costs in Ontario have made it too expensive to run, and commented, “It’s because of electricity that it would not be economically viable to operate here.” He went on to say, “We have a number of other facilities in Canada and the United States, and can supply our customers from other plants. Ontario is just way out of line with everybody else.” As a result ERCO will route its production to those facilities.

“The closure of this plant is another clear example that the McGuinty government does not have a plan for energy here in Ontario,” Yakabuski said. “Every other day we hear of another company that must close its doors because it cannot compete as a result of ever increasing energy costs. I find it shameful that this government’s energy plan, or lack thereof, is literally forcing industry out of our province and simultaneously, discouraging new investors, concerned about high energy costs, from coming in,” Yakabuski continued.

ERCO Worldwide is said to be one of the lowest cost producers of sodium chlorate in North America and has achieved an excellent performance record since it began operations in 1979. Its Thunder Bay site which for many years contributed to that record, has recently been operating at reduced levels, again due to high electricity costs, making it no longer economically viable.

Yakabuski commented that these high electricity costs that are crippling businesses like ERCO, are one more reason that the McGuinty government should admit its insistence to close all coal fired generation stations by 2009 is fool hardy and damaging to the province of Ontario. He noted that reduced generation and supply under this plan will increase the cost of electricity and also therefore, increase costs for industry resulting in further closures.

“The McGuinty government’s lack of action to deal with escalating electricity costs is hurting Ontarian’s, our businesses, and our livelihoods,” Yakabuski said. “Dalton’s energy policy is not helping anyone and it is only a matter of time before other industries across the province feel the effects of these crushing prices.”

