



Legislative Assembly

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NEWS RELEASE

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MCGUINTY STILL TAKING 25% OF POWER OFF GRID

Premier celebrates previous government's project, future energy supply uncertain

(Niagara Falls, ON) – Dalton McGuinty still refuses to give an answer to questions about how he will replace the 25 percent of energy supply he's taking offline by closing Ontario's coal-fired generating plants, Opposition Energy Critic John Yakabuski said.

"We've faced energy shortages this summer yet Dalton McGuinty still wants to go ahead with his irresponsible promise to close coal power plants," said Yakabuski. "This was a promise they were irresponsible to make and they continue to incompetently implement it without enough generation to replace that supply."

Yakabuski made the comments today at an event where Dalton McGuinty celebrated the Niagara Tunnel project that was initiated by the previous government and which will increase energy supply in Ontario by one percent by 2009. The McGuinty Liberals' coal scheme eliminates approximately 12 percent of the province's power supply by 2007 and a further 13 percent by 2009.

Today Dalton McGuinty said he would be OK with new nuclear if a review approves it in December. His Energy Minister then said the McGuinty Liberals would delay a decision on nuclear power until several months after that. Construction could take 10 years or more.

"The McGuinty Liberals' 'maybe, sometime we'll make a decision' approach does not bode well for energy supply in Ontario," said Yakabuski. "Their coal promise was irresponsible and Dalton McGuinty's refusal to consider all options, including clean coal, is irresponsible as well. The McGuinty Liberals are not providing businesses and consumers with the affordable and reliable supply of energy they need."

