



Legislative Assembly

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NEWS RELEASE

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McGuinty government's coal promise to be broken again

Pembroke – Energy critic John Yakabuski says he was not surprised to learn today that the governments promise to close Ontario's coal fired generating plants would be broken again. This comes just one year after the government announced that they could not meet their targeted 2007 deadline and moved it to 2009. "From day one I have challenged this government to abandon their ill conceived and unrealistic coal plant closure deadline" Yakabuski charged. "Almost twenty percent of Ontario's energy is generated from our coal plants and to close them without having the necessary supply to back that power up is short sighted and potentially disastrous."

The IESO, the provinces electricity system operator which manages Ontario's power supply released their semi-annual reliability outlook today. It determined that an increase of as much as 3,000 megawatts will be required throughout the summer months to meet the provinces electricity demand. As a result there will be "significant delays" in the government's coal replacement schedule and the shutdown of both the Lambton and Nanticoke coal fired stations is expected. (Please see the full report on the IESO website at www.ieso.ca)

Yakabuski highlighted in response to this announcement that the McGuinty government, unlike other governments has done nothing to invest in clean technology to reduce emissions from coal. He pointed out that our dependence on energy from coal will require the continued operation of our coal plants into the future and therefore, this technology should be implemented. "Time and time again the McGuinty government has dismissed even looking at new technologies that could significantly reduce emissions from coal," Yakabuski said. "Given today's announcement and the government's lack of foresight thus far, they should implement these systems immediately."

Yakabuski went on to say that today's findings by the IESO confirm that the government does not have a plan for energy in our province. He explained that the further delay of the coal closure deadline was inevitable and a promise that McGuinty knew he could not fulfill. "It's about time that this government and this Premier establish a plan to keep the lights on in Ontario," he said. "Today's broken promise reveals that they lack the ability to ensure that we have a reliable and abundant supply of energy on hand."

