



Legislative Assembly

JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke NEWS RELEASE

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LIGHTS OUT FOR ONTARIO IN 2014?

PC Energy Critic Yakabuski slams Liberals for four-year electricity gap

(Queen's Park) – Progressive Conservative Energy Critic John Yakabuski (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke) today asked Energy Minister Gerry Phillips how he plans to keep the lights on in Ontario between 2014 and 2018.

“Your government has projected that new nuclear plants announced yesterday for Darlington will be online in 2018, but your government has yet again promised to close the coal-fired plants, this time, by 2014,” Yakabuski pointed out during Question Period. “That leaves a four-year gap. Minister, how do you plan to keep the lights on during that four-year gap?”

While the McGuinty Liberals claim that energy demand will decrease, the provincial government's own Agency Review Panel estimates that demand will rise to 29,000 megawatts over 10 years. Yakabuski pointed out that Ontario's current capacity is between 26,000 and 28,000 megawatts, with coal plants providing approximately 25 percent of that capacity.

“Coal plants are going to have to stay open until the nuclear plants are actually up and running, and who knows when that date will actually be?” said Yakabuski. “And because you've refused to install scrubbers on the coal plants, as our party suggested, we're going to see the number of smog-related deaths, now pegged at 9,500 a year, dramatically increase.”

“The McGuinty Liberals have absolutely no credibility when it comes to energy – it's been broken promise after broken promise,” said Yakabuski. “It's difficult to believe they'll follow any sort of plan or keep any sort of promise after failing to shut coal plants in 2007 and again in 2009. Ontarians deserve to know that when the coal plants shut off, their lights won't do the same.”