



Legislative Assembly

JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP
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NEWS RELEASE

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Energy Critic Yakabuski Criticizes Green Party Leader's Smear of AECL

Queen's Park, Toronto - John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and Ontario's Official Opposition Energy Critic expressed extreme concern about what he called "damaging remarks" from Green Party Leader Elizabeth May with respect to the difficulties the Chalk River nuclear reactor is currently experiencing.

Yakabuski said, "I am not surprised that May would speak out against nuclear power in general as her Green Party has always held that position, even though they have never come forward with a credible plan to provide reliable power in the quantity that we require. However, for her to compare Atomic Energy of Canada's ability to design and build nuclear power reactors with the Chalk River research reactors that produce medical isotopes is totally irresponsible and not helpful to Canada's nuclear industry or to Canada's global reputation."

Yakabuski continued, "Although May's real message is that she doesn't want any nuclear power 'period', she unfairly singled out AECL, urging the Province of Ontario not choose them to build our two new reactors, suggesting they favour the Areva Group of France or the US-based Westinghouse Electric Co."

"The facts are that every nuclear reactor AECL has built worldwide over the past 12 years has come in on or below budget, on time and with a performance reliability averaging over 90%," said Yakabuski. "May is being dishonest when she tries to juxtapose the problems of the National Research reactor's leak at Chalk River with AECL's ability to build world class nuclear reactors."

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For further information or to arrange a personal interview with John Yakabuski call 416-325-2170 or 613-639-3005.