

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Power Workers' Union welcomes IESO confirmation that coal plants should remain open

(Toronto) – The president of the Power Workers' Union (PWU) praised the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO's) call to keep coal-fuelled generation plants at Lambton and Nanticoke in operation past planned closure dates to ensure reliable electricity supply to Ontario consumers and business.

Responding to yesterday's *The Ontario Reliability Outlook* by the agency managing the province's electricity system, Mr. MacKinnon said, "This confirms PWU's conclusions that the only way to guard against black outs during peak consumption periods and keep electricity prices reasonable is to keep our existing coal-fuelled plants in operation. The province should be focused on utilizing proven clean coal technology instead of closing plants."

"Last summer we saw that many Ontarians were doing their part to conserve electricity," continued Mr. MacKinnon. "But we need an energy supply that derives electricity from a number of sources including clean coal, hydroelectric and nuclear, along with other economical renewable options. This will guarantee the people of Ontario and the businesses that operate here, an affordable and secure supply of energy, all year round."

"We are heartened that a spokesperson for Ontario Energy Minister Donna Cansfield says that the government will carry out its plan in a 'prudent and responsible manner'," concludes Mr. MacKinnon. "In our minds, that can only mean coal will continue to be part of the electricity generation mix in order to meet Ontario's future energy needs."

During the 2003 election campaign the Ontario Liberals committed to closing down Ontario's coal-fuelled electricity generation plants. Coal contributes to a fifth of Ontario's electricity supply. Ontario could save \$11 billion over the next 20 years if Ontario upgrades existing coal-fuelled plants with clean coal technology instead of replacing them with natural gas, according to research submitted by PWU to the Ontario Power Agency in 2005.

The Power Workers' Union believes that Ontarians require an energy supply that derives electricity from a number of sources, including clean coal, hydroelectric and nuclear, along with other economical renewable options. The PWU's better plan – ([www.abetterplan.ca](http://www.abetterplan.ca)) – also includes a review of the province's natural gas strategy, investment in green power and the promotion of energy efficiency.

The Power Workers' Union is the largest electricity union in Ontario, representing employees in electricity generation, transmission, distribution, regulations, and research and development.

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