



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Energy workers call for consumer-friendly process for electricity procurement and endorse new 'clean' coal refurbishment of existing plants**

(Toronto) – Ontario's largest electricity union called for government action that benefits Ontario electricity consumers, in an appearance before the Ontario Power Authority today.

"It is essential that new rules governing how the province procures electricity be transparent for consumers, so that costs for electricity will be kept affordable," argued Mr. Peter Kelly, spokesperson for the Power Workers' Union (PWU). "We propose that a third-party watch dog with membership comprised of consumers, producers and non-governmental organizations be created to provide an independent assessment of the electricity procurement and evaluation process. This group could ensure that consumers have access to the information they deserve about how the cost of electricity is calculated and whether successful applicants live up to their promises."

The union was participating in a public hearing about the process to decide who wins competitions for providing the energy used to supply Ontario's electricity.

"Another way the procurement process should be consumer friendly, is that it should ensure that Ontario derives electricity from a number of sources including clean coal, hydroelectric and nuclear, along with other economical renewable options," continued Mr. Kelly. "This guarantees the people of Ontario and the businesses that operate here, an affordable and secure supply of energy, all year round."

Finally, the PWU explored the benefits of installing 'clean coal' technologies so that Ontario can continue to rely on existing coal-fired generation plants, while being environmentally responsible.

"We propose that instead of shutting down our existing coal-fuelled stations, we outfit them with new clean coal technology that will all but eliminate smog emissions and allow us to take advantage of this abundant, low cost fuel. This is what utilities in Germany, Denmark and the United States are doing," concluded Mr. Kelly.

The Power Workers' Union is the largest electricity union in Ontario representing employees in electricity generation, transmission, distribution, regulations and research and development. Represented employers include Ontario Power Generation, Hydro One, Bruce Power, Trans Alta, Brascan, Independent Electricity System Operator, Electrical Safety Authority, New Horizons, Brighton Beach and 19 other local distribution companies.

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