



A BETTER ENERGY PLAN

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NEWS RELEASE

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Power Workers' Union calls on North American industry to make the case for clean coal

(Birmingham, Alabama, USA) – The largest electricity union in Canada's most populated province called today for a unified front in making the case for clean coal technology at the American Coal Council's Spring Coal Forum.

"The economy of Ontario is going to suffer irreparable harm if its provincial government makes good on its commitment to close all the coal generation plants by 2009," commented Mr. Don MacKinnon, President, Power Workers' Union (PWU), during a panel of CEO's providing an industry outlook. "Coal-fuelled generation supplies nearly a quarter of Ontario's electricity and the government isn't on track to make up the difference with new sources by its own deadline. Many have publicly addressed the negative consequences of this including the President of TransAlta (NYSE: TAC) and the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario."

Mr. MacKinnon called on the industry that mines, sells, trades, transports and uses coal to speak out about the efficacy of new technologies that remove 96.4 percent of emissions from coal-fuelled power generation.

"Despite international evidence to the contrary, our local politicians are skeptical about clean coal technologies," continued Mr. MacKinnon. "The Premier of our province said in a speech, 'show me', and a couple of his Cabinet colleagues claim there's no such thing as clean coal. In order to guarantee the people of Ontario reliable, affordable electricity going forward, we need the industry to publicize the benefits of clean coal technologies – on both sides of the border."

California-based research firm Global Energy Decisions conservatively estimates that \$11 billion (CAD) will be saved over 20 years if Ontario upgrades existing coal-fuelled plants with state of the art emission controls instead of replacing them with natural gas.

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POWER WORKERS' UNION

244 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M4P 1K2 T: 416.481.4491 F: 416.481.7115

In 2005, the PWU launched a public awareness campaign called A Better Energy Plan (see www.abetterenergyplan.ca). It maintains that Ontarians require an electricity supply derived from a number of sources, including clean coal, hydroelectric, nuclear, green power and energy efficiency – an approach that will guarantee the people of Ontario, and the businesses that operate there, an affordable, clean and secure supply of energy all year round.

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

Media contacts:

US: Bob Menard, Staff Officer, Power Workers' Union
Cel. (416) 725-0706; RMenard@pwu.ca

Canada: Catherine Allman, hawkestone communications,
Tel. 416-485-4606; Email: callman@hawkestone.com