

NEWS RELEASE

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Power Workers' Union backs AMPCO: the coal phase-out will have a dramatic negative impact on the province's economy

(Toronto) – The Ontario Power Worker's Union, responding to a speech by Adam White, President of the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario (AMPCO), expressed wholehearted support of his grim warning that, by foregoing investments in clean-coal technology, "Ontarians will pay more and get less, electricity rates will soar, economic growth will decline and investment will be lost." Mr. White presented AMPCO's findings, culled from research commissioned by the consumer group, at a breakfast meeting at the Toronto Board of Trade.

"AMPCO's call to the Ontario Government to reconsider its short-sighted position on closing the coal plants echoes exactly what our campaign has been saying for the last two years," says Power Workers' Union President Don MacKinnon. "We agree that the provincial government should concentrate on long-term outcomes not short-term processes; and that investments in clean-coal and energy conservation, rather than switching to higher cost, riskier gas-fired plants will, in the long run, deliver the best outcome for Ontario's economic and environmental future."

"The AMPCO studies emphasize that coal-fuelled generation can achieve clean-air goals, including those of the Kyoto Agreement, while keeping electricity rates competitive," said MacKinnon. "Like the PWU research, AMPCO's findings show that keeping coal would save billions of dollars over the next 20 years. AMPCO's studies also highlight that keeping coal will avoid the loss of 100,000 manufacturing jobs."

PWU believes (see www.abetterplan.ca) that Ontarians require an electricity supply derived from a number of sources, including clean coal, hydroelectric, nuclear, green power and the promotion of energy efficiency – an approach that will guarantee the people of Ontario, and the businesses that operate here, 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.

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