



## Over Ten Thousand Sign Petition in Support of Extending Operation of Pickering

Over ten thousand people have now signed the "[Pickering 2024](#)" online petition to support the province's plan to extend the operation of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station to 2024.



Don MacKinnon, PWU President

The Ontario government's decision to extend operations of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (PNGS) to 2024 holds many important benefits for the people of Ontario and for members of our union. Pickering will continue to produce safe, reliable, low-cost electricity that will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while reactors at Darlington and Bruce Power are taken offline for refurbishment. It will also continue to employ 4,500 people in good jobs, approximately 2,500 of which are PWU members. The Ministry of Energy, having canvassed the province for its input into the development of Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP), sits now in deliberation on the final plan. The Pickering 2024 petition will be delivered to the Premier, the Minister of Energy and other government representatives. Ontario's new 2017 LTEP is expected to be released in the first quarter of this year.

My personal thanks to the thousands of PWU members who showed their support for their fellow PWU members who work at the Pickering Station.

Don MacKinnon  
PWU President

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# Local Distribution Company Applies to Labour Board



In January of last year the sale of Brant County Power Inc. to Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro Inc. became official and the two local distribution companies (LDC) amalgamated as a new entity called Energy+ Inc. The newly formed LDC's territory covers 562 square kilometers, services approximately 63,000 customers and contains three distinct workforces each with their own separate collective agreement. The Power Workers' Union (PWU) represents the outside classifications based in the geographic area covered by the former Brant County Power Company. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers represents the inside and outside employees under two collective agreements from the former Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro.

Energy+ Inc. has recently filed an application with the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) requesting an order that the two outside bargaining units be combined into one and that a vote be held to determine which union will represent the outside employees for the entire company. At a preliminary meeting held at the OLRB on February 8<sup>th</sup>, no agreement was reached to proceed with a representation vote and hearing dates are yet to be finalized. In the interim, the PWU has served the employer notice to bargain as our collective agreement with Energy+ Inc. expires on March 31 of this year. As always, the PWU will put the employees' interests first to guide our approach to these matters and we will report further as the situation develops.

## "MergeCo" Gets a Name

On January 16, 2017, southern Ontario's newest emerging electrical utility announced that it now has a name, Alectra. Alectra began business operations on February 1, 2017. Forged from the merger of the three local distribution companies (LDC); PowerStream, Enersource and Horizon Utilities, Alectra is set to finalize the purchase of Hydro One Brampton on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Alectra will employ approximately 1,000 unionized workers and is set to serve nearly 1 million customers in 15 communities that stretch from St. Catharines to Penetanguishene. It will be Ontario's second largest LDC - Hydro One being the largest.

The PWU looks forward to helping make Alectra a world-class place to work for all employees. That can only happen if the company is successful and the employees have a strong voice that enables them to participate and share in that success.



# The PWU Makes LTEP Recommendations to the Ontario Government

The PWU's recent Long Term Energy Plan (LTEP) [detailed submission](#) to Ontario's Ministry of Energy, supports the continued development of a sustainable electricity system that cuts carbon emissions, enables the best possible rates for consumers and strengthens the provincial economy. It is based primarily on our extensive knowledge of the options and the conclusions drawn from the in-depth research performed by Strategic Policy Economics, (Strapolec Inc.).

Any LTEP for the province must take into account that Ontario is deeply entrenched in the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) which progressively cuts down on Ontario's annual collective of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Transportation, building heating and industry are the province's largest sources of GHG emissions. The principal fuel sources that contribute to GHGs in Ontario are natural gas, for building heating and industry, and petroleum which is predominantly used in transportation. Further electrification of our economy is essential in those sectors if GHG emission reductions are to be meaningful.

The PWU submitted that the province will need to generate significantly more GHG emission-free nuclear power to help replace fossil fuels and achieve the emission reductions that are set out in the CCAP. The legislated commitments can only be achieved by extending the safe operation of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, completing the refurbishment of the four Darlington and six Bruce Power units, and by stepping up the planning for new nuclear units at the Darlington site in a timely manner to meet the new demand. The PWU also submitted that hydroelectric resources should be developed to the extent that they are commercially viable.

The PWU continues to advocate that the province should make use of existing thermal generation facilities for peak supply and system reliability. We continue to advocate for the conversion of the idle Nanticoke and Lambton coal stations to biomass/gas co-fuelling.

The government has received all submissions and is expected to release the final 2017 LTEP in the first quarter of this year.



# Bruce County, At the Heart of Canada's Nuclear Industry for More Than 50 Years

The beginning of 2017 brought with it a notable energy industry milestone as the Bruce Power Site reached the half century mark in commercial nuclear power generation. The accolades for this achievement belong to the generations of women and men who designed, built, operated, maintained and innovated one of the most impressive and successful electricity generation complexes in the world.



In 1959 Douglas Point was selected as the optimal site upon which to build. People from around Bruce County welcomed the announcement. The news quickly spread through Canada and across the Atlantic. Soon, skilled and knowledgeable people from Ontario, other Canadian provinces, European countries, and the British Isles all flocked to the area. Locally, the project provided people with a new choice. In what had been a predominantly agricultural based economy, it presented to those who were willing, an alternative career path that was centred in highly skilled jobs which brought good union wages and a higher standard of living. Many local people chose to join the team that was building this wonder of science and engineering; a commercial sized nuclear generation station that would safely harness the power of the atom for peaceful use in the generation of massive amounts of electricity.

This unique mega-project demanded a host of high quality skills and expertise. The standards in design, engineering, and manufacturing of all components associated with the power plant, were set to the highest levels. Construction of the Douglas Point Nuclear Power Plant took six years and employed over 8,000 people. The first commercial CANDU (Canada Deuterium Uranium) reactor began producing electricity in January of 1967 and was retired on May 5, 1984.

The lessons learned from the construction and from more than 17 years of operation of Douglas Point, are embedded in Ontario's much larger, Bruce Nuclear Power Development and the nuclear generating stations at Pickering and Darlington. They are in the innovative CANDU technology that became a major Canadian export as other nations sought ways to provide a bounty of low-cost reliable baseload power to fulfill the demands of electrification and economic growth.

The generations of people who worked at the site and across Ontario in support of the site for more than 50 years, deserve to have their achievements acknowledged. There is a story of tens of thousands of skilled working people striving to make the Bruce Site a tremendous success for themselves, their families, their communities, their province and their country. From Douglas Point to the construction and operation of the Bruce Nuclear Power Development - the largest nuclear generating station in the world - to the ongoing life extension and refurbishment projects that will enable 6,400 megawatts of clean and affordable, safe and reliable electricity to be generated into the 2060s, people have turned this relatively small piece of land into one of the most productive and valuable properties in the world. It is a true Canadian success story.

Each generation of people who work at this site takes on a responsibility to the next, to make sure they too can share in the benefits this enterprise has to offer. The future of the operation has been in question a few times over the years but today, through the resolve, determination, creativity and hard work of many people the future could not be brighter for the Bruce Site.

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## Carbon Reductions Mean More Electrification of Our Economy

As the cold winter weather seizes Ontario, one of 2017's hottest political news topics is the province's newly implemented *Cap and Trade Program*. This is the first attempt by any province to set hard limits on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It is intended to gradually bring about positive changes to individual and business behaviours in regards to the use of fossil fuels and it will impact the way businesses operate in Ontario. Many are weighing in to predict the effects and forecast the likelihood of success or failure of this key component of the Ontario's *Climate Change Action Plan*. So.... *Cap and Trade*, what is it?

The *Cap and Trade Program* is designed to do two things. Simply put, the "Cap" portion of the program is designed to set hard limits on the amount of greenhouse gases that are produced in Ontario and the "Trade" portion is expected to help fund Ontario's transition to a low-carbon society.

As simple as that may sound, the execution of this dynamic plan will undoubtedly prove to be very complicated.

Ontario's 2017 cap on greenhouse gas emissions has been set at 142 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. This figure represents this year's best projected estimate of Ontario's total GHG emissions without any reductions. This hard limit on Ontario's GHGs will be reduced after every calendar year.

These targets coincide with previous commitments at both the Federal and Provincial levels of government.

Year	Ontario's cap on greenhouse gas emissions
2017	142 megatonnes
2018	136 megatonnes
2019	131 megatonnes
2020	125 megatonnes

# Carbon Reductions Mean More Electrification of Our Economy

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Canada is among the 122, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, members who have signed and ratified the *Paris Climate Change Accord*. This non-binding international agreement came into force on November 4, 2016. The Provincial government has introduced the *Climate Change Mitigation and Low-carbon Economy Act, 2016*, setting long term targets that use Ontario's total GHG emissions from the year 1990 as a benchmark.

Year	Ontario's cap on greenhouse gas emissions
2020	15% below 1990 levels
2030	37% below 1990 levels
2050	80% below 1990 levels

Companies are required to submit an annual GHG report to the government. These reports must be verified by an accredited organization that validates the individual company's reports.

The trade element of the program provides fiscal options for companies that cannot, or choose not to, meet their cap allotment. Ontario's transition to a low-carbon society will come at a cost and the equation here is simple; the less GHG pollution the less it will cost. This *Cap and Trade Program* intends to motivate companies to make better choices for the environment in terms of GHG emissions. Until 2018, companies that cannot bring their emissions below their cap allotment will have to purchase carbon credits from the province to offset emissions above their cap. The first of Ontario's cap-and-trade auctions will be held on March 22, 2017,

and it is expected that a one tonne offset credit will sell for a minimum price of \$18. In 2018, Ontario will link its cap-and-trade market with the *Western Climate Initiative*, an established North American carbon emissions market that includes California and Quebec.

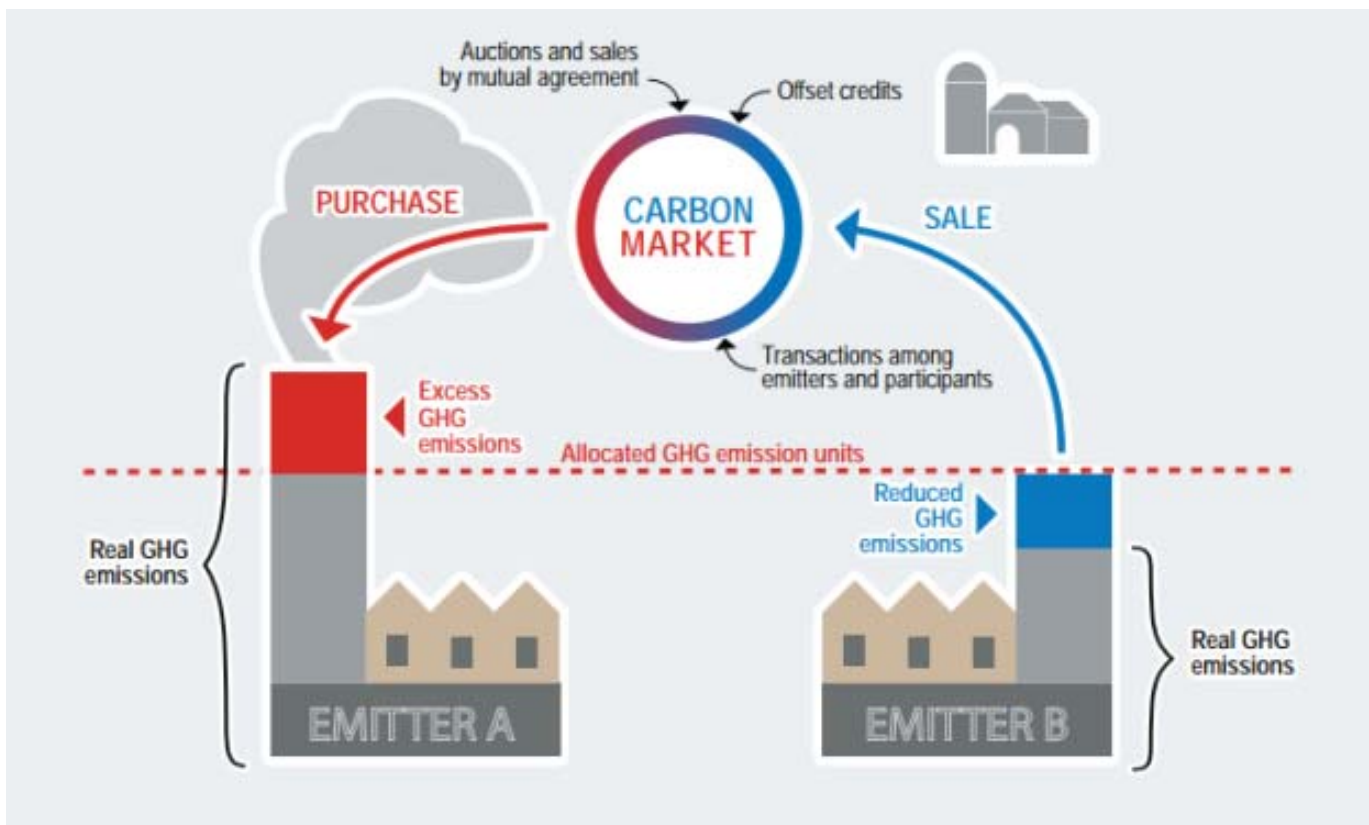
The projected *Cap and Trade* revenue to the Ontario government of about \$1.9 billion per year is earmarked for a *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account* from which the government plans to fund programs that benefit Ontario's homeowners and the economy.

At the forefront of these government programs is an initiative to further the electrification of Ontario. It is globally accepted that, in order to achieve real carbon reductions, the use of clean electricity to replace fossil fuels will be one of the essential enablers. Ontario currently generates some of the cleanest electricity in the world with about 80 percent coming from nuclear and hydroelectric generation. The Independent Electrical System Operator is currently offering the *Heating and Cooling Program* incentive for homeowners and the *Save on Energy Retrofit* incentives for Ontario businesses. The *Modernized Electric Vehicle Incentive Program*, helps make electric vehicles more affordable and the *Electric Vehicle Chargers Ontario* grant program is accelerating the creation of a network of electric vehicle charging stations in Ontario. In order to be effective in achieving GHG reduction targets, monetary incentives that encourage the use of electricity, used in conjunction with...

... fiscal penalties deterring the use of fossil fuels, will have to ramp up dramatically.

The extent of the success of the market driven *Cap and Trade Program* in terms of real carbon reductions is yet to be determined. We expect that additional broad GHG reduction infrastructure policy and planning initiatives will be required in order to achieve the 2030 and 2050 legislated reduction requirements.

*Cap and Trade* promotes a long term decline of GHGs in Ontario through incentives and penalties. It promotes an environment of increased electrification that demands the generation of clean GHG emission free electricity. No matter the program, if Ontario is to be successful in meeting its legislated GHG reductions, both nuclear and hydro power generation will be crucial to Ontario's future energy supply.



# Win a Pair of PWU Travel Bags!

In the December 2016 edition of *POWERWORKS PWU Newsletter*, we announced the commencement of a draw where one PWU member will win a pair of stylish PWU carry-on travel bags. Since then, the entries have been flying in via the PWU secure members' area. This draw is open to all PWU Members with the exception of those from the PWU Retired Workers' Chapter who have a separate prize draw.

In case you missed it, here is how to enter:

- Login to the PWU secure members' area at [members.pwu.ca](http://members.pwu.ca) and update your email contact details to a personal email address. Employer issued email addresses do not qualify for this random draw.
- If you are a first time visitor to the site, you will need your PWU Membership ID Number to login which is located on the front of your PWU Member ID Card.
- If you have not yet received your PWU Member ID Card in the mail, please



contact your Chief/Principal Steward, or contact the PWU office to obtain your PWU Membership ID Number.

- Members who have registered with a personal email address have already qualified for the draw.

The cut-off date for entries is midnight March 9, 2017. The winner will be selected randomly from all eligible entrants at 10:00 a.m. on March 10, 2017. The results will be published in the ensuing edition of *POWERWORKS PWU Newsletter*.

Good Luck to Everyone!!

