

ENERGY

Public Ownership

Electricity is one of the province's most valuable assets. RTO/ERO believes that the Ontario electricity market must remain in public hands. In deregulated jurisdictions, the costs of electricity have skyrocketed and the reliability of the supply has suffered.

RTO/ERO expects that the Government's "responsible, affordable, sustainable" objectives will be applied to the electricity market. The transition from a fixed cost to market rate must be regulated to achieve these objectives. We expect the government to introduce effective programs to encourage residents and businesses to reduce their energy consumption. The additional costs of these programs must be offset by consumption savings.

Electricity Production

RTO/ERO supports the move towards greater utilization of renewable sources for the creation of electricity. Expansion of water power generation and wind generation are supportable objectives. RTO/ERO acknowledges the role of nuclear power generation in Ontario. Safe and cost-effective generation is an expectation for this source of energy. RTO/ERO also supports the government's efforts to address our energy needs through cooperative ventures with other provinces, such as Manitoba.

RTO/ERO expects that the proposed transition from coal-fired generation to natural gas will be achieved in a manner that will not jeopardize the availability of power or seriously impact on the supply and cost of natural gas, thus transferring additional cost to Ontario residents who use this form of energy.

The lessons learned after the Blackout in the summer of 2003 should be a catalyst to educate the public about energy conservation. In concert with the Federal Government, tax credits should be offered to those who use solar and other forms of alternative energy.

Energy Regulation

Families and businesses need control and stability in the cost of energy. We expect that the Government will implement an effective regulatory process that will control both the energy supply and the cost to the consumer.

Questions

1. What specific plans would your party support to encourage reduced energy consumption?
2. How will your Party manage energy price increases to avoid creating hardship for low and fixed income citizens?
3. How will your party encourage the development of new and expanded renewable energy sources?

April, 2005