



Wednesday, September 22, 2010

## Statement Regarding the release of TransCanada's Safety Assessment of the Oakville Generating Station

Yesterday TransCanada issued findings of a report commissioned by the company, saying the Oakville Generating Station will be safe despite its unprecedented proximity to homes, schools, rail lines and one of the busiest highways in Canada.

Once again TransCanada points to its public safety record, neglecting to reference not one but two gas pipeline explosions the company has experienced in Ontario in the past year; or the TransCanada pipeline explosion that killed one and injured six in Texas in March of 2008. They fail to mention the two fatalities in the GTA during the construction of their Portlands (2007) and their Halton Hills facilities (2008).

The fact is accidents happen. People make mistakes. Equipment fails.

Explosions like the terrible tragedy in San Bruno CA just two weeks ago that levelled a neighbourhood and killed four people provide ample evidence of the risks associated with natural gas power plants and the pipelines that feed them. This was not the only such terrible incident this year. In February, a large natural gas power plant nearing completion of construction in Middletown, CT exploded killing six and injuring dozens more workers. That plant was safely located far from the community it was being built to serve.

The proposed site for the massive gas-fired power plant planned for Oakville is too small, too close to a family neighbourhood, and too tightly wedged in next to schools, homes and critical infrastructure to provide any measure of safety in the event of an incident, such as a gas line explosion, train derailment or other catastrophe caused by human or equipment failure.

Common sense would dictate you don't build the largest gas plant in the province right next to a mature neighbourhood. We don't need a study to tell us that safety buffer zones make sense to protect all communities.

We are asking the McGuinty Government to listen to the people who elected them. Visit [C4CA.org](http://C4CA.org) to lend your voice and learn more.

**For more information, please contact:**

Nicole Leaver

416-355-7429

[Nicole.leaver@ketchum.com](mailto:Nicole.leaver@ketchum.com)

