

# **THE EAST OAKVILLE AND CLARKSON AIRSHED AREA NO PLACE FOR A GAS-FIRED POWER PLANT FACT SHEET**

[Download a copy](#) of the East Oakville and Clarkson Airshed FactSheet

The Ministry of Energy, through the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), is proposing to build an 900 MW gas-fired power generating station in the Oakville at the Ford plant close to Maple Grove Village in East Oakville.

1. The power plant is opposed by Mississauga and Oakville Mayors and Councils, Mississauga South MPP Charles Sousa and MP Paul Szabo(Mississauga), MP Terence Young (Oakville) , MPP Kevin Flynn(Oakville), Regional Councils for Halton and Peel as well as Medical Officers, Mississauga school board trustees, and the Mississauga Residents'Associations Network (MIRANET) and others. All are united against this real and measurable health hazard.
2. The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) released the Clarkson Airshed Study Part II in November 2006, which found that the Airshed is 'stressed' and already 14% more polluted than the Ontario average. This polluted air is breathed by thousands of residents in nearby communities.
3. In 2007 the new Clarkson Airshed Study Advisory Committee (CASAC) received a mandate from the MOE to establish an air monitoring program and use 'moral suasion' to request that 57 local emitters — all of whom individually meet Ontario's Air Quality Criteria — 'go beyond compliance' to reduce the high cumulative emissions. These actions never proceeded; instead, a gas-fired power plant is being proposed as an addition to the stressed Clarkson Airshed.
4. The power plant will add emissions to already excessive levels of ultra-fine particulate matter called PM2.5 which people inhale deeply into their respiratory systems. The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized PM2.5 as a known health risk linked to cancer, asthma and heart disease. The power plant will increase the Industrial emissions of PM2.5 in the air by 254 metric tonnes per year, even while the TOP 10 polluters in the area currently emit a total of 117 metric tonnes per year or over a doubling.
5. The power plant will spew a total of 3,059 metric tonnes of toxic emissions per year into an airshed identified as overtaxed by the MOE. This comprises 106 tonnes of volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 57 tonnes of sulphur oxides; 949 tonnes of carbon monoxide; 1,693 tonnes of nitrous oxides and 254 tonnes of PM2.5 annually.
6. The power plant will discharge greenhouse gas: 2,500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) annually.
7. The proposed power plant in the Clarkson Airshed Study area will be the fifth to be built in the past three years affecting this area's environment. Now operating, or under construction, are the 683 MW plant in Milton; the 110 MW plant at Pearson Airport; the 940 MW plant at Goreway in Brampton and the 280 MW plant on Loreland beside the Trillium (Queensway) Hospital in South Mississauga.
8. The power plant will add a heavy industrial polluter into the established Southdown Industrial District. This will preclude commercial, residential and open space revitalization along this strategic area of the lakefront, even if other industry gradually leaves.
9. The power plant is not required to meet the GTA's future energy needs. In 2006 the OPA estimated that the peak demand for power would increase by 1.3 % per year for 20 years

and yet actual consumption has declined steadily since 2006. The coming supply from renewable energies has not been factored in. There is currently such an oversupply of existing power generation that producers can't sell it.

10. In August 2007, the OPA published its Integrated Power System Plan (IPSP) which included the conversion of 1,000 MW of coal-fired generation to gas-fired at Nanticoke as a feasible alternative to a new plant in the Clarkson Study area. The Nanticoke retrofit, coupled with transmission upgrades, is far cheaper and far better for the health of residents in South Mississauga and the GTA. Further this plan has yet to be approved by the Ontario Energy Board.
11. The Transcanada plant in OakvilleOne will be water cooled and will exhibit significant water vapor (See photo below of plant in Airport area which is about 25% the size of this). There will be clouds of water vapor which at times could precipitate and result in "rain" as well as ice particles in winter—**potential road hazards**. The concern is about ice plumes in the winter because a gas plant will discharge water from its stacks as a by-product of combustion as well as large quantities of water vapour being evaporated from its cooling towers. Estimates of water use in evaporative cooling range up to 6,500,000 gallons per 24-hour use.
12. Environmental standards in Ontario are amongst the least onerous in North America such as NY, Washington and other larger Urban related jurisdictions.
13. Ontario treats every application for a Certificate of Approval for Air and Noise as a stand alone application in a pristine environment. It does not take into account the condition of the air shed and **does not consider cumulative pollution** in an air shed when issuing its certificates.
14. The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) in its RFP (Request for Proposal) **did not require** proponents to bid based on BACT (**Best Available Control Technology**) or LAER- lowest achievable emission rates or continuous technology improvement.

#### References:

Clarkson Airshed Study

<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/publications/6768e.pdf>

Numbers from Dr Boyd Uppier and based on Scithe plant design (the cleanest of the four original proposals) emissions and operating at capacity

Power Plant 25% size proposed for Mississauga /Oakville

