

FLYNN INTRODUCES PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS ON NATURAL GAS PLANT SEPARATION DISTANCE

Wants Ontario to Become World Leader in Safe Energy

QUEEN'S PARK – Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn introduced a private members bill called the *Separation Distances for Natural Gas Power Plants Act, 2010* into the Ontario Legislature today that is designed to protect the health and safety of Ontario residents.

The Bill, if passed, would prohibit the construction of a natural gas power plant unless the plant is at least 1,500 metres from any land zoned for residential purposes or any land on which an educational facility, day nursery or health care facility is located.

"Ontario is being recognized around the world as the leader in green energy," said Flynn. "I want Ontario to become a world leader in safe energy as well and I have proposed legislation that would place an emphasis on safety when locations are selected for these facilities."

Ontario does not have legislation that mandates how far natural gas power plants must be from residential communities.

"The current process can lead to a natural gas power plant of any size can be built within a residential community," said Flynn. "In Oakville, the proposed 900 megawatt (mw) TransCanada power plant would be one of the largest in Canada and is situated less than 400 metres from the nearest homes and schools."

There are considerable health concerns with the emissions from natural gas power plants and safety concerns made more evident following the recent tragedy in Middletown, Connecticut, when an explosion occurred at a natural gas power plant under construction killing five workers.

Flynn went on to say that "there are setbacks for 10 mw wind turbines in Ontario but no distance requirements for natural gas power plants which should be located away from residential communities."

The Bill passed first reading and will be debated in April.

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