

From: MChapin@oakville.ca
Date: Fri, 24 Apr 2009 17:34:45 -0400

Thank you for getting engaged in this issue. You ask what the Town is doing to respond to the threat of a gas-fired power plant being located in our community and I offer the following:

As you may know, this whole process (request-for-proposals, short-listing, final selection...) is completely in the control of the Ontario Provincial Government and its arms-length agency, Ontario Power Authority (OPA). Oakville Town Council has imposed an Interim Control By-law (ICB), intended to permit time for a fulsome study of the pro's and con's of such an industrial facility, and to recommend WHETHER we can accommodate it and, if so, WHERE. The ICB is a powerful 'tool' for the Municipality - one which we use sparingly. But this situation is a serious concern and Town Council recognizes it as such.

That said, the Provincial government can always over-rule the Municipal government and so our ICB may do little more than slow the process. The ball really is in the court of the Provincial government -- which makes it doubly disappointing that our own MPP appears to be 'muzzled' on this issue, due to his responsibilities at Queen's Park as the Assistant to the Minister of Energy. I have no doubt that MPP Flynn IS working to support the interests of his constituents in Oakville, but it is frustrating that he cannot speak out about this concern. So I think it is critical that the residents speak out to the Provincial government and let it be known that we already bear the brunt of the pollutants from industries and traffic, and that it is unconscionable to consider adding to our over-burdened air! Whether through signatures on a petition, or directly to the Ministers/Ministries of Health, Environment, Energy, even directly to the Premier's office - it is important that the voices of the people be heard.

The Clarkson Airshed Study has frequently been mentioned around the Council Chambers and we are all cognizant of its findings with regard to our over-burdened atmosphere. Surely health and environment 'trump' industry and energy? I think that the Ministries of the Environment and Health should be able to over-rule any OPA or Ministry of Energy recommendation to construct and operate such a facility in close proximity to any residential area.

I hope you are aware of the newly-formed Chartwell Maple Grove Residents' Association [www.cmgra.org] If you live between Chartwell and Maple Grove, please visit the website and connect with the organizers whose main goal, at present, is to STOP the power plant coming to Oakville. This group is also connecting with other Residents' Associations in southeast Oakville: Joshua Creek Ratepayers' Inc.. and Clearview Oakville Community Alliance among them, and planning a meeting very soon.

Thank you for your message - and for your civic engagement!

Regards,

Mary Chapin
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Town of Oakville, ON