



David Lea/Oakville Beaver | May 20, 2010 - 11:33 AM | 1

C4CA protesters march on Ford

Hundreds of protesters marched on Ford's corporate headquarters in Oakville, Wednesday afternoon, calling on the company to 'do the right thing' regarding the 900-megawatt gas-fired power plant TransCanada wants to build on the Ford-owned lands of 1500 Royal Windsor Dr.

Organizers of the protest, Citizens for Clean Air (C4CA), has a number of health and safety concerns about a power plant being less than 400 metres from the nearest residential neighbourhood. They want Ford to support and fund an individual environmental assessment of the Oakville Generating Station project.

Members of C4CA feel saying yes to such a request would be in keeping with Ford's publicized commitment to safety.

"We know that Ford has entered into a business transaction with TransCanada and we are not asking them to break that agreement," said Frank Clegg, chair of the C4CA board.

"We are saying there is an opportunity for Ford, if the plant does go ahead, to help us make sure it is the cleanest, safest plant for Ford's neighbours, for Ford's employees and for Ford as a good corporate citizen."

Clegg acknowledged an individual environmental assessment could mean the examination of alternate locations for the plant.

Several hundred people attended Wednesday's demonstration, marching from their staging area at Kingsford Gardens to the very doorstep of the Ford building.

Participating residents, who ranged in age from tiny children to area students to adults and seniors, made their presence heard by banging drums and tambourines, blasting noise makers and chanting, 'Do the right thing Ford, Do the right thing McGuinty.'

Other participants carried signs reading such slogans as 'Ford Loves Money, Not People,' 'Spare Our Air,' and 'Accidents Do Happen.'

While Ford did have security on the premises, they did not stop the protesters from crossing onto Ford property, so long as their route avoided busy roads on the site.

In the end, the procession led by a massive, 'Stop Power Plants Near Homes and Schools,' sign marched down the Ford parking lot, stopping short of the facility's main entrance.

At this point C4CA members Todd Finch and Brenda Phelan stepped forward and carried a letter, addressed to Ford Canada President David Mondragon, into the building.

"I own two Fords and I'm very disappointed," said Phelan as she approached the building.

Once inside, Ford's Vice President of Communications Lauren More greeted Phelan and Finch and accepted the



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letter stating Mondragon would receive it. She said Ford would review and reply to their requests.

"I think the whole message is that for the safety of your employees, the 4,000 plus employees that you have here and the child care that is on your premises, we really want you to support and fund an individual environmental assessment," said Finch.

"We're not asking you to do anything off the course of your business. We're just asking you to make sure that what we're doing with the power plant is safe."

When asked if More was concerned about the proximity of the power plant to Ford, she said the Ontario government had told Ford that the TransCanada project is subject to an environmental assessment.

SENES (Specialists in Energy, Nuclear and Environmental Sciences) Consultants Limited was retained by TransCanada to carry out that environmental assessment with a draft report from that study stating the power plant would have little to no effect on the environment or the surrounding community during construction or operation.

TransCanada spokesperson Chris Breen has previously stated TransCanada must meet all the Ministry of the Environment's standards in order to proceed with the project. He has said the studies conducted for their Environmental Review Report are of the same level of detail as would be required under an individual environmental assessment.

Clegg does not believe this to be true stating an individual environmental assessment would be far more rigorous than one conducted by a company working for TransCanada.

"The analogy that we use is that having TransCanada do the assessment would be like my children being able to write their exam questions, answer their exam questions and then evaluate their exam questions," said Clegg.

"All we're saying is, this is going to have a huge impact. The thing is going to be here for decades. Let's invest the time and energy and do the right assessment to make sure we haven't missed anything."

Town of Oakville shares this opinion. Town staff was critical of TransCanada's Draft Environmental Review Report in March, and stated the plant would add significant toxic emissions to the airshed.

Town staff also pointed out that not enough work had been done in the report to assess the risk of industrial accidents.

Clegg said something better than this assessment is needed and is asking Ford to offer up \$500,000 to make it happen.

"Clearly, the objective here is two fold, to get the attention of the Canadian team, but also quite frankly it is to get the attention of the folks in Deerborn, Michigan. We need to let them understand that there is a community here that is not happy about what they are doing," said Clegg.

"A half a million dollars is a lot of money, but when compared to the tens of millions in their marketing budget, it's nothing. It doesn't even make it to the decimal point. We think that is a gesture they can make, that would be easy for them to do."

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Badlocation

May 20, 2010 11:52 PM

No real jobs for Oakville Residents in an energy wasting power plant

There have been very few comments from Oakville residents who are proponents of the TransCanada-Ford gas plant, except for FORMER mayors and retired Ford workers, while there are so many against. The proponents believe there will be an influx of jobs for residents, but many of the proposed jobs are gone already. Design, engineering, and materials procurement have gone overseas to Anker, so if you want to get a job in that category, you better get some diamond pants and learn Norwegian. If you think there are better candidates for managing or operating a gas power plant living in Oakville than there are anywhere in say - Alberta, you will also be surprised. The worst liability of this power plant if it ever gets built is the huge amount of gas it will waste (enough to heat 88,00 homes) in its mechanical draft cooling tower, to provide electricity for 900,000 homes that cannot possibly be built here. The Ford plant is across the street where the excess energy could be transferred to heat and cool their buil

Agree **3** | Disagree | Offensive



lordnelson850

May 20, 2010 8:07 PM

Apples and Power plants

Amazing isn't it. Experts such as Mr Clegg and Ted Chudleigh disagreeing with a specialist environmental Company. Keep the JOBS in Oakville because we are in for some lean years the direction our economy is taking, and I mean real JOBS that support the middle class and pay for homes,mortgages and cars. I do like your apple pie though Mr Chudleigh!!

Agree | Disagree **2** | Offensive

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