

Mayor has mixed feelings on hydro plant

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"It's obvious from the presentation (Monday) they are seeing Halton Hills as a desirous place to set up," said Bonnette.

"I'm not going to get too excited until I hear what the public thinks... I can see pros and cons on both sides," he said, adding that he and many of the town councillors plan to attend the June 7 meeting.

A typical 600 mega-watt natural gas fuelled power plant is located on 10-15 acres with at least two 150-foot towers. It would likely not run 24 hours-7 days a week but primarily through the daytime hours of the week in peak hours.

Ministry of Environment and Energy sets stringent requirements for emissions, and Bradley said the proposed projects would be "as benign as your gas furnace, properly cleaned and vented. It will be a fairly non-event as far as large power generators go."

The turbines are housed in a building and from 200-400 yards away, the typical sound would be akin to the air conditioning sound of a large building like the Civic Centre, Bradley said.



RICK BONNETTE

He also assured councillors once OPA awards the contract, the municipality will have site plan control on issues such as buffering.

Possible benefits to the Town include the payment of development charges during construction and future taxes. Bradley also added that these types of companies are usually "good corporate citizens" that contribute to their communities through sponsorships and charity work.

The OPA will award one of the six with the contract by the end of September. The plant is expected to be up and running by 2010.

(Cynthia Gamble can be reached at cgamble@independentfreepress.com)

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