

Mayor, Milton councillor trade barbs over generating station

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"It's something the Town supported," said Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette Thursday. "They (TransCanada) will be engaged in a full environmental assessment under provincial legislation and we believe that will ensure high standards are set."

Bonnette also said the company has agreed to participate in the Town's planning approval and construction regulation process.

He said benefits include the fact the company has agreed to replace the Town in the Halton Hills 401 Corridor Landowner's Agreement assuming the Town's \$1.5 million loan to Halton Region and to provide a \$250,000 investment for future community projects. He added the generating plant also means cost savings for Halton Hills Hydro and annual assessment for the Town of between \$1 and \$1.3

million.

Milton councillor Rick Day, who had concerns about the environmental impacts of all four of the proposed generating stations, is critical of Halton Hills council for supporting the TransCanada project.

"If they took money to allow these people to pollute, then shame on them," said Day, who represents urban and rural east Milton residents who live south of the 401, many not far from the Halton Hills plant.

"I think that was smart business on the part of the Town," countered Bonnette. "We may have got this whether council supported this application or not, but at least we had our ducks in a row ahead of time. I think Mr. Day is just trying to fear-monger, as he did during his re-election quest."

Day intends, however, to ask for

a "bump up" of the environmental assessment process TransCanada must go through for the Halton Hills plant so "it's site specific and much more thorough."

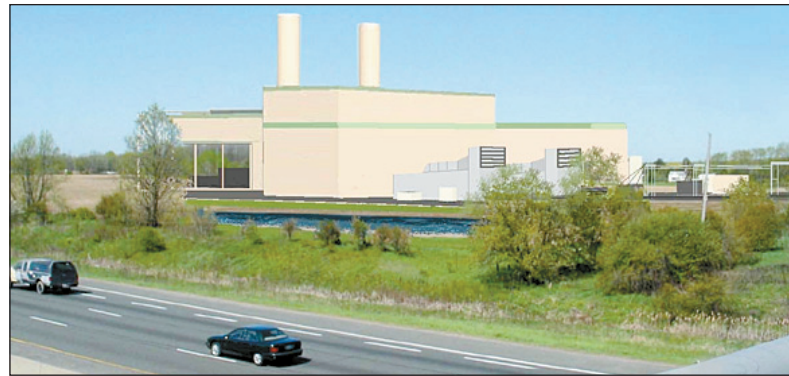
"Halton Hills has skipped all those safeguards," said Day.

He also will request Milton's planners and lawyers review the Halton Hills zoning bylaw and the council procedure followed to make the decision to endorse the plant.

Bonnette stressed local environmental watchdog group POWER supported the TransCanada proposal and that environmental standards are set by the province.

Hal Kvisle, TransCanada's chief executive officer said they are "delighted to begin work on another major power project in Ontario."

"HHGS is a strong fit with TransCanada's power strategy and



An artist's rendering of the generating station which will be built in the 401 Corridor.

it demonstrates our continued commitment to helping address Ontario's power needs. Ontario is one of the largest power markets in North America and as a longtime participant in the Ontario energy market through both our pipelines and energy businesses, we know the market well."

Kvisle said the Halton Hills

plant will bring greater stability to the local electricity supply and the generating station is expected to create up to 300 construction jobs. Approximately 24 full-time positions will be required to operate the facility, which will include two combustion turbine generators.

TransCanada is hoping to begin construction next year.



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