Company to give update on power plant proposal

By Melanie Hennessey CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Pristine Power Inc. has further developed its proposal for a 680-megawatt power plant in the town's east end and is now ready to show the public at an open house tomorrow.

The session will be the second held by the company that's hoping to build a power generating facility — named the Milton Clean Energy Centre — on a 22-acre piece of land at the terminus of Main Street, just east of Fifth Line.

Since the last meeting, Pristine Power has been hammering out the fine details in its cooling strategy for the facility, since it would burn natural gas at such a high temperature it could melt the structure's steel without proper cooling.

Pristine Power president Jeff Myers explained the cooling system would use recycled, treated water from the MidHalton Sewage Treatment Plant that would be piped up to Milton through 22 km of buried pipeline. It would then be treated again, bringing it close to distilled water quality.

"We try to take a bit of a different approach than most developers," said Julia Ciccaglione, Pristine's vice president of environment and strategic development.

She noted that during the plant's operating hours, it would need to use 3,000 gallons of water per minute for cooling — a figure she said is typical of any plant.

The water would continue to be recycled through the plant until its minerals have been used up. At that point, it would be pumped back into the Region's waste water system.

The recycled, treated water can also be used to irrigate golf courses, with Pristine reporting that some local courses have already expressed interest in the pipeline idea.

"We try to look at synergies that are better for the envi-

ronment," Ciccaglione said.

Since the first open house, Pristine has also made a \$5,000 donation to the Milton District Hospital Foundation and confirmed that, if its proposal is approved, it will establish a \$500,000 sustainability fund dedicated to energy efficient and environmental projects in the community.

The power company said it would also set up a community liaison committee, which could deal with any issues that arise during the construction and operation of the plant and maintain an ongoing dialogue with local residents, groups,

"We want to get to know the community," noted Pristine director Kevin Gilchrist.

Pristine's open house will take place at the Milton Leisure Centre from 5 to 9 p.m.

If approved, the Milton Clean Energy Centre could be up and running by 2009, producing power for more than 650,000 homes in the GTA. The facility would encompass about 15 acres of the property and would include two approximately 150-foot-tall exhaust stacks — about the same height as the electrical towers in that area currently and a 30-foot-tall structure that would house cooling towers.

Pristine Power put forward its concept after the Ontario Power Authority sent out a request for proposals for a new local generating station. It's one of six companies that've qualified to put forward proposals for similar hydro generating plants that would be located in Halton. Currently, plans have been made public for two facilities in the Hornby area and one in north Oakville.

The Ontario Power Authority will ultimately award one of the companies with a contract.

For more information visit www.miltoncleanenergycen-

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Electricity needed

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All bidding companies must make their submissions by September 27. Then, the OPA will select and approve one.

According to a 10-year outlook of the adequacy of the province's electricity needs, approximately 12,850 megawatts of supply will be needed to reliably cover the demand needed by 2014. The Independent Electricity System Operator prepared the report.





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