

Pristine Power says misinformation going around

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Pristine Power wants to clear up some of the misinformation it says is in the community regarding its power plant proposal.

The company is 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.

The plans — one of four proposals in the Milton area — come in response to a request from the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) for a new generating station to meet the power needs of the GTA. The OPA will award a contract to one company on November 15.

According to Pristine officials, many details local residents have come to perceive as fact simply aren't true. Some of the things it wants the community to know are that:

- The facility would only operate during periods of peak power demand, which usually coincide with daytime hours.
- A third-party risk assessment it had completed concluded that the plant wouldn't have a negative impact on local residents' health.
- An air quality assessment found that when 550 metres away from the plant, its emissions would be undetectable.
- It would only use the 90 million cubic metres of gas per day that residents are talking about if it were to operate 24 hours a day, which isn't expected.
- Emissions from the plant would be 100 times lower than the existing emission levels at the site caused largely by vehicular traffic.

Julia Ciccaglione, Pristine's vice-president of environment and strategic development, also expressed concern that the company wasn't invited to attend or speak at the meeting Ward 1 Councillor Rick Day is holding Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Milton Sports Centre about the plant proposal.

All-candidates meetings coming up next week

All-candidates meetings for the upcoming municipal election have been organized for next week.

The series of three sessions will be held at Country Heritage Park on Tremaine Road from Wednesday to Friday.

Wards 2 and 4 local and regional councillor candidates will debate Wednesday evening, followed by Wards 1 and 3 local and regional councillors Thursday and regional chairman and Milton school trustee candidates Friday.

All meetings will start at 7 p.m. in the park's Niagara Room.

Day told The Champion he didn't invite Pristine staff because he feels they've had their opportunity to speak already at their own public meetings.

He also said if he had a formal presentation from the company at his session, he thinks it would take up most of the meeting.

If approved, the Milton Clean Energy Centre could be up and running by 2009, producing power for about 600,000 homes in Halton and northwest Peel.

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 staff encourages anyone who wants to discuss the proposal further to contact them at 1-866-944-6401 or e-mail info@miltoncleanenergycentre.ca.

It also wants residents to know that two environmental groups, Clear the Air Coalition and Oakville Green, have spoken out in favour of its proposal. Copies of the groups' letters and other documents are available at www.milton-cleanenergycentre.ca.

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