

The Facts About Needed Electricity Generation



What You Might Want To Know About The Proposed Power Generation Facility in Northern York Region

Important decisions are being made about how to meet the continually increasing electricity demands of Northern York Region, including the communities of Aurora, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, Bradford, West Gwillimbury, King Township, Whitchurch Stouffville and Georgina. The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) would like you to know the facts about these decisions.

As part of Ontario's plan for ensuring the adequacy of the provincial electricity system, OPA has developed a plan to address the urgent electricity needs of Northern York Region. The plan balances a range of considerations including the needs that must be met and their costs.

The communities of Northern York Region are in critical need of electricity at times of peak demand

The Region is a priority area that requires special attention to assure ongoing reliability and security of electricity supply. The communities' most urgent need is the supply of power during high-cost, high-demand periods – especially hot windless summer days. The plant is expected to operate less than 10% of the time or eight to nine hundred hours a year.

The OPA is in the process of choosing a developer to design, own, and operate a rapid response power generation facility in the area. Our Request for Qualifications closed on March 28th. Currently, we are reviewing the numerous submissions to determine a short-list of qualified proponents. We expect to publish this short-list by the end of April.

This important step is part of a long-term solution to meeting the Region's electricity needs that began with community consultations in 2005. This solution includes a combination of conservation, completed upgrades to the existing Armitage Transformer Station, a new transformer station at Holland Junction currently under construction, and the proposed rapid response electricity generation source. This gas-fired facility is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2011.