



Novæ Res Urbis

GREATER TORONTO AREA EDITION

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POWERING YORK REGION

King takes a wary look

King Township is taking a closer look at a proposal by **Northland Power** to develop a 350-megawatt power plant, although council had previously voted itself an unwilling host (*See NRU-GTA Edition July 2, 9 and 16, 2008*). The submission comes as part of a larger proposal by the **Ontario Power Authority** to build the gas-fired plant in one of four northern **York Region** municipalities to address a growing regional need.

Northland applied for official plan and zoning by-law amendments for two sites in King—at 1170 Miller's Sideroad and 18156 Dufferin Street, both northwest of Highway 9 and Bathurst Street. On Monday night, King council voted to have staff closely examine the proposal.

"I think it's important that wherever this goes, we have all the full information and that if we end up before the **Ontario Municipal Board** that we are prepared with all the proper evidence," King mayor **Margaret Black** told *NRU*. Staff is expected to bring a report before council later in the fall.

The councils for all four municipalities that were identified as potential sites for the plant—**Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina** and King—voted earlier this summer that they would not be willing hosts of the proposed plant.

When asked how such positions by the municipalities would affect the process of developing the plant, OPA spokesperson **Tim Taylor** noted that the project has not been rejected outright and that the concerns of residents and municipalities are important.

"No one wants to put their life's work into something and then have it resisted in this way, but it's not surprising that people are concerned," Taylor said. "It's a major infrastructure project, it's vital to the community, in the sense that the community wants a secure and adequate and reliable supply of electricity."

The OPA will be hosting a series of information sessions throughout northern York Region in August and September to speak with residents about the proposal. (*See sidebar.*)

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OSHAWA HARBOUR REPORT

Mayor files FOI

Oshawa mayor **John Gray** has filed a Freedom of Information request for the report on the future of the Port of Oshawa completed by former Toronto mayor **David Crombie**.

Crombie was appointed the federal representative and facilitator of discussions nearly a year ago, by transport, infrastructure and communities minister **Lawrence Cannon**. Last September he was charged with meeting stakeholders to develop recommendations on how to move forward with the divestiture of the port. Crombie's report was due by the end of January but nothing has been released.

"Everyone's sitting on their hands waiting for the Crombie report," said Oshawa planning service director **Paul Ralph**.

In the meantime, Oshawa council has endorsed official plan and zoning by-law amendments on the north side of Harbour Road for condominium-type proposals but staff is on hold while council awaits Crombie's suggestions.

Also related to the waterfront, planning staff is reviewing a more contentious application for an ethanol plant by **FarmTech Energy Corporation**, which identified the port as its preferred site but it is next to a provincially-significant wetland. No decision has been made but council is expected to discuss it next month.

NRU10

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Though decisions have not been made with respect to the definite site of the plant, Taylor said that Northland is simply getting ready by applying for required amendments on the two sites it owns in King.

“We encourage all of the proponents to connect thoroughly with the communities with whom they’re engaged and talk about it and move things along to the extent that they can,” Taylor said.

“I don’t think any mayor or council would welcome a generation plant,” Black said when asked about the township’s declaration that it would not be a willing host. “I don’t think you’d have a willing host anywhere. I just don’t see that happening in the Greater Toronto Area. That doesn’t mean you don’t process and understand the applications.”



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• Margaret Black

Black stated that she supports the plan for a new power plant, but stressed that “we don’t have all the technical analysis of what it will look like, what the specs are, what the emissions are and we need all that information.”

“I happen to think there’s a tremendous need and I also think that we can site it in a place somewhere in these municipalities, which will not affect anyone,” Black said. “I happen to believe that the effect of the air emissions is minimal.”

York Region is in the process of preparing a report, to be considered by the planning committee at its September 3 meeting, but the report has to go through the agenda review process before any specific comments can be made by regional officials.

The OPA will issue a request for proposals soon and expects to hear back from prospective developers by October.

The other sites currently proposed by Northland include one on Bloomington Road, between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street in Aurora, and 1160 Holborn Road, northwest of Leslie Street and Queensville Sideroad East in East Gwillimbury.

Sithe Global Canadian Power is proposing to develop

Ontario Power Authority’s Northern York Region Public Meetings

August 20—Sharon Temperance Hall, 18974 Leslie Street

August 21—Georgina Public Library, Peter Gzowski Branch, 5279 Black River Road

August 25—King City Community Centre, 25 Doctors Lane

August 27—Aurora Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive

September 4—Georgina Public Library, Peter Gzowski Branch 5279 Black River Road

September 10—Aurora Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive

September 11—Sharon Temperance Hall, 18974 Leslie Street

September 15—King City Community Centre, 25 Doctors Lane

September 18—Georgina Public Library, Peter Gzowski Branch, 5279 Black River Road

September 22—Sharon Temperance Hall, 18974 Leslie Street

September 24—Aurora Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive

September 29—King City Community Centre, 25 Doctors Lane

Note all meetings take place between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m.

the plant at 48 Sluse Road, northeast of Yonge and Bathurst streets in East Gwillimbury, and **Pristine Power** is looking to build the plant at McCowan Road and Glenwoods Avenue in Georgina.



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