

EB-2007-0707
Integrated Power System Plan
Clean, Affordable Energy (CAE) Alliance
Response to GEC-Pembina-OSEA Interrogatories

Thank you for the queries regarding our organization. This provides us with an opportunity to perhaps clarify any misconceptions there may be regarding the CAE Alliance. In order to fully answer the questions posed, we will share some background regarding our organization.

■ The Clean, Affordable Energy (CAE) Alliance is a totally volunteer organization - none of our members receive any type of remuneration for our work or activities. We are totally self-regulated. We receive no direction from any other group, organization or affiliation of any kind. We answer to no one outside of our executive members. The CAE has no hierarchy of members, nor specific leadership. We operate totally by consensus opinion. Our titles describe our functions, nothing more.

■ The CAE Alliance formed over 3 years ago as a result of concerns arising from the electricity restructuring process in Ontario. The closure of Ontario's coal fired power plants and subsequent replacement with natural gas was - and remains - a primary concern. This policy has been based on flawed assumptions, incomplete and misleading information.

■ Our members are parents and grandparents who are concerned about the environmental wellbeing and the economic welfare of this province. We believe that we are a voice for consumer interests regarding system security; cost impacts on residential ratepayers; the impact of energy resources on job creation and sustainability; and the overall economic health of the province, within the context of environmental accountability.

■ Our members have followed the evolving energy policy and the significant changes that have taken place in the electricity sector over the past few years. We have spent collectively, thousands of hours, over the past 4 years (some longer) researching and reading relevant energy information which has formed the basis of our input to the power planning process.

■ The CAE Alliance strives to rely on statistics and informed, credible energy sources - not special interest groups - unbiased and quantitative information. All information and documentation that we have used and accessed is publicly available.

■ We believe that our organization has a valuable perspective to offer, as an organization unfettered by any motive other than concern for the welfare of Ontario's energy consumers.

Questions posed:

1. Who were the authors of the CAEA evidence? If more than one, please indicate who wrote which part. Please prove curricula vitae for each author or contributor.

The primary author of the information provided is Carol Chudy, a housewife, mother of 3 and grandmother of 5. She has a college degree in legal office administration and some experience in legal research.

The submission provided to the Board is based on shared information and insights from all other CAE executive members and can therefore be considered a collaborate effort. Our concerns regarding the IPSP provided in this submission includes a compilation of information presented or provided to the OPA, to the public, and to all levels of government over the past 3 ½ years.

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) has the mandate to "consult with consumers ... in order to ensure that their priorities and views are considered in the development of the Plan". Although we are not energy professionals, we are convinced of our legislated right to participate in this process. The value of a "layman's" perspective should not be slighted.

2. " Did the CAEA direct the production of the evidence? What ties, if any do the eight CAEA members currently have (or have they had in the past) to coal-fired generation (including direct employment or family member employment)? Please list the members and their affiliations."

■ We are unsure as to what is intended by the question, "Did the CAEA direct the production of the evidence?" The CAE Alliance submission to the Board is - like all other documents generated by our organization - a product of our own independent research and compilation. We have reviewed the volumes of information provided by and to the OPA; we have independently researched and obtained the information contained in our submissions; we have developed our own conclusions; and we have written our responses accordingly.

Our executive members include a retired chemical engineer from the petrochemical industry (who also sits on a community environmental board); a lawyer; a college-educated gentleman, retired from 32 years in various management positions within Bell Canada; a retired Ontario civil servant (with a university education); and an industrial trade worker. None of these members have, or have had, any ties to coal-fired generation. The remaining three have direct or indirect affiliation with coal fired generation, although one of these is retired. Due to longevity of employment, coal plant closure policy does not directly materially impact any of these members.

Although we do not maintain a list of supporters, the CAE Alliance has, through our information and community efforts, received a great deal of support from a cross-section of Ontarians.

We fail to appreciate the relevance of these questions posed, other than as an attempt to discredit the information that we have provided. Association with coal-fired generation has no impact on the material content of the CAE Alliance submission, except perhaps the awareness of the unnecessary economic impacts on specific communities and the province in general from the coal closure mandate.

The following comment from Mr. Winston Sardine, one of our executive members, encapsulates the CAE Alliance concerns.

We are a broad cross-section of community representatives, with a wide-variety of backgrounds, education and experiences. This includes a few current or former employees from the power generation sector. This does not preclude the right of each person to be judged as having "independence of mind and individual thought processes" by which everyone should be assessed by any fair-minded person. The key point, however it is written, must make clear that we, CAEA, have principles and belief systems that are based on "environmental safeguards, economic prudence, energy security and reliability and consumer protection and advocacy, first and foremost".