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### **CONE OF SILENCE ON WATERFRONT POWER PLANT DEAL** *MCGUINITY CHALLENGED TO DISCLOSE REAL PRICE FOR POWER*

TORONTO, ON - Local politicians believe that the final deal for the Port Lands Energy Centre (PEC) was signed between the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) on August 31 and the province is keeping this knowledge concealed.

"It is upsetting that the sign-off on such a highly controversial, waterfront project seems to have been kept under wraps. There's a cone of silence" said local Councillor Paula Fletcher. "Was there no photo op because this is such an unpopular project?"

"I have filed an FOI request in order to find out the sign off date for this multi-million dollar provincial project in my riding. It is high handed and shameful if I was not advised by the Minister of Energy," said area MPP Peter Tabuns. "And it is unfortunate that this may be the only way to get this vital information about this project for our community."

As a sole source bid the only financial figure made public was in January when then Provincial Energy Minister Donna Cansfield announced a \$700 million price tag for the plant. Since the announcement negotiations have been underway on the financial details.

"The signed deal should include the financial information. We are calling on the province to release not only the actual cost of the plant but just as important, the actual cost of power in the agreement," said Tabuns.

Former Minister Cansfield sole-sourced the PEC last January 2006 arguing that it was necessary in order to ensure that the plant could be operational in June 2008.

"With the gas pipeline to the site undergoing an environmental review the chances of being operational for the deadline is more remote" said Fletcher. "I also understand that Studios of America, who leases the old Hearn (power plant) site, has been asked to lease back a portion to OPG for temporary power. This leads me to believe PEC is unable to deliver an operational plant on the Port Lands by June 2008."

The lease agreement for the Hearn contains a clause that that precludes power generation at the site.

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