

[The following notes reflect comments made at a public workshop facilitated by Dalhousie oceanographer Bob Fournier in Cheticamp on November 27, 2007.

This was one of 13 public workshops held around Nova Scotia to solicit public views on a renewed energy strategy and climate change action plan for Nova Scotia.

The Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act sets ambitious goals for curbing greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining a prosperous economy. The government appreciates the time taken by the public to participate at the workshops and give advice on how best to achieve these important goals.

Please note that the views expressed in these notes reflect comments made by participants in the workshop. They have not been verified for factual accuracy.]

## **Energy Strategy Renewal - Cheticamp Public Consultation – November 27**

### **6 participants**

There was a focused array of energy options discussed for the strategy renewal. Electricity, renewable energy, efficiency and government action were the most widely discussed elements at this session with the general feel that the strategy should go further to serve local energy entrepreneurs.

### **Questions:**

- How will potential profit from energy strategy renewal opportunities be divided between government, businesses and tax-payers?
- What is the best way to maximize the “societal benefits” of greener power generation?
- Would maintaining the “status quo” for energy utilities create a public policy vacuum?
- How are “go-ahead” decisions reached on renewable energy projects by provincial utilities and the Utilities and Review Board?
- Why isn't the private sector capitalizing on solar energy opportunities?
- Why does the energy strategy renewal consultation paper give options for action rather than directives?
- How does Nova Scotia compare to Sweden in terms of renewable energy policy?
- Is there a model (US, Europe, other Canadian provinces) that is driving energy policy in Nova Scotia?
- Is Nova Scotia coal for power generation locally expected to result from “clean coal” and “coal purification” subsequent to energy strategy renewal policy directions?

### **Concerns / Recommendations**

## **Electricity**

- A major focus of the energy strategy renewal should be GHG reductions; opportunities for energy exports should be considered only subsequent to provincial emissions and air quality targets being met
- Clean coal should not be placed above solar power in the energy strategy renewal process
- Facilitating the generation, transmission and sale of electricity by private citizens and small companies must be a top-priority
- Residential load control devices and methods should be part of the energy strategy renewal
- “Feed-in laws” should be changed and prices set relative to the costs of generating certain types of renewable energy – a standard offer contract modeled after that of Ontario should be considered

## **Renewable energy**

- Zero-interest loans should be made available to citizens through the electricity utility for the installation of solar hot-water systems
- Renewable energy development should be driven by public policy that mirrors that of European jurisdictions and Ontario
- Tidal power is too far off and should be given less consideration than renewable energy technologies currently being used in commercial ventures in the province
- Renewable energy should be used to the maximum extent possible even if that means implementing a province wide renewable energy storage infrastructure
- More wind turbines in the Cape-Breton Highlands should be a priority
- Business subsidy models and incentives available through economic development initiatives must be adapted to encourage a renewable energy industrial development strategy
- Offshore wind development should have a more prominent role in the energy strategy renewal

## **Conservation and efficiency**

- Energy conservation and efficiency initiatives are the most important and economical part of the energy strategy renewal
- Logistics and energy efficiency standards for energy intensive industries (i.e. fishing) must be studied and implemented
- Efficiency gains through co-generation for large industrial end-users (i.e. Stora Enso) should be studied and implemented as potential opportunities for economic development in declining rural areas

## **Government Action / Intervention**

- Any carbon credit system implemented subsequent to the energy strategy renewal must ensure that emissions are physically eliminated in Nova Scotia and not just on paper
- Emissions reductions, air quality and other environmental targets should not be tied to economics or growth – if environmental improvement is necessary it should be accomplished regardless of its impact on the economy
- Increasing energy costs are a fair trade-off for reduced GHGs
- The government should eliminate the generation cost differential between the lowest cost electricity and the lowest cost renewable electricity to foster development of a provincial renewable energy sector while reducing GHGs
- Housing and building codes should be regulated to maximize passive solar energy
- A “polluter-pays policy” has to be an integral component of the energy strategy
- Decentralization in the policy making process could encourage geographic power generation diversification

### **Natural Gas**

- The energy strategy renewal should focus on moving Nova Scotia toward renewable energy - away from fossil fuel use as well as oil and gas sector business development initiatives
- The energy strategy renewal should implement a “use it or lose it” exploration license system – if development of licensed blocks does not move forward within a certain period of time they are put-up for auction again
- There should be a moratorium on oil and gas development off the coast of Cape-Breton

### **Energy Opportunities**

- There should be a study undertaken analyzing the costs and environmental impacts of further highway development and refurbishment vs. implementation of a provincial high-speed rail system