

2000 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A00-7

TITLE: **Air Pollution In Ontario's Electrical Sector**

SPONSOR: The Regional Municipality of Durham

WHEREAS air pollution is responsible for thousands of hospitalizations in Ontario each year; and

WHEREAS the electrical sector is the major source of air pollution that adversely affects the health of Ontarians; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has repeatedly promised that the move to a competitive electricity market will lead to cleaner air; and

WHEREAS the Minister of the Environment announced new acid-free (nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide) emission caps for Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and emission-performance standards for Ontario's electricity imports from the U.S; and

WHEREAS the minister did not set any limits for eight other problem power-plant emissions, including toxics such as mercury, arsenic, lead and carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS OPG will be permitted to achieve compliance with these new emission limits by purchasing commission credits from Canadian and U.S. companies located in Ontario's airshed; and

WHEREAS this new package of measures could actually permit an increase in OPG's coal-fired and total emissions in Ontario's airshed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) supports the following recommendations of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance:

1. The Government of Ontario should establish emission caps that will reduce Ontario's total (domestic and imported) electricity-related sulphur dioxide and cancer-causing (arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead and nickel) emissions by 83% between 2002 and 2014 relative to business as usual. Furthermore, the Government of Ontario should establish emission caps that reduce Ontario's total (domestic and imported) electricity-related nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxide emissions by 64% and 40% respectively between 2002 and 2014 relative to business as usual;
2. If emissions trading is permitted, only companies that are subject to legally binding emission caps should be allowed to buy and sell emission credits.

AND FURTHER that alPHa investigates membership in the Ontario Clean Air Alliance.

Action from Conference:

Moved: Larry O'Connor (Durham)

Seconded: Doug Sider (Brant)

CARRIED