



July 8, 2005

Letter to the Editor
The Toronto Star
One Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Editor: - **Clearing the Air on Nuclear**

Here we go again with Greenpeace's inaccurate rhetoric on Canada's nuclear industry.

CANDU reactors contribute to a healthier environment because they generate electricity without contributing to climate change or producing emissions that cause air pollution and smog. By using nuclear energy to produce electricity in Canada, we avoid the emission of about 85 million tonnes of greenhouse gases per year, equivalent to the greenhouse gases produced by 17 million cars or trucks —about 12% of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions.

AECL is a global leader in the nuclear industry. Our CANDU reactors have been proven on four continents with more than 40 years of safe, clean, reliable, and economical electricity production. The worldwide CANDU 6 fleet has an excellent track record, with an 88% average capacity factor since 2000, the highest in the world. Three of AECL's designed and built CANDU 6s are in the top 10 performing reactors in the world.

Since 1940, Canada's investment in nuclear technology has generated a Return on Investment that is greater than 2500% (\$160 billion) on \$6 billion investment. This has provided benefits to Canadians in the form of power production, Research & Development, CANDU exports, uranium, medical radioisotopes and professional services.

AECL, and CANDU utilities around the world, have extensive experience in managing low-level wastes and used nuclear fuel. The Canadian nuclear industry has been safely managing radioactive waste for more than 40 years. No member of the public has been harmed as a result of a radiation leak from a nuclear power plant or waste storage facility.

Ontario is facing a serious electricity supply shortage and the government must make decisions now about our future electricity supply. CANDU has proven to be the most reliable, clean and affordable option for Ontario's base load electricity supply.

Robert Van Adel
President and Chief Executive Officer
AECL