



June 20, 2005

Letters to the Editor

The Globe and Mail
444 Front Street West,
Toronto, Ontario, M5V 2S9

Dear Editor:

Hugh Winsor's column - "CANDU reactor is the Edsel of nuclear power" - neglects some significant and relevant facts that should be noted for the benefit of your readers.

China is a real success story for Canada and AECL is very much in the running for future projects. Natural Resources Canada Minister John Efford was instrumental in laying the groundwork for Prime Minister Paul Martin's visit to China in January of this year. At that time, China's Premier Wen Jiabao publicly stated that AECL's Qinshan CANDU project was the most successful nuclear power project in China's history.

Canadians can be proud that AECL's CANDU 6 reactors have outperformed the competition with an 87% lifetime capacity to September 2004, compared to 72% for the global fleet of Pressurized Water Reactors and Boiling Water Reactors. To date, three of our CANDU 6 reactors were ranked among the top ten performing reactors in the world. Since 1996, AECL has been very successful having completed six new reactors overseas - all on or ahead of schedule and on budget.

Nuclear energy has a vital role to play in Ontario as it currently supplies about 50% of the baseload capacity. In May, Ontario Energy Minister Dwight Duncan announced that he had mandated the Ontario Power Authority to review the options for nuclear in Ontario and to make its recommendation to the government by June 2007.

Furthermore, AECL has accelerated the development of its lower-cost, next-generation Advanced CANDU Reactor (ACR). The ACR incorporates the best of CANDU and Light Water Reactor technologies and is available in the larger ACR-1000™, a 1200-MW size to better meet real opportunities for CANDU in Canada, UK, China and the US.

Finally, CANDU reactors generate electricity without producing emissions that affect air quality. CANDU has avoided more than a billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, acid gases, toxic heavy metals and particulates in Canada to date.

Canadians can be proud of CANDU know how and can be assured of its continued success.

Robert Van Adel
President and Chief Executive Officer