

Public hearings
November 25th 2006
Keltic Petrochemicals Inc.



Chantal Gagnon
Ecology Action Centre

Ecology Action Centre

- Nova Scotia's oldest non-profit environmental organisation.
- Mission is to create a healthy and sustainable Nova Scotia
- We received funding from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to participate in the environmental processes for this project.

Quotes from Nova Scotia Green Plan

- *“A Sustainable Community is "a community that maintains, enhances, or improves its environmental, social, cultural, and economic resources in ways that support current and future community members in their pursuit of healthy, productive, and happy lives.”*
- *(Taken from the working definition of the Nova Scotia Government’s Provincial Community Development Policy Initiative) (Nova Scotia Green Plan, p7)*

Location

- Access is problematic
- Far from most workers
- Cultural and Spiritual Site
- Promote the expansion of heavy polluting industry in undeveloped site with high biodiversity, and in proximity of several at risk species

Location

- Environmental impacts of this project would be less if situated in a currently developed industrial area, where less biodiversity exists, and where less important habitat, such as wetlands, are being altered, disrupted or destroyed.
- Co-generation plan could be great source of energy for existing local businesses.

Location

- The development (site) will produce about 3% or more of the Province's total annual GHG emissions. (Section 9.6.3., page 9-59.)
- The Keltic project is an addition not a subtraction of air pollutants and carbon emissions.

Quotes from Nova Scotia Green Plan

- *“Energy and the Environment Nova Scotia’s Energy Strategy, Seizing the Opportunity (2001), reflects the importance of the environment in all government planning in one of its three main goals: “to improve the province’s environment and enhance the quality of life of Nova Scotians.” The strategy establishes specific targets including • reduce sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions 25 per cent below the current cap by 2005 and 50 per cent in total emissions by 2010 • reduce nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions 20 per cent below 2000 levels by 2009 • reduce mercury (Hg) emissions 30 per cent by 2005 • implement national standards for particulate matter when they come into effect” (Nova Scotia Green Plan, p13)*

Quotes from Nova Scotia Green Plan

- *“Nova Scotians value clean air, safe drinking water, and a good quality of life. People in communities across Nova Scotia are concerned about issues such as sustainable land use, sewage management, trans-boundary pollution, our individual and collective impact on the local environment, and our impact on the global environment.”* (Nova Scotia Green Plan, p8)

Sustainability

“..development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” –World Commission on the Environment and Development

Sustainability

- The project has an average life of 35 years. What then?
- Will we make the switch then to renewable energy source and sustainable development? Won't it be too late?
- Will our Scotian Shelf have to turn into a gas exploitation area instead of a fishing area to keep employment in the region?

Sustainability

- Impacts of industrialisation include acidification of our oceans. We have been able to rely or survive on our fisheries in Nova Scotia for over 400 years. What will we rely on when our oceans no longer produce our food, because of all the pollutants we are injecting in the environment?

Quotes from Nova Scotia Green Plan

- *“Exposure to pollutants through the contamination of air, water, and soil has been linked to various health conditions such as cancer, cardiac and respiratory illness, reproductive problems and birth defects, nervous system disorders, allergic reactions, hypersensitivity, and decreased resistance to disease. In April 2002, the Physical Environment Committee of the Provincial Health Council released a report that recognizes the connections between the physical environment and human health.”* (Nova Scotia Green Plan, p12)

Quotes from Nova Scotia Green Plan

- “...*protecting and sustaining our environment is essential to our health, our economy, and our collective well-being.*”

(Nova Scotia Green Plan, p.2)

In essence

Without clean air and clean water there is no life on Earth.

Without precise temperature equilibrium and adequate food sources there is no life on Earth.

This project provides for none of these, but rather takes them from us in exchange of jobs for one generation and polluted air, water, soil, dangerous climatic conditions and decreased health for multiple generations.

Alternative Sites

- Less environmental damage
- Potential for more economic benefits
- Potentially safer if no residents in proximity
- Localise industrial development and traffic
- Existing access infrastructure
- Prevent the creation of a one non-renewable resource economy in an isolated town.

Conclusion

Panel must take into consideration that environmental and health effects will outlast the facility, and that contribution to climate changes will be increased throughout the life of this project.

- Project does not fit with the goals and efforts of this province and its people in addressing the needs of our generation and our future generations.

Quotes from Nova Scotia Green Plan

- *“Lessons of the Past. - Nova Scotia is a land of contrasts, from the breathtaking highlands of Cape Breton Island, to the expansive sandy beaches of the south shore. Although we have a lot to be proud of, we also bear the burden of one of the largest contaminated sites in North America—the former Steel Plant and Coke Ovens site in industrial Cape Breton. Past practices have left a legacy of social, economic, and environmental costs. A successful approach to development must balance both costs and benefits.” (Nova Scotia Green Plan, p.4)*