

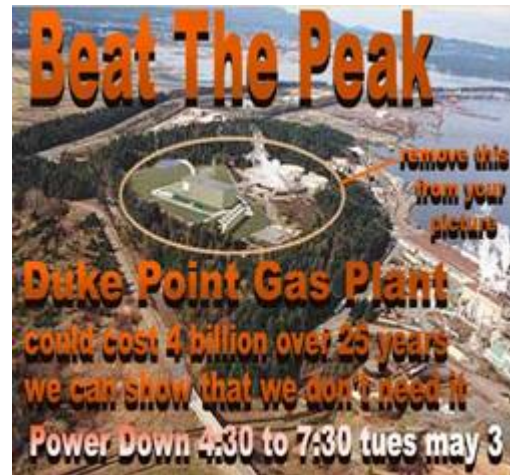
For Immediate Release:

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### **Gabriolans Delighted With Appeals Court Ruling Against Gas Plant**

Gabriola Island's NoGasPlant Coalition is delighted with today's BC Court of Appeals ruling granting leave for appeal of the BC Utilities Commission approval of BC Hydro's Electricity Purchase Agreement with Pristine Power of Alberta.

The NoGasPlant Coalition believes that something went terribly wrong in the public process which resulted in the BCUC approval of the controversial Electricity Purchase Agreement. "When a project makes no sense technically or economically, and when citizen, industrial, and environmental organizations have to hire lawyers to argue in court with lawyers representing BC Hydro and Alberta investors, you can be sure something has gone wrong somewhere." says spokesperson Bob McKechnie. "We are very pleased the Appeals Court judges picked up on this."



The NoGasPlant Coalition believes that it makes no sense to burn natural gas to generate electricity on Vancouver Island. "There are other less costly and more environmentally sensible ways of meeting Vancouver Island's short and long-term electricity needs, including load management and the development of the island's abundant green and sustainable energy resources" says McKechnie. "We hope the government and the BC Hydro Board of Directors will get this message and act on it."

In a recent 'Beat the Peak' demonstration, the citizens of Gabriola Island voluntarily reduced load demand 25% during the evening peak period. If projected onto Vancouver Island as a whole, that's more than enough to offset the Duke Point plant generating capacity.

Under the terms of the agreement, the contract can now be cancelled by either the government or BC Hydro without penalty.

Contact:

Bob McKechnie 250-247-8197 [bobmck@shaw.ca](mailto:bobmck@shaw.ca), professional engineer (retired)  
Sheila Malcolmson 250-247-8078 [sheila@island.net](mailto:sheila@island.net), Islands Trustee