

I appreciate this opportunity to give my opinions regarding energy alternatives. I'll be brief and my comments will take about 5 minutes.

We already had one short round of public consultations on the nuclear power issue.

The findings were summarized in the Dan Perrins report that recommended that the government deliver more information about energy needs, options and costs.

So where is that "more information"?

I won't bother to give my opinions on energy options because, like most people, I still don't have sufficient information about energy options and total direct and indirect costs of different energy "mixes".

I will say this: The population of Saskatchewan is about the same as the population of Edmonton. Why would a city the size of Edmonton need an \$8 billion nuclear power plant?

However, regardless of what energy options this province chooses, new power generation assets should be owned by SaskPower, or publically owned, and not owned by private corporations. Private corporate ownership of power generation facilities is just a back door way of privatizing utilities, and like most citizens I vehemently oppose privatization of utilities.

I am no socialist and I believe in the free market. But when it comes to my utility bills I want pricing decisions to be based solely on the goal of keeping my power bills (and my tax bills) as low as possible. I don't want pricing decisions to be based on the goal of maximizing corporate profits and I don't want decisions and policies based an ideology of privatizing utilities.

I suspect that Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party may treat Saskatchewan's need for additional power generation capacity as an opportunity to further privatize power generation in this province. It can do this by increasingly having private corporations build and own new power generation facilities and by buying power from private power companies as opposed to building and owning new power generation facilities. .

This government cannot simply sell off the Crowns and privatize utilities because that would be political suicide. However the evidence is that this government remains committed to that ideologically driven agenda and is trying to accomplish it over time. .

1. Brad Walls history, going all the way back to his University days, leaves no doubt that he is philosophically committed to that agenda.
2. When he became premier his Saskatchewan Party government conducted wholesale firings of crown corporation leaders and senior civil servants that it suspected of perhaps not agreeing with the government's right wing and privatization philosophy. That witch hunt was a shameful abuse of power, costly for taxpayers and not in the public's best interests. It demonstrated that this government will make decisions based purely on ideology, even if those decisions may not be in the public's best interests.

3. This government created the “Saskatchewan First” policy that blatantly attacks Crown Corporations. That policy prohibits the Crowns from investing or expanding outside of Saskatchewan, forcing them to put all their eggs in the tiny Saskatchewan basket, thereby reducing the Crowns viability and competitive options. The Saskatchewan First policy also forces the Crowns to sell off what the government deems to be “non-core” assets, regardless of the profitability of those assets, in other words to divest assets for the sole reason of adhering to the governments ideology.
4. This government turned over economic policy making responsibilities to Enterprise Saskatchewan, a group of right wing private corporate interests that, coincidentally, would support privatizing Crown Corporations and privatizing utilities.
5. More evidence suggesting a propensity toward privatization seems to appear regularly. Just last week SaskPower announced that it signed a 25 year contract to purchase power from the Toronto-based private corporation Northland Power. Northland Power will build and own the power generation facilities near Moosomin Saskatchewan.

In summary:

As I understand it this forum is to get public feedback for purposes of making choices about energy options to meet future energy demands. I am one member of the public and here is my feedback:

- 1) We still don't have the “more information” recommended by the Perrins report, and
- 2) I don't want this government to use the provinces need for more power generation capacity as an opportunity to increase privatization of power generation, because that would be tantamount to increasing privatization of utilities.