

Sunday, February 13, 2011

## Citizens For Green Energy Challenge MLA Horgan

11/02/2011 17:32:00 [David Field](#)

**(Re: NDP Leadership Hopeful John Horgan Speaks Out, Westcoaster.ca Feb. 6, 2011). Editor:**

I feel compelled to challenge MLA Horgan's assertion that B.C. does not need more electricity.

A recent analysis by George Hoberg, a professor in UBC's department of forest resources management, says otherwise.

Hoberg's analysis clearly shows that B.C. has become a net importer of electricity in recent years with a "declining trade balance" in electricity.

BC Hydro has become particularly reliant on electricity imports in recent years, as can be seen in the Crown corporation's annual reports. In fact, 2009 was the ninth year out of 10 in which BC Hydro ended up being a net importer of electricity.

I certainly hope MLA Horgan is not advocating for an increase in coal-fired electricity imports to meet B.C.'s energy needs. That would be an economic and an environmental disaster considering that BC Hydro expects electricity demand in this province to grow by 20 to 40 per cent over the next 20 years.

MLA Horgan is also grossly misrepresenting the subject of renewable energy generation and energy exports with his hackneyed "buy-high and sell-low" rhetoric. As the NDP's long time energy critic, MLA Horgan surely knows better and must be well aware of the workings of the energy market.

Contrary to MLA Horgan's misleading claim, you cannot compare the low spot market price of electricity (most of which is cheap, coal-fired electricity) to the much higher price commanded by predictable supplies of high value, clean, firm energy.

B.C.'s independent green energy producers have demonstrated that they can generate a major portion of the clean energy B.C. needs and reliably supply it to the grid in an efficient and cost-effective manner. And despite MLA Horgan's rhetoric to the contrary, the clean energy they are supplying is very much in the public interest.

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B.C. Citizens for Green Energy

[www.greenenergybc.ca](http://www.greenenergybc.ca)