

## Reliance on coal won't end soon: TransAlta

*Calgary Herald*  
CALGARY

Coal will continue to play a strong role in Alberta's power generation because of its abundance, at the same time governments work to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, TransAlta Corp. said Tuesday.

In a conference call, chief executive Steve Snyder noted Alberta's power scenario differed from that of Washington state, where the company just signed an agreement to replace its coal-fired capacity by 2025.

Alberta's generation fleet still is

weighed toward coal, and likely will remain so while provincial and federal governments work out emissions-reduction policies, and more natural gas and alternative power comes on line, Snyder said during the first-quarter results call.

"Bottom line is, everyone is on the same wavelength, which is we want to do something to physically reduce carbon dioxide," he said.

"We want to do it in an orderly fashion, and we don't want to take too much optionality out too soon because that could come back to haunt availability and supply and

reliability 10, 15 years out."

Late Monday, TransAlta announced it had reached an agreement with Washington to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and replace generation capacity from the 1,367-megawatt Centralia plant within 15 years.

There is little opportunity for carbon capture at the 39-year-old plant, and the state has no significant coal reserves, Snyder said. In contrast, Alberta holds 70 per cent of coal reserves in Canada and draws on coal-fired generation to provide more than 40 per cent of its power.

*Canwest News Service*