

November 24, 2020

The Honourable Greg Rickford
Minister of Energy, Northern Development
& Mines and Minister of Indigenous Affairs
Whitney Block, Room 5630
5th Floor, 99 Wellesley St. W.
Toronto, ON M7A 1W1

Dear Minister Rickford:

At its meeting of November 11, 2020, Hamilton City Council approved Item 10 of the General Issues Committee Report 20-018, which reads as follows:

10. Request for an Interim Cap on Gas Plant and Greenhouse Gas Pollution and the Development and Implementation of a Plan to Phase-Out Gas-Fired Electricity Generation (Item 10.2)

WHEREAS, the Government of Ontario is planning to increase reliance on gas-fired electricity generation from Ontario's gas-fired power plants, which is anticipated to increase greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution by more than 300% by 2025 and by more than 400% by 2040;

WHEREAS, Canada's temperature is rising more than double the rate of the rest of the world (which is in alignment with climate models and projections impacting northern climates most significantly);

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario will adversely impact more than a third of the greenhouse gas reductions it achieved by phasing-out its dirty coal-fired power plants, due to a power plan built around ramping up gas-fired generation to replace the output of the Pickering Nuclear Station (scheduled to close in 2024);

WHEREAS, alternative options are available to reversing short sighted cuts to energy efficiency programs and stop under-investing in this quick to deploy and low-cost resource, which include maximizing our energy efficiency efforts by paying up to the same price per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for energy efficiency measures as we are currently paying for power from nuclear plants (e.g., up to 9.5 cents per kWh);

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario should continue to support renewable energy projects that have costs that are below what we are paying for nuclear power and work with communities to make the most of these economic opportunities;

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario has alternative options to increasing gas-fired electricity generation, such as the Province of Quebec's offer to receive low-cost 24/7 power from its water powered reservoir system as a possible alternative;

WHEREAS, a fossil-free electricity system is critically important to Hamilton's efforts to reduce GHG emissions by replacing fossil fuel use with electric vehicles, electric buses, electric heat pumps, and other steps dependent on a fossil-free electricity supply; and,

WHEREAS, our staff have noted this problem in their report on Updated Timelines and SMART Corporate Goals and Areas of Focus for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation where they warn that "Unless the Province of Ontario changes direction on Ontario's fuel supply mix, it is expected natural gas, and therefore GHG emissions, may continue to increase as the nuclear facilities are refurbished and the Province of Ontario further supplements the electricity grid with natural gas inputs";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton request the Government of Ontario to place an interim cap of 2.5 mega tonnes per year on our gas plant and greenhouse gas pollution and develop and implement a plan to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation by 2030 to ensure that Ontario meets its climate targets; and,
- (b) That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, to the local MPP's, to the Region of Waterloo and local area municipalities.

Therefore, the City of Hamilton respectfully requests your consideration of this matter and looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

Copied: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Andrea Horwath, Opposition Party Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario,
M.P.P Hamilton Centre
Monique Taylor, M.P.P. Hamilton Mountain
Paul Miller, M.P.P. Hamilton East-Stoney Creek
Donna Skelly, M.P.P. Flamborough-Glanbrook
Sandy Shaw, M.P.P. Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas
Region of Waterloo
Ontario Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario