



# EX16.46.9

June 28, 2016

His Worship John Tory  
Mayor, City of Toronto  
100 Queen Street West  
City Hall, Second Floor, West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Tory:

I am writing to you and the members of the Toronto City Council Executive Committee to express concern about the following motion: 'EX 16.46 Request for the Government of Ontario to Close Pickering Nuclear Station in 2018'.

In January of this year, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and then Ontario Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli announced plans to continue operations of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Plant for an additional four years, conditional on regulatory approvals from the various responsible professional bodies. The proposed plan to continue operations of the Pickering Plant to 2024 still needs the approval of both federal and provincial regulators before going ahead. The federal regulator, the quasi-judicial agency known as the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), is one of the most highly-regarded regulators in the world. Any decision will be based on scientific evidence, safety and public consultation. It should be noted that draft safety reports of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission gave the Pickering Nuclear Station one of the highest safety ratings in Canada.

According to the Ontario Ministry of Energy, continuing operations at Pickering Generating Station will avoid 8 million tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which is the equivalent to taking 490,000 cars off Ontario roads. It is counterproductive to remove an emission-free source of energy in a province that is proud of its environmental record and has invested so much to create a low-emission electricity grid. As well as helping to meet GHG targets, nuclear energy enables Ontario's and Toronto's efforts to provide clean air for health reasons. Pickering specifically has played an important role in reducing the number of smog days in Toronto in recent years to virtually zero.

An early closure of Pickering will not only cost money but will mean that a substantial amount of emissions-free nuclear energy will most likely be replaced by fossil fuels. The motion recommends replacing nuclear energy from Pickering with hydroelectricity imports from Quebec. This is an idea that has been shown to be impractical by both the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) in the below report. <http://www.ieso.ca/Documents/IntertieReport-20141014.pdf>

In the 2014 report, the IESO and the OPA estimated that it could cost up to \$2 billion to build new lines between Quebec and Ontario in order to import 3,300 megawatts of power. In addition, Quebec would have to build new generating stations to supply the increased exports — and they would be more expensive than existing facilities. The estimated imports would cost over 10 cents per kilowatt hour. In comparison, the blended regulated price for nuclear is 6-7 cents per kilowatt hour.

Mr. Mayor, we hope you will share our view that this proposed motion makes little sense in ensuring the City of Toronto has affordable, reliable – and clean – electricity for today and years to come.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions.

Regards,



John Barrett, Ph.D.  
President and CEO  
Canadian Nuclear Association