

**City Council****Motion without Notice**

MM44.71	ACTION			Ward:20
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**Requesting the Medical Officer of Health to assess two proposals to operate diesel generators during periods of peak electricity demand - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc**

*\* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

*\* This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Medical Officer of Health to assess the health impact of the proposed use of diesel generators for energy production during peak energy demand at 120 Pearl Street and 220 Simcoe Street, and to provide the findings to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, the project proponent, and the Ward Councillor.

**Summary**

Two environmental screening processes under the Environmental Assessment Act were initiated this past Spring for independent proposals to operate existing backup diesel generators during periods of peak electricity demand. At 220 Simcoe Street, Bell Canada proposes to operate three of four generators to provide up to 3.755 megawatts of electricity. And at 120 Pearl Street, Enwave Energy Corporation proposes to operate one generator to provide up to 2.250 megawatts of electricity.

These proposals are a concern for air quality in the vicinity of each site, and may also have implications for a wider area. During periods of peak electricity demand, the weather is often extremely hot and humid, and air quality can already be a challenge for vulnerable individuals. Diesel combustion tends to produce higher levels of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. Toronto Public Health estimated in 2014 that air pollution was responsible for 1,300 premature deaths and 3,550 hospitalizations each year in Toronto.

It is important for Toronto Public Health to proactively review and give input on these proposals to ensure a public health lens is applied, and that the City's public health interest is protected. This motion is urgent because the environmental screening processes have already been started.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM44.71