

March 8, 2021

To: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
Hon. Doug Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines;
Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
Hon. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health;

Subject: Phase-out Gas-Fired Electricity Generation

We, the undersigned, urge the Government of Ontario to place a cap of 2.5 megatonnes per year on the greenhouse gas pollution from Ontario's gas-fired power plants and develop and implement a plan to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation by 2030 to help communities, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada meet their climate targets;

The Province of Ontario has a target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% from 2005 levels by 2030. The Auditor General of Ontario has determined that the province is unlikely to achieve this target.

Increased GHG emissions associated with gas-fired electricity generation is a significant cause of the failure to meet the GHG reduction targets. The Government of Ontario plan to use gas-fired power plants to meet all new electricity requirements will quadruple GHG emissions by 2030, and reverse approximately 40% of the greenhouse gas reductions Ontario achieved by phasing-out coal-fired power plants.

Greenhouse gas emissions are causing temperatures in Canada to rise, causing adverse impacts to the communities and citizens of Ontario, including heat waves, rain, flooding, forest fires and winter storms with related property damage and public health impacts.

Ontario's gas-fired power plants can be replaced by 2030 with an integrated combination of energy efficiency investments, wind and solar energy, Quebec water power, other storage mechanisms, and load shifting. Quebec water power and other energy storage can supply periods of peak electricity demand, providing a robust alternative to gas. This approach will:

- Allow Ontario to meet its GHG reduction target
- Create jobs throughout the province providing energy efficiency, retrofitting buildings, and installing renewable energy projects
- Stimulate development of Ontario's green industries for domestic and export markets
- Support community emission reduction activities throughout the province with clean energy
- Keep electricity rates low as carbon-pricing increases the cost of gas

The Province of Ontario must phase-out Ontario's gas-fired power plants- a realistic and effective measure to help municipalities, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to achieve their greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and as part of a global effort to mitigate the catastrophic impacts of climate change.

Yours truly,

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Cc Marilyn Toft, Clerk, City of Toronto re March 10 Council Item DM 30.3 (public record)