



ONTARIO
CLEAN AIR
ALLIANCE

June 12, 2023

Deputy Mayor McKelvie and Toronto City Councillors
Toronto City Hall
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Deputy Mayor McKelvie and Toronto City Councillors:

Re: MM7.25: Requesting Federal Government Support for MM6.13 “A Clean Energy Future for Toronto” – by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Alejandra Bravo

I am writing to support Councillors Fletcher’s and Bravo’s motion:

“City Council request the Government of Canada to issue Clean Electricity Regulations that prohibit increasing the gas-fired generating capacity at the Portlands Energy Centre, effective immediately.”

Background information

The Government of Ontario is planning to increase the greenhouse gas pollution of our gas-fired power plants by more than 300% by 2030 and by 700% by 2043, relative to 2017 levels.

To support this ramp up in gas-fired power and pollution, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is planning to increase the generation capacity of its Portlands gas-fired power plant on the Toronto waterfront by [50 megawatts \(MW\)](#).

The Government of Ontario’s and OPG’s plans are environmentally and economically irresponsible. We have cleaner and lower cost options to keep our lights on during our hottest summer days and coldest winter nights.

Cleaner and Lower Cost Alternatives

As the Independent Electricity System Operator's [Dunsky Report](#) has noted, Ontario can cost-effectively avoid the need for new peaking gas-fired generation capacity by investing in: a) renewable energy; b) demand response measures that shift electricity demand from peak to off-peak periods; and c) energy storage.

Toronto needs a zero-carbon electricity grid to achieve its climate targets

In December 2021 Toronto City Council adopted the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy target of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions community-wide by 2040 and an interim target to cut emissions in half by 2030.

According to the [TransformTO 2022 Annual Report](#), a zero-carbon provincial electricity grid is a prerequisite for Toronto achieving its net zero climate target:

“A carbon-free electricity generation system in Ontario is critical to a net zero future. However, the emissions intensity of Ontario’s electricity grid is expected to increase in the near term as more generation will come from fossil-based sources (i.e., fossil/natural gas). For Toronto to get to net zero, the grid needs to be carbon-free. The backbone of a net zero Toronto must be an emissions-free electricity grid that both delivers more energy to address the demands of increased electrification of buildings and vehicles combined with greater resilience to extreme weather.” [page 12]

Clean Electricity Regulations

The Government of Canada is developing [Clean Electricity Regulations](#) to move Canada’s electricity grids to net zero-carbon emissions by 2035. By prohibiting the expansion of gas-fired generating capacity in Ontario, the Regulations can help Toronto and Canada achieve their climate targets and [lower our electricity costs](#).

Yours sincerely,



Jack Gibbons
Chair