



Council Report

Report Number: PLAN2023-041

Meeting Date: August 29, 2023

Title: City of Kawartha Lakes Resolution Calling for Gas-Fired Electricity Generation Phase-Out

Description: CKLEAC request for Council endorsement of resolution calling for gas-fired electricity generation phase-out before sending to Province.

Author and Title: Richard Holy, Director of Development Services

Recommendations:

That Report PLAN2023-041, City of Kawartha Lakes Resolution Calling for Gas-Fired Electricity Generation Phase-Out, be received; and

That Council endorse the Resolution approved by the City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee on June 29, 2023 as follows:

Whereas the provincial government is planning to ramp up gas plant produced electricity by 1500MW (megawatts) increasing our once clean electrical grid's greenhouse gas emissions by 400% by 2030 and 800% by 2040 (compared to the 2017 level);

And whereas municipalities can influence 50% of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada, according to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities;

And whereas the federal government is set to introduce the Clean Energy Act that will commit Canada to net zero emissions from our electrical system by 2035 which threatens to create stranded expensive gas plants that are now being expanded;

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

And whereas these plants rely on imported gas obtained by environmental damaging fracking;

And whereas a dirtier electrical system will hurt our competitive position in the global cleantech marketplace and overall emerging low-carbon economy;

And whereas the City of Kawartha Lakes' own Health Environment Plan commits us to a reduction of global greenhouse gases by 2030 which will be more difficult with a dirtier electrical system;

And whereas Ontario led the country in reducing emissions by shuttering its coal fired power plants and could do the same with natural gas;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the City of Kawartha Lakes joins 34 other Ontario municipalities in requesting that the Government of Ontario develop and implement a plan to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation as soon as possible, and instead increase support for proven renewable energy technologies and energy storage, energy efficiency and renew its contract to purchase available clean Quebec Hydro-electricity; and

That this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Energy, Northern Development, and Mines and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, as well as all party leaders and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Background:

On June 29, 2023, the City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee (CKLEAC) passed a Resolution calling for the Provincial Government to phase out gas-fired electricity generation and is requesting that Council support this Resolution. As stated in the attached backgrounder from CKLEAC below, the Government of Ontario is planning to increase the amount of electricity produced from natural gas power plants within the Province of Ontario to meet Ontario's electricity needs. This will increase the amount of greenhouse gas pollution emitted from natural gas plants in Ontario by 400% by 2040, according to this [report](#) from the Clean Air Alliance. CKLEAC's backgrounder further outlines that greenhouse gas pollution is causing temperatures in Canada to rise, causing adverse impacts for the citizens of the City of Kawartha Lakes including extreme weather, public health impacts, and greater risk of flooding.

The Province of Ontario, on July 10, 2023, announced a [Plan to Power Ontario's Growth](#) focussing on nuclear energy, competitive procurements, new transmission infrastructure, hydroelectric power, keeping costs down, and planning for future transmission. The Plan also indicated that, in the near term, natural gas generation will continue to supplement electricity needs to maintain system reliability. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), through the [Resource Eligibility Interim Report](#), has indicated that Ontario will require approximately 1500 megawatts of electricity generated by natural gas by 2025 to 2027. The IESO has also released the [Pathways to Decarbonization Report](#) which presents a pathway towards a cleaner electricity grid.

Rationale:

Background information was submitted by a member of CKLEAC to support the resolution which CKLEAC endorsed. This information was as follows:

The [Healthy Environment Plan](#) in the City of Kawartha Lakes aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Businesses are increasingly making conscious decisions to move to jurisdictions with cleaner grids. The proliferation of more natural gas generated power will make it more difficult to achieve these goals.

New natural gas power plants will have a life past 2035, a date which many municipalities and other governments are increasingly committing to either going net-zero or phasing out fossil fuel electricity generation. The [federal government](#) has already committed to a net-zero energy grid by 2035. The provincial

government has promised that, even if gas plants are shut down by 2035, they will continue to be paid.

Natural gas plants, while cleaner than coal, still emit greenhouse gas emissions causing temperatures in Canada to rise. Adverse impacts for the citizens of the City of Kawartha Lakes include more extreme weather, public health impacts, and a greater risk of flooding.

Other Alternatives Considered:

No alternatives were considered.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

The Council Adopted Strategic Plan identifies these Strategic Goals:

1. Healthy Environment
2. An Exceptional Quality of Life

This initiative aligns with a healthy environment and creating an exceptional quality of life by promoting clean energy generation which will protect and enhance the City's natural features and their functions.

[Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#)

Financial/Operation Impacts:

No Financial/Operation impacts.

Consultations:

None.

Attachments:

None.

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Department Head: Richard Holy, Director of Development Services