

Regional Councillor Report

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Regional Council - April 22, 2015***Update on Energy Planning and Energy Sector Initiatives in Durham***

Council reaffirmed its commitment to be a willing and supportive host for the existing nuclear generating stations at Darlington and Pickering as well as any potential new nuclear development at Pickering.

Council reiterated its strong opposition to used nuclear fuel and waste at the nuclear generating stations and encouraged the federal government and Nuclear Waste Management to expedite the process of finding a permanent storage solution for all Canadian nuclear waste.

The Region encourages federal and provincial governments to recognize that Canada's nuclear energy expertise should be developed as a key strategic asset which offers the opportunity to achieve both economic and climate change targets.

As part of the current review of the Growth Plan for the Golden Horseshoe, Durham has requested the Province formally recognize that Durham's land base is restricted by Ontario's energy infrastructure including major transmission lines and land associated with surrounding nuclear plants.

Durham Comments – Bill 66 Great Lakes Protection Act (GLPA)

Durham commends and supports the general direction and intent of the GLPA to improve protection of the Great Lakes Basin but expressed their concerns about new unfunded costs which may fall to the Region such as the costs to achieve any new targets developed for water, wastewater and stormwater management. Costs to comply with or enforce Geographically Focused Initiatives and measures to bring Official Plans and municipal bylaws and costs of any potential OMB appeals are also of concern. The Region has requested that new ongoing Provincial and Federal funding for current initiatives and future GFI should be provided to recognize cross jurisdictional nature of water resources and spill over benefits.

The Region has also requested that the Province, working with partners in Great Lakes Basin establish a common set of indicators of ecological health in the Basin and gather baseline data and develop a monitoring program for tracking ecological health over time.

The Region recommends that targets set to reduce algae blooms should address the sources that have the greatest nutrient reduction potential in order to maximize the impact on the Great Lakes.

The Region has requested that the Province fund and lead programs for each of the Great Lakes in order to improve ecosystem health.

Durham's Comments on Ontario's Climate Change Discussion Paper

Durham supports the Ontario government's proactive approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation and encouraged the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and other ministries to collaborate with the Region and other municipalities as new avenues of climate change leadership are explored, proposed and/or implemented. Durham stated that without diminishing the focus on mitigation that more emphasis on adaptation and resiliency measures be required by all levels of government.

Durham has requested that the provincial government create dedicated funding to assist local governments with the task of adopting infrastructure and services to the new climate realities facing Ontario.

Council requested that the Province's decisions in regards to developing and implementing emissions pricing mechanisms and/or policies be based on sound integrated environmental and energy policies and evidence based technical, financial and economic analysis to ensure the most effective and efficient solutions are implemented.

Food security was also suggested to be a consideration in the Province's development of a climate change strategy to address potential health and nutrition related risks.