

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
NO. 10-21-262

HIGHLAND PARK BOROUGH COUNCIL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WITHDRAWAL  
OF CPV\* APPLICATION FOR A SECOND KEASBEY GAS-FIRED POWER PLANT

RESOLUTION: Public Works and Public Utilities Committee

WHEREAS, \*Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) has proposed to build a 2<sup>nd</sup> gas-fired power plant "CPV-Keasbey" in the Keasbey section of Woodbridge, New Jersey, in a densely populated region within the most densely populated state; and

WHEREAS, Keasbey has already been identified as an overburdened\*\* community in terms of income and minority population and is surrounded by other overburdened communities, as per New Jersey Department of Environment as directed by Governor's Murphy's Executive Order (EO) 23 in 2018 and legislation S232 passed and signed by Governor Murphy in September, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Central New Jersey, which includes Highland Park, already suffers high levels of air pollution from fossil-fuel power plants which are among the largest sources of such pollution in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, CPV Keasbey's application states that its proposal for the facility is to potentially emit 2,374,633 tons of Greenhouse Gases, (GHGs) annually and these emissions would be in direct opposition to the goals of the New Jersey Clean Energy Act, EO 28, EO 100, the 2019 Energy Master Plan and New Jersey's Environmental Justice statute; and

WHEREAS, CPV Keasbey's application also proposes for the facility to potentially emit nearly 50 tons of VOC's (volatile organic compounds), 40 tons of sulfur dioxide, more than 123 tons of particulate matter, more than 25 tons of sulfuric acid, more than 110 tons of carbon monoxide, more than 125 tons of ammonia, and large quantities of other harmful pollutants into the air, some of which are also GHGs; and

WHEREAS, the American Lung Association "State of the Air 2020" report gives Middlesex County, which includes Highland Park, the grade of "F" for ground-level ozone air pollution and is out of compliance with EPA limits on ozone, but this proposed plant if their air permit is approved will be allowed to increase the concentration of ozone precursors (volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides) resulting in increased ground-level ozone in this region through the purchase of "ozone credits;" and

WHEREAS, the American Lung Association "State of the Air 2020" report shows Central New Jersey, which includes Highland Park, already has significant populations with pediatric and adult asthma, COPD, and other conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, nervous disorders, and mental disorders which will be exacerbated by additional volumes of air pollution, and studies have shown ground-level ozone causes premature death; and

WHEREAS, Highland Park is within 7 miles of the site of the proposed CPV power plant and is within the area that will be impacted by the emissions from the project as listed above; and

WHEREAS, the rapidly declining cost of solar energy and storage have already caused the cancellation of projects using gas to generate electricity and is forecasted to become significantly cheaper than gas in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, CPV is building renewable solar and wind energy plants elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler has committed herself to the Climate Mayors Initiative demonstrating leadership on climate change through meaningful actions in Highland Park; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, in the interest of protecting its residents and businesses, oppose construction of this gas-burning power plant proposed by CPV; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of Highland Park call on CPV to withdraw its application for a gas power plant and resubmit its application for a renewable power plant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on Governor Phil Murphy and the Department of Environmental Protection to oppose all fossil fuel projects in overburdened environmental justice communities, and impose a moratorium on same until rules are established pursuant to the state's environmental justice law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk shall forward this Resolution to Governor Phil Murphy, Congressman Frank Pallone, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Shawn LaTourette, State Senator Patrick Diegnan, Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak, Assemblyman Sterley Stanley, and the Middlesex County Board of Commissioners.

ADOPTED: October 19, 2021

ATTEST:

  
Joan Hullings, Borough Clerk

I, Joan Hullings, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, New Jersey, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough Council of said Borough on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

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Joan Hullings, Borough Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

Council Member	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Canavera	✓			
Foster	✓			
George	✓			
Hale	✓			
Hersh	✓			
Kim-Chohan	✓			

\*\*An Overburdened Community (OBC), as defined by the law, is any census block group, as determined in accordance with the most recent United States Census, in which:

1. at least 35 percent of the households qualify as low-income households (at or below twice the poverty threshold as determined by the United States Census Bureau);
2. at least 40 percent of the residents identify as minority or as members of a State recognized tribal community; or
3. at least 40 percent of the households have limited English proficiency (without an adult that speaks English "very well" according to the United States Census Bureau).

*C - above*