

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. CP10-0967

In support of full implementation of HB-1365, the Colorado “Clean Air-Clean Jobs” Act of 2010

Introduced by Councilmember Nevitt

WHEREAS, exposure to high levels of air pollution from ground-level ozone, fine particulate matter, mercury, and other toxins represents a host of public health risks to Denver residents, risks such as asthma, lung disease, heart disease, and nervous system disorders; and

WHEREAS, while air pollution affects all Denver residents, the Denver neighborhoods of Globeville, Swansea, Elyria, Sunnyside, Cole and Clayton identified air pollution as their number-one environmental concern during recent EPA listening sessions; and

WHEREAS, Denver is already part of an ozone “non-attainment” area that fails to meet health-based air quality standards for ozone, and forthcoming federal air pollution regulations will require substantial reductions in air pollutants over the next ten years, and likely future regulation of carbon and other greenhouse gases may result in yet more stringent regulations of emissions; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan and broadly-supported Colorado “Clean Air-Clean Jobs” Act was adopted in 2010 by the Colorado General Assembly to improve air quality for the over three million Coloradans who are adversely affected by health-harming air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the proactive and strategic approach of the Colorado “Clean Air-Clean Jobs” Act anticipates future regulatory changes and protects public health and the environment in a comprehensive and more cost-effective manner than a piecemeal pollutant-by-pollutant or regulation-by-regulation approach, while also ensuring that Colorado enjoys a diversified energy portfolio; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission is now considering several reliable and cost-effective proposals for full implementation of the Colorado “Clean Air-Clean Jobs” Act, proposals that will retire all of Xcel Energy’s remaining coal-fired generation units located within and around Denver; and

WHEREAS, as well as securing cleaner and more healthy air for the citizens of Denver and Colorado, these coal-generation retirement proposals will also create thousands of construction jobs in Denver, thereby providing our City and Xcel Energy with an opportunity to ensure that these jobs create quality career pathways with family-supporting wages and affordable health care for our local construction workforce and training opportunities for Denver residents seeking careers in construction; and

WHEREAS, in addition to securing cleaner air and creating quality construction jobs, full implementation of the Colorado “Clean Air-Clean Jobs” Act will protect Colorado streams and lakes from mercury pollution, protect the spectacular vistas of our Rocky Mountains, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS, by adopting a Colorado “Clean Air-Clean Jobs” Act compliance plan that fully retires all of Xcel Energy’s coal-fired generating capacity in and around Denver, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission will achieve the greatest public health benefits and health care cost savings, and significantly reduce the health, environmental, and regulatory risks otherwise incurred by investing in aging and inefficient coal-fired generating units.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. The Denver City Council supports full and complete implementation of the Colorado “Clean Air-Clean Jobs” Act and strongly urges the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to approve a final compliance plan that:

- Maximizes the retirement of Xcel Energy’s coal-fired generating capacity, particularly in and around Denver;
- Maximizes the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency when replacing coal-fired generating capacity;
- Maximizes job quality and local hiring standards for Denver construction workers and job-training opportunities for Denver residents;
- Minimizes the environmental impacts of any increased production and use of natural gas in Xcel Energy’s energy portfolio; and
- Ensures cost-effectiveness for Denver ratepayers.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City & County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City & County of Denver and transmit a copy of this proclamation to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____ 2010

_____ PRESIDENT