

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the GenOn Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) located in Alexandria, Virginia, has been operating since 1949 and representing the largest single source of air pollution in the City and Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, two concerned citizens, Elizabeth Chimento and Poul Hertel, brought to the City scientific evidence showing the potential of serious environmental and health impacts from the PRGS on residents in the immediate vicinity of the plant; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, in response to citizen's concern about public health, City Council adopted a resolution stating the City's policy to clean up PRGS in the short term, and close it down permanently in the long term; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate information exchange and coordination, City Council formed the Mirant Community Monitoring Group (MCMG), co-chaired by Council Members Del Pepper and Paul Smedberg and represented by six members from the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, under the guidance of the State Air Pollution Control Board, the City and GenOn signed a settlement agreement in 2008 requiring GenOn to put \$34 million in an escrow account for the City to implement improved stack and fugitive emissions controls at PRGS, in addition to the \$35 million that GenOn spent on the stack merge project to mitigate air quality issue in the plant vicinity; and

WHEREAS, this agreement also resulted in a comprehensive permit for PRGS that provided immediate and significant improvement in the local air quality and set tight limits for criteria pollutants for the first time. Compared to the base year of 2003, the 2009 emissions of all major air pollutants were drastically reduced such as reductions of 94%, 92% and 83% in SO₂, PM₁₀ and NO_x, respectively; and

WHEREAS, following the 2008 agreement, and before committing \$32 million to proceed with implementing the improved baghouse technology, the City and GenOn reached an agreement on August 29, 2011 which stipulates the permanent closure of this plant as of October 1, 2012 in exchange for the return of \$32 million to GenOn; and

WHEREAS, this plant closure is consistent with the Eco-City Alexandria's Environmental Action Plan and benefits both Alexandria residents and those living in the Washington Metropolitan areas. Benefits include drastic reduction in the City's emissions of greenhouse gas which is believed to be the major contributor to the current global climate change issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby express appreciation for the proactive efforts by the MCMG and community at large, the unwavering support of elected officials at all levels, and the professionalism and hard work of City staff. This is a success story brought about through the collaboration of the community and the City government and its vision for the future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 9th day of October, 2012.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk