

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BLANKET MITIGATION AND EXPANDED HOME TESTING IN ALL NEIGHBORHOODS AFFECTED BY CHEMICALS FROM THE EMERSON POWER TRANSMISSION SITE

WHEREAS, trichloroethylene (“TCE”) and other chlorinated solvents are now known to be hazardous to human health, and

WHEREAS, the well-being of the City’s residents is of utmost concern to the Common Council, and

WHEREAS, the Morse Chain Company, whose South Hill property is now owned by Emerson Power Transmission (“EPT”), used TCE and other chlorinated solvents in quantities reported to have been as high as 1,200 gallons per week, and

WHEREAS, these solvents leaked into the ground at the manufacturing site, and were released into both the storm and sanitary sewer lines from the site, and

WHEREAS, ongoing tests continue to find these solvents present in the soil, groundwater, and both indoor and outdoor air in the neighborhoods surrounding the EPT site decades after their last known use, and

WHEREAS, the fractured bedrock of South Hill on which the EPT site and surrounding neighborhoods are located allows these solvents to migrate and circulate in patterns which are unpredictable, and

WHEREAS, concerns about the chemicals and their effects have caused neighborhood residents to leave and property values to be questioned, and

WHEREAS, Vermont Senator James Jeffords’s amendment to the 2006 Authorization Act requiring a comprehensive study by the National Academy of Science to evaluate the link between TCE exposure and health passed by a vote of 96-0, and

WHEREAS, New York State Assembly Bill 10633 sponsored by Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton requiring that homeowners be notified within thirty days of the test results for levels of TCE found in their homes was approved by both the State Assembly and the State Senate, and

WHEREAS, since remediation of the site is rendered impractical by the site geology, mitigation of the effects of the chemicals in the affected homes is considered to be the most practical remedy available for relief from the chemicals' effects; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Ithaca call on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Health to require and oversee efforts by Emerson Power Transmission and any other responsible parties to (1) offer the installation and maintenance of systems to mitigate the effects of the toxins in all homes in the affected neighborhoods and (2) provide wider areas of home testing for chemicals at all times of the year to determine more accurately the spread of chemicals from the site, and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Department of Health, State Senator George Winner, Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, Congressman Maurice Hinchey, and United States Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY CITY OF ITHACA COMMON COUNCIL (10-0), August 2, 2006