

# HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK • ONEIDA • ONONDAGA • CAYUGA • SENECA • TUSCARORA

## TONAWANDA SENECA NATION

PO BOX 795 • 7027 MEADVILLE ROAD • BASOM, NEW YORK 14013

PHONE (716) 542-4244 • FAX (716) 542-4008

E-MAIL: [tonseneca@aol.com](mailto:tonseneca@aol.com)

March 23, 2021

Steve Hyde  
President and CEO, GCEDC  
99 Medtech Drive  
Batavia, NY 14020  
[shyde@gcedc.com](mailto:shyde@gcedc.com)

Nya:wëh Sgë:nö', Mr. Hyde,

The Tonawanda Seneca Nation, Council of Chiefs, Clan Mothers, Faithkeepers, the men, women, and children send greetings to you and your associates. We give thanks that all are enjoying good health.

The Tonawanda Seneca Nation has occupied lands in Western New York since time immemorial. Much of our land was stolen through fraud, coercion, and illegal land grabs. Nonetheless, our people remain and continue the stewardship of our homelands, including our federally recognized reservation territory, a small fraction of our ancestral land. The proposed Plug Power site lies 1,800 feet from our reservation, within Seneca ancestral territory.

GCEDC first informed the Nation of the Plug Power project in late January of this year, at a time when we faced a surge in COVID-19 infections on our territory and were fighting to secure the very first doses of vaccine for our elders and most vulnerable citizens. Nation representatives met virtually with GCEDC on February 5<sup>th</sup> and asked GCEDC to provide detailed information about the project, including its location, specifics of operations, and other information so that we could assess its possible impacts on our people, our environment, and our culture. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, GCEDC sent the Nation a map and an application from Plug Power. The application gave a general description of the project, addressed Plug Power's plans for emergency response, and included general statements about noise levels, odors, light, and other matters. The application did not reference the Nation in any way.

On February 23, lawyers for GCEDC sent the Nation's lawyer a "Resolution" that purported to unilaterally determine the nature and extent of impacts of the Plug Power project on the Nation. The Nation was never consulted on this document or on the potential impacts of the Plug Power project on

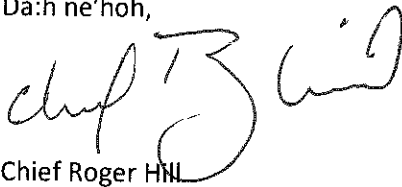
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S.Hyde, GCEDC

the Nation, its people, its waters, air, plants, animals, sacred sites, or cultural practices. The document was dated February 4, the day before GCEDC first discussed the Plug Power project with the Nation.

Because the Nation was not consulted about the Plug Power project or its possible impacts on the Nation, and because the Resolution makes findings about these impacts without our input, the Nation asks GCEDC to rescind the Resolution and begin consultations with the Nation regarding the Plug Power project and its potential impacts. Our reservation territory is our permanent home, and any threats to the air, water, animals, or plants threaten us all. It is our right and our responsibility to future generations to carefully consider any possible impacts of this project.

Da:h ne'hoh,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chief Roger Hill". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "H".

Chief Roger Hill

Council of Chiefs

Tonawanda Seneca Nation

cc: Mark Masse, GCEDC  
Brenor Brophy, Plug Power