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## COUNTY OF ERIE

**CHRIS COLLINS**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 18, 2011

The Honorable  
Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: National Grid Grant Award of \$300,000 for the Polymer Applications Site,  
3445 River Road, Town of Tonawanda**

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution authorizing the execution of contracts with National Grid for engineering and demolition of the former Polymer Applications Site at 3445 River Road in the Town of Tonawanda.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

CHRIS COLLINS  
Erie County Executive

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
From: Department of Environment and Planning  
Re: National Grid Grant Award of \$300,000 for the Polymer Applications Site  
3445 River Road, Town of Tonawanda  
Date: July 18, 2011

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### **SUMMARY**

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature authorize the acceptance of a \$300,000 grant award under National Grid's Brownfield Program. The funding will allow for preparation of engineering plans and demolition for the former Polymer Applications, in the Town of Tonawanda. The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning prepared and submitted this grant application to National Grid under its Brownfield Redevelopment Program. The property has been abandoned for over 20 years with back taxes owing to Erie County.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The grant award from National Grid will be passed through as part of the overall remediation and clearance of the site. At this point, Erie County guarantees tax payments for the property to the school district and Town of Tonawanda.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Currently the Polymer Applications Site is a vacant, abandoned back tax parcel. The parcel is the former chemical manufacturing plant site of approximately 7 acres. The site has been categorized by NYSDEC as a Superfund site. NYSDEC is currently performing the Superfund cleanup at a cost of approximately \$4 million. The NYSDEC work does not, however, include demolition of the buildings on site. At this point, no tax revenue or jobs are generated from the site. Prior to redevelopment, complete environmental remediation and demolition of the site must occur.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF A NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to adopt this resolution will result in Erie County being unable to accept this grant award of \$300,000. The first steps needed to prepare this site for reuse will not occur.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Upon approval of the resolution, a contract between Erie County and National Grid will be executed. Additional contracts between Erie County and the ECIDA, Town of Tonawanda and/or the Tonawanda Development Corporation will take place for engineering and demolition work to occur.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: National Grid Grant Award of  
\$300,000 for the Polymer Applications Site,  
3445 River Road, Town of Tonawanda

WHEREAS, the former Polymer Applications Site, 3445 River Road in the Town of Tonawanda is a former chemical plant site that presents a blighting influence on the waterfront; and

WHEREAS, the company owning the property is defunct and the property exists in a back tax status; and

WHEREAS, the ECIDA, the Town of Tonawanda and the Town of Tonawanda Development Corporation have been partners with Erie County for the planning, remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites; and

WHEREAS, National Grid has a Brownfield Grant Program to which the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning did submit a grant application to and was subsequently awarded \$300,000 for engineering and demolition at the former Polymer Applications Site, 3445 River Road, Tonawanda, NY, site.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to act in behalf of the County in all matters related to the National Grid grant award and sign contracts with National Grid receiving up to \$300,000 in grant funds; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to enter into contracts with the Town of Tonawanda, the Erie County Industrial Development Agency, the Town of Tonawanda Development Corporation, or contractors or consultants in amounts not to exceed a total of \$300,000.00 for the purpose of providing services and activities for brownfield planning, engineering, demolition and site preparation which may take place as part of the National Grid program; and be it further

Fund 110  
Fund Center 16200, Environment and Planning

Revenue	Increase
420499 Other Local Source Revenue	\$300,000
Appropriations	Increase
516020 Prof. Service Contract & Fees	\$300,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Authorization take effect immediately; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to send certified copies of this resolution to the County Executive; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management, the Comptroller; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; the Director of Real Property and the County Attorney.