

# Village Officials Association

AKRON  
ALDEN  
ANGOLA  
BLASDELL  
DEPEW  
FARNHAM  
GOWANDA  
EAST AURORA

of

**Erie County, New York**

HAMBURG  
KENMORE  
LANCASTER  
NORTH COLLINS  
ORCHARD PARK  
SLOAN  
SPRINGVILLE  
WILLIAMSVILLE

## CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

At our monthly meeting of the Erie County Village Officials Association held in the Village of Orchard Park on January 21, 2010, the following resolution was moved by Mayor Howard Frawley of the Village of Angola and seconded by Mayor William Krebs of the Village of Springville and approved.

WHEREAS, Members of the Erie County Village Officials Association are deeply concerned over the potential impact of an EMP (Electromagnetic Pulse) event that could cause chaos and confusion for the residents of Erie County and New York State, and could result in physical harm (including death) and long-term economic loss to said residents; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress created a commission in 2001 to examine and report on the effects of electromagnetic pulses on critical infrastructure and has demonstrated that critical infrastructure is highly vulnerable and largely unprotected; and

WHEREAS, the Abstract of the "Report of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack, Volume I: Executive Report" (2004) states, in relevant part:

"Several potential adversaries have or can acquire the capability to attack the United States with a high- altitude nuclear weapon-generated electromagnetic pulse (EMP). A determined adversary can achieve an EMP attack capability without having a high level of sophistication.

EMP is one of a small number of threats that can hold our society at risk of catastrophic consequences. EMP will cover the wide geographic region within line of sight to the nuclear weapon. It has the capability to produce significant damage to critical infrastructures and thus to the very fabric of US society, as well as to the ability of the United States and Western nations to project influence and military power.

The common element that can produce such an impact from EMP is primarily electronics, so pervasive in all aspects of our society and military, coupled through critical infrastructures. Our vulnerability is increasing daily as our use of and dependence on electronics continues to grow. The impact of EMP is asymmetric in relation to potential protagonists who are not as dependent on modern electronics.

The current vulnerability of our critical infrastructures can both invite and reward attack if not corrected. Correction is feasible and well within the Nation's means and resources to accomplish...

'The damage level could be sufficient to be catastrophic to the Nation, and our current vulnerability invites attack ...' and

WHEREAS, a second report was issued by the Congressional EMP Commission in 2008 entitled "Report of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse

Attack, Critical National Infrastructures" (2008), which provided detailed analysis and advice regarding specific infrastructure segments and again warned that the United States could suffer catastrophic consequences from a nuclear EMP attack (and that terrorists or rogue states could perform such an attack), and concluded that the U.S. could be protected from an EMP at a relatively modest cost, not only protecting critical infrastructures from EMP, but also mitigating and speeding recovery from cyber threats, sabotage, and common natural disasters like hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, The EMP Commission was disbanded earlier this year; and

WHEREAS, Early this year, the National Academy of Sciences released a blue ribbon study that independently supported the EMP Commission's earlier warnings that Mother Nature can also pose an EMP threat to the United States, by means of a great geomagnetic storm that occurs about once every century, very similar in effect to a nuclear EMP attack; and, according to the National Academy of Sciences, such a storm is inevitable, and may occur during the next cycle of solar flare activity, in 2012;

WHEREAS, Economic output losses and physical harm to residents could be substantially reduced if even 10% of critical infrastructure were protected; and

WHEREAS, The National Fire Protection Association NFPA 1600 Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs (2007 Edition): (i) identifies potential hazards that are naturally occurring and human caused; (ii) expressly states that "[i]n order to maintain continuity of operations, [each] entity should identify essential or critical functions and processes, their recovery priorities, and internal and external interdependencies, so that recovery time objectives can be set;" and (iii) specifically identifies terrorism (including nuclear and cyber terrorism), sabotage, enemy attack/war, and electromagnetic pulse as some of the enumerated intentional hazards that should be addressed; and

WHEREAS, It is critically important to protect the public through an immediate, continuous, cost effective, and sustainable State of Readiness that is resistant to foreign and domestic terrorist threats (including cyber threats and EMP attacks), and to be prepared for natural disasters (including great geomagnetic solar storms), and to provide emergency management and terrorism prevention services to citizens through an "All Hazards Approach" that builds on the creative coordination of existing state functions and local resources such as emergency management, law enforcement, fire, and communications, using strategic priorities and aligning and empowering efforts by state and local agencies in coordination with private sector capabilities and resources; and

WHEREAS, The development of critical infrastructure technologies will require the investment of the private sector and the training of workers through New York's colleges, universities, and apprenticeship programs for technical and engineering disciplines ranging from welding specialties through nanotechnology and electro-mechanical engineering, design and development; and

WHEREAS, The need for bringing together county & local disaster officials, legislators, mayors & supervisors, along with the state and federal government, is of the up most importance to address this issue; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to re-establish the bi-partisan Congressional EMP Commission as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, There is also a need for establishing bi-partisan committees at the county and state levels that could create plans to bring about education, communication, and implementation of a program to avoid or mitigate the dangers of an EMP event; and

WHEREAS, Community preparation is a must in survival of an EMP incident and it is important that

all cities, villages, towns & the County Executive with the Legislature stress the cooperation of all agencies that would be involved in such an event; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Legislature could create a committee to be known as the Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee that would educate itself about EMP and gather the facts, and then educate local agencies & officials (and ultimately the public) about the hazards of man-made and solar EMP events, and establish a plan to implement the proper steps for community preparedness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Erie County Village Officials Association hereby requests that the New York State Legislature create a committee called the Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee to assess the dangers of man-made and solar EMP threats, and develop and recommend a plan to prepare for, protect from, respond to, and recover after such EMP events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Erie County Village Officials Association hereby requests that the said Critical Infrastructure Committee shall, among other duties:

- (1) Study the United States Congressional Commission reports and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommendations regarding critical infrastructure and protection from risks including electromagnetic pulses and make recommendations on county and local compliance with current and emerging codes and recommendations regarding critical infrastructure protection;
- (2) study and present the range of critical infrastructure that is vulnerable, including:
  - (i) electricity;
  - (ii) communications;
  - (iii) banking and finance;
  - (iv) petroleum and natural gas;
  - (v) transportation;
  - (vi) food;
  - (vii) water supplies and sewage treatment;
  - (viii) emergency services (including, among other things, police, fire, health, and medical facilities);
  - (ix) continuity of government; and
  - (x) keeping citizens informed;
- (3) review the costs impacting local (and state) revenues if infrastructure remains unprotected and the financial benefits from protecting the most critical infrastructure;
- (4) review the recommendations from the National Academy of Science in reports such as "Making the Nation Safer," which calls for the creation of micro-grids, and make recommendations regarding the development, deployment, and protection of micro-grids from electromagnetic pulses, including:
  - (i) the use of local electricity generation sources;
  - (ii) the use of renewable energy sources;
  - (iii) the use of new energy storage systems; and
  - (iv) leverage of research and development resources across the county (and state), and assess the ability to attract state and/or federal funding and private investment;
- (5) identify critical interoperable communications capabilities and determine how to keep them operable;
- (6) review opportunities where local and state agencies and the private sector can cooperate to expedite mitigation of critical infrastructure vulnerabilities;

and

(7) review shortages of labor and training categories that may be addressed by institutions of higher education and technical training programs in New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Erie County Village Officials Association hereby requests that the New York State Public Services Commission and power utility authorities and companies serving or effecting "Erie County take immediate action to protect the electrical power grid and supply systems from the effects of man-made and solar EMP; and

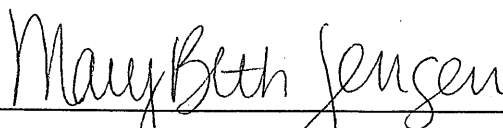
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Erie County Village Officials Association hereby requests federal Representatives Slaughter, Higgins and Lee Co-Sponsor the EMP amended version of House Bill HR 2195 and further request U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand to Co-Sponsor the EMP amended version of the companion Senate Bill S- 946, and for each to urge that the EMP Commission be reestablished with as many of the original nine EMP Commissioners who are willing and able to serve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Erie County Village Officials Association hereby requests that the Erie County Legislature take the aforementioned actions as soon as possible for the concerns and safety of the residents of Erie County, and that copies of this resolution be transmitted to U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Members of Congress Slaughter, Higgins and Lee, NYS Senators Stachowski, Volker, Thompson, and Ranzenhofer. Assembly Members Schimminger, Peoples, Corwin, Hoyt, Gabryszak, Schroeder, Quinn and Hayes, County Executive Collins and all of the Erie County Legislators, the Mayors of every city. and village and the Supervisors of every town in Erie County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Erie County Village Officials Association hereby requests that the Erie County Legislature request that the County Office of Emergency Services brief the Legislature on the dangers of EMP, and thereafter promptly pass a similar resolution to this resolution requesting that the State of New York take similar actions on an urgent basis to address the 'EMP threat and protect our citizens.

I, Mary Beth Jensen, secretary of the Erie County Village Officials Association, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full and true transcript of the resolution passed at the meeting of the Erie County Village Officials Association as held in the Village of Orchard Park on January 21, 2010, and that said meeting was duly called and duly constituted and that a quorum was present.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 21 day of January, 2010.



Mary Beth Jensen, Secretary  
Erie County Village Officials Association