MINUTES OF PUBLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Municipality of Arran-Elderslie Public Meeting #2

Location: Chesley Community Centre, 129 4th Ave SE, Chesley, ON N0G

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm, January 5th, 2023

Long-Term Reliability Project Name: OZ-1

Project Site Address: 60 Industrial Park Road, Chesley, ON N0G 1L0

Facility: Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

Size: 4.99-megawatt/19.96-megawatt hour

Proponents Name: 1000234813 Ontario Inc. (affiliate of Solar Flow-Through Funds)

Attendance:

- 15 community members
- Proponent – 1000234813 Ontario Inc., representative:
    - Gus Kokkoros, Engineer
- Proponent's Contractor, SolarBank Corporation (previously, Abundant Solar Energy Inc.)
    - Richard Lu, CEO
    - Matt McGregor, Director of Policy and Planning

6:10PM: meeting called to order.

Presentation by Proponent & SolarBank commenced.

Meeting discussions are summarized below:

- Presentation and background on the IESO's procurement of Expedited Long-Term Reliability Services (E-LT 1) including:
    - Ontario's forecasted electricity reliability issues
    - Procurement details regarding Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) LT1 RFP and E-LT1 RFP procurement targets and approximate timelines
    - Brief discussion regarding Project requirements and capacity to deliver
- Introduction of Proponent and Solar Flow Through Funds (SFF), including:
    - Background and experience
    - Completed and operating projects in Ontario
    - Executive team and experience
    - Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), generally
    - Confirmation that Proponent's BESS projects passed IESO's Request for Qualification process
    - Proponent's plan to participate in the IESO's E-LT1 RFP and submit various BESS proposals in response to the IESO's RFP
- Introduction on Proponent's Contractor, SolarBank Corporation (previously, Abundant Solar Energy Inc.)
    - Company background
    - Introduction to SolarBank's executive team's development experience, specifically in Ontario
    - SolarBank's completed projects and pipelines in North America, including Ontario.
- Introduction to Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)
    - Discussed BESS details, including nameplate capacity, project name and address, technology, safety, illustrative diagrams, location, and key components.
    - A scale map showing the boundaries of the Bess Project site, location of the Connection Point and the Connection Line, location of the existing solar project and other considerations such as Project boundaries and existing structures
    - Discussed soil class and zoning of the Project Site

    - Introduced fire suppression details
    - Brief discussion about the BESS charging and discharging mechanism ie it will be independently connected to the grid, not charging from the existing solar project
- Benefits to the Community if the E-LT1 Contract is granted by IESO to the Proponent
    - Enhances grid reliability; helps meet urgent need for electricity capacity
    - Other local community benefits such as local hiring opportunities for construction and O&M
- Proposal Timeline Summary
    - Deliverability Test, Public Meeting, Municipal Support Resolution (MSR) explained, and dates with municipal council meeting provided.
    - Future timelines explained, from proposal submission, IESO announces selected proposals, permitting and development, to goal of approved Projects becoming operational in 2025.
- Explained the purpose of the MSR at the Proposal submission stage is to enable the Proponent to receive Rated Criteria points under the E-LT1 RFP, and not exempted the Proponent for any permitting. Full applicable permitting will follow after IESO grants the E-LT1 Contract
- Presented Public Engagement Plan
    - Public Engagement plan included 2 newspaper notices of project outline and public meeting in the local newspapers: The Paisley Advocate and the Owen Sound Sun Times.
- Proponent and SolarBank contact information provided with open invitation to contact either Proponent or SolarBank for further information

Community attendees were encouraged to ask questions anytime during and after the Project presentation. Questions were asked throughout the presentation. Questions asked and answered are summarized below:

- Q: Is there a relationship with the Bruce Power training complex onsite?
    - Lu: No, the two are simply co-located at the same address. The land being leased for this proposed project will not interfere with the Bruce Power Training Facility.
- Q: I don't recall our area experiencing brownouts or blackouts in recent years. Why is this project necessary?

    - McGregor: The IESO is forecasting potential reliability issues that will begin in later years if no additional resources are added to the grid. They are procuring resources to prevent those issues from occurring.
- Q: How close is the facility to local residences?
    - McGregor: approx. 100m.
- Q: What decibel levels of noise will be produced by the system? What produces noise from the system?
    - Lu: HVAC systems and inverters produce noise, which would typically be 40-70 decibels 10 metres from the system.
- Q: Is the proponent required to follow any permitting regarding noise?
    - Lu: Yes, the proponent will follow all required standards and permits regarding noise and any other standards regarding the commissioning of the BESS. For example, environmental permits, building permits, and fire and safety standards. Engineers are required to follow permitting requirements and cannot commission the system without them.
- Q: How will you prevent noise from the system reaching nearby residences?
    - Lu: As part of permitting, the system will undergo noise studies. If noise is outside a prescribed range, a noise management plan will be put in place. Solutions include noise barriers like the ones used to screen residences from highway noise.
- Q: Why did you choose the proposed location? Is it possible to move it to another parcel or another location on the same parcel?
    - Kokkoros: The proponent has chosen this location due to its zoning (business park/industrial), and due to the existing relationship with the landlord. It would not be possible to move the system too far. If there is an issue, we can consider moving it to another location on the same parcel, however we should try to address the concerns at the existing location first.
- Q: Which feeder will the project interconnect to?
    - McGregor: the M4 feeder
- Q: How many residences and businesses could potentially benefit directly from the electricity supplied by the project?
    - Lu: potentially a few thousand homes at any one time.

    - Discussion commenced around which parts of the municipality were served by the M4 feeder and how many homes could be reached by the stored electricity.
- Q: How large is the IESO procurement and how many other projects will other developers submit?
    - McGregor: the total expedited procurement is for 1800MW. It is unknown how many projects other developers will submit to the procurement, however each qualified Proponent can submit up to 10 projects. The proposed project is considered a small-scale project under the procurement.
- Q: Why is municipal support and the public meeting necessary?
    - Lu: The IESO and provincial government value public consultation and input, and local control over decisions. They created requirements for projects to include Council resolutions, community engagement notifications, and meetings during the Proposal submission stage.

8:30 PM: End of Questions. Meeting adjourned.