

MINUTES OF PUBLIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Township of Cramahe Public Meeting #1

Location: Rotary Hall, Keeler Centre, 80 Division St, Colborne, ON K0K 1S0 (2nd floor)

Time: 7:00 – 8:30pm, November 9th, 2022

Long-Term Reliability Project Name: SFF 06

Site Address: PT LT 35 CON 5 CRAMAHE PT 1, 2 & 3 38R4181, S/T CL20114 AMENDED BY PLCO327; CRAMAHE PIN: 51132-0338 (LT)

Facility: Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

Size: 4.99-megawatt/19.96-megawatt hour

Proponents Name: 1000234763 Ontario Inc. (affiliate of Solar Flow-Through Funds)

Attendance:

- 6 community members
- Proponent – 1000234763 Ontario Inc., representative:
 - John Kozak, COO
- Proponent's Contractor, SolarBank Corporation (previously, Abundant Solar Energy Inc.)
 - Tracy Zheng, CAO
 - Matt McGregor, Director of Policy and Planning
 - Harun Buyukkocabas, Senior Engineering Project Manager

7:10PM: 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:
 - o Ontario's forecasted electricity reliability issues
 - o Procurement details regarding Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) LT1 RFP and E-LT1 RFP procurement targets and approximate timelines
 - o Brief discussion regarding Project requirements and capacity to deliver
- Introduction of Proponent and Solar Flow Through Funds (SFF), including:
 - o Background and experience
 - o Completed and operating projects in Ontario
 - o Executive team and experience
 - o Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), generally
 - o Confirmation that Proponent's BESS projects passed IESO's Request for Qualification process
 - o 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.)
 - o Company background
 - o Introduction to SolarBank's executive team's development experience, specifically in Ontario
 - o SolarBank's completed projects and pipelines in North America, including Ontario.
- Introduction to Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)
 - o Discussed BESS details, including nameplate capacity, project name and address, technology, safety, illustrative diagrams, location, and key components.
 - o 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 and visual screen
 - o 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
- 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 asked and answered are summarized below:

- Q: Please provide a more in-depth explanation of how the system will benefit the grid in the local community.
 - Zheng: explained how the BESS will be charged, how it stores and discharges electricity into the local grid, enhancing reliability and reducing the chances of electricity brownouts or flickering.
- Q: Will the BESS require any environmental permitting?
 - Kozak: The system will meet all local and provincial permitting requirements, including any environmental permits, as necessary. The system will abide by provincial wetland setback requirements, for example. The permitting process will start if IESO grants a Contract to the Project Site.

- Q: What safety measures are in place in the event of a fire?
 - Buyukkocabas : BESS systems include 24/7 monitoring systems at the container, rack, module and cell level, with automatic shutdown and alerts sent to operations and maintenance providers if monitored metrics move outside a specified range. Gas detection monitors any gas buildup beyond a certain level, and systems can either vent or deflagrate to prevent fires or explosions. All systems have built-in fire suppression that use either aerosol or chemical fire suppression measures. We will work with the fire department to develop a first responders plan outlining the procedure in case of fire. This will be put in place prior to the commissioning of the system to ensure they are prepared for emergencies.
- Q: What will be the noise level from the BESS once operational?
 - Buyukkocabas: The batteries themselves do not generate a significant amount of noise. The inverters, transformers, and heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment associated with the BESS will generate some noise, like any other rooftop HVAC and pad mounted transformer in the neighborhood.
 - A 5MVA transformer will typically output 50-70dB of noise when standing less than 10 meters from the facility, and is always in operation, however, the noise emitted will vary depending on how much load it is experiencing at any given time. The BESS will not operate 24/7.
 - Noise levels decay with distance so it will not be the same as standing next to the unit vs standing 10 meters away from the unit. The rate of reduction is approximately 6 dB for each doubling of distance from the unit. We considered the noise level in the preliminary Site Plan. The Telephone Project sits over 200 meters away from the closest existing structure. SFF 06 sites on the opposite side of Neil McGregor Road and around 100 meters away from the closest structure. Therefore, the noise from the BESS should not be a concern in the current site locations.
- Q: How do you ensure the safety of the BESS should people approach the system?
 - Buyukkocabas: All BESS components including all necessary batteries, inverters, fire suppression and extinguishment, and HVAC systems are fully containerized and sit on a concrete pad. The containers will be locked to prevent any unauthorized access. The site will be fenced off and locked for further security.

- The BESS is monitored 24/7 and can shut off remotely should any safety concerns arise.
- Q: What if the power goes out? How is the system managed?
 - Kozak: As the BESS is connected directly to the grid, if the power goes out the BESS will not be in operation. The BESS is intended for grid reliability, and is not intended to operate 24/7.
- Q: What are the benefits to our communities? Will the Proponent contribute annual funds to our township or Cramahe's community?
 - Zheng: There is no additional funding contribution. Grid reliability will be enhanced after the BESS is installed, mitigating potential electricity flickering or brownouts. Other local benefits include job creation. If we are granted the contract from IESO, we will hire as many local workers as possible, such as electricians and trades people. This includes long term contracts to local electrician and technicians for maintenance and operations to ensure safe and reliable operation. There will also be short term contracts to hire locals as much as possible for construction.

8:15PM: Meeting adjourned.