

MEETING MINUTES:



Grand Renewable Energy Park
Community Liaison Committee

CLC Meetings to Date

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Status</u>
#1. November 20, 2012 at the McSorley Family Hall, Cayuga	Completed
#2. May 29, 2013 at the New Credit Community Centre, Hagersville	Completed
#3. November 20, 2013 at the Fisherville Community Centre, Fisherville	Completed
#4. November 5, 2014 at the Fisherville Community Centre, Fisherville	Completed

“THE PROJECT TEAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CLC AND THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR SUPPORT”

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

The following meeting objectives were met at the November 5th meeting:

- Provide a status update for the Grand Renewable Wind and the Grand Renewable Solar Projects including the construction activities and information on operations phase for each project.
- Continue open dialogue relating to potential community concerns regarding construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project.

MEETING AGENDA :

The Meeting Agenda included the following items:

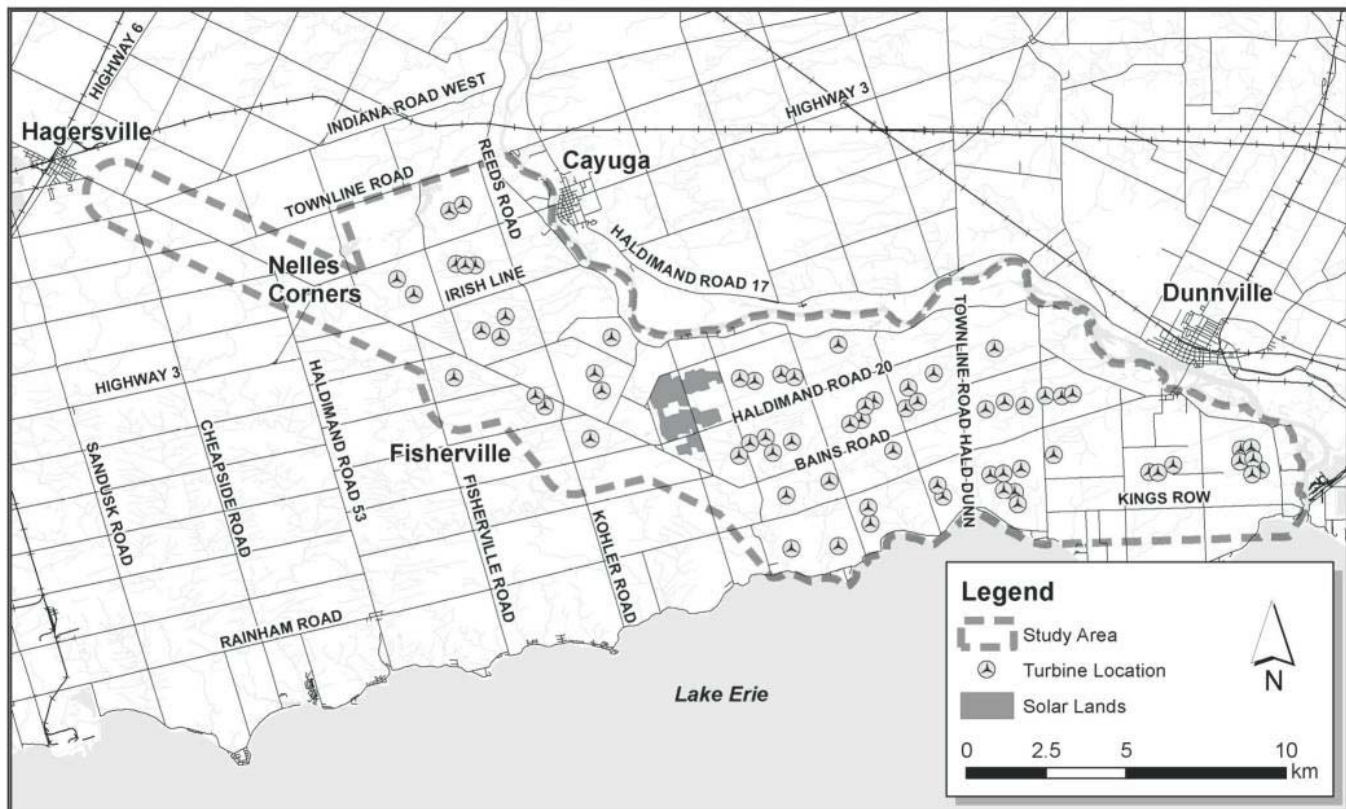
- Work completed to date;
- Discussions on the current phase of construction;
- Discussions on the operation phase;
- Opportunities for questions of clarification and group discussion.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

The Grand Renewable Energy Park (GREP), which consists of the *Grand Renewable Solar Park* and *Grand Renewable Wind Park*, received Renewable Energy Approval (REA) in June 2012 from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). The wind and solar power cluster, located in Haldimand County, will generate approximately 250 megawatts (MW) of power; 150 MW of wind and 100 MW of solar power.

Approvals for these projects were granted by the MOE subject to several terms and conditions including the establishment of a CLC for the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the projects. The formation of the CLC reflects a continuation of positive interaction with the community developed during the approval process, which included public meetings, a project website, presentation to council, project newsletter, and on-site meetings with landowners.

PROJECT AREA



QUICK REFERENCE

CLC – Community Liaison Committee

MW - Megawatts

GREP – Grand Renewable Energy Park

REA – Renewable Energy Approval

MOE – Ministry of the Environment

SRE – Samsung Renewable Energy

PROJECT UPDATE

Grand Renewable Solar Project

- Construction on the solar facility began in **November 2013** and more than 85% of the solar modules and racks have been installed. Electrical work will take place until March 2015.
- Full commissioning of the facility is expected in the **Spring of 2015** and the facility is expected to operate for approximately **20 years**.
- You can expect to see the following activities over the next few months:
 - Solar substation installation will occur in November 2014;
 - Installation of foundations, racks, modules and MV stations will be completed by February 2015; and
 - Testing and pre-commissioning activities for the solar facility (based on block zones) will occur from January to March 2015.

Grand Renewable Wind Project

- Construction on the wind facility began in **October 2013**. All turbines are now built and the project team is working on grid connection.
- Commissioning of the facility is expected in **early to late December 2014**;
- You can expect to see the following activities over the next few months:
 - Power to the wind facility substation in November 2014;
 - Continued repair of County roads; and,
 - Site restoration activities.

WHAT'S THE COMMUNITY SAYING?

Construction and Operation

- **BERMS**—The CLC expressed concern that berms may not camouflage the solar facility. The Project Team indicated that the berm was planned at a certain height but never intended to entirely cover the view of the solar facility. The Project Team indicated that they will consider making the berm bigger along Cedar Road but will confirm this at a later time. The Project Team also indicated that if there are areas where the community feels there is a need for additional landscaping to reduce visual intrusion, they should contact the Project Team. Drew Cherry of the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) discussed the need for the stabilization of berms, which is set to occur in the coming weeks.
- **ROAD REPAIRS** – Concerns were raised about large pot holes in the roads caused by construction. The Project Team apologized for the time it has taken to repair damaged roads and indicated that they are committed to repairing the road damage and will continue to work closely with Haldimand County to get repairs completed. The Project team indicated that major issues will be repaired before winter and that some repairs will be temporary until all construction is complete and final road repairs can be made. The Project Team indicated that there are no more construction vehicles associated with the wind project, however construction vehicles are still accessing the solar facility.
- **ROADWAY CLEAR ZONES AND GUARD RAILS** – Concerns were raised about public safety in areas where the transmission poles are in proximity to the road. Kris Franklin stated that based on County guidelines there is a need for guard rails to provide safety if poles are located within clear zones. The Project Team indicated that eight locations require guard rails. The Project Team stated that guard rails are designed according to Ministry of Transportation standards and that temporary concrete blocks have been placed in locations where guard rails are required. Final guard rails are currently being designed and will be installed over the winter. Following some discussion related to liability, the Project Team clarified that as long as there is proper design (i.e. poles are outside of the clear zone or guard rails are provided) the issue of liability is the same as it would be for any road.
- **CROP DAMAGE & FLOODING**— CLC members raised concerns about drainage and flooding as a result of the Project. The Project Team indicated that drainage and flooding issues were studied before and will be studied after project construction, with study results submitted to Haldimand County. The Project Team is now working on rehabilitation and has hired a drainage engineer to oversee this work. The Project team indicated that a second drainage study (using site-specific conditions) will identify any areas of current or potential concern. The Project team indicated that final drainage conditions will resemble original site conditions.

Action: Samsung will discuss specific drainage issues and/or crop damage directly with affected property owners.

WHAT'S THE COMMUNITY SAYING?

- **TRANSITION TO OPERATIONS TEAM**— The Operations Team who attended the CLC meeting will be managing the operations phase of the Project. The transition from Construction Team to Operations Team will begin at the end of 2014. The Operations Team will endeavor to meet landowners, neighbours and residents and will be responsible for addressing concerns raised during operation of the solar and wind facilities.
- **SNOW PLOWING**— It was noted that some landowners had expressed interest in providing snow plow services along the facility access routes. The Operations Team confirmed that all snow plowing service will be managed by one contractor.
- **NOISE**— The CLC committee discussed noise as a result of operations of the wind facility. The Project team informed the CLC that they will be conducting a noise audit once wind turbines are operational.
- **TRESPASSING**— The CLC mentioned that construction workers were located on private property. The Project team indicated that construction workers within the fence line of a private property are considered to be trespassing and that landowners with concerns related to trespassing should contact the Project Team and issues will be individually addressed.
- **AQUIFERS**—It was asked whether the project's transmission poles will impact the aquifer. The concern regarding potential impacts to the aquifer was raised as a result of an understanding that MOE had expressed this concern about another project (Dufferin Wind was the project noted). The Project Team indicated that there was no drilling associated with the transmission poles. The Project Team used a concrete foundation and transmission poles were attached to this foundation above ground level.

Decommissioning

- **TIMING FOR DECOMMISSIONING**— The CLC asked about the decommissioning process. The Project Team explained that power purchase agreements under the Green Energy Act are for 20 years. Actual decommissioning timing, or project extension beyond the 20 years will depend in part on future market conditions. The Project Team indicated that the Grand Renewable Energy Project has 20 year agreements with landowners with the option to extend these agreements.
- **FUTURE AGRICULTURAL USE & WATER RUNOFF**—The CLC is concerned that the solar facility has significantly changed the character of the soil and that no rehabilitation will be possible for farmers. Greg Rossetti of Bondfield Construction informed the CLC that topsoil is removed prior to grading and replaced in a more even layer and that the result should be a minimum of 8 inches of topsoil across the solar facility upon decommissioning. The solar facility grading will also generally maintain pre-construction run-off conditions.
- **GROUND COVER FOR THE SOLAR FACILITY** – Greg Rossetti stated that groundcover for the solar facility will be seeded. The CLC asked whether animals can graze the area. The Project Team indicated that this is not possible.

HOW CAN WE KEEP THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN?

COMMUNICATING DURING OPERATION

Consultation and communication during operation is important to keep the community informed.

The CLC made the following suggestions for keeping the community informed during project operation:

- Post updates in the Sachem Post, Dunville Free Press & Haldimand Press;
- Use the project website and ensure it is updated with the correct contact information;
- Make sure that there is a proactive effort to check in with MOE regarding project concerns; and
- Provide a hotline number for questions and concerns. The CLC commented that it is important for people to be able to easily access Project Team members.

Contact for the remainder of construction phase

Prior to commercial operation, the following are the primary points of contact.

- Wind Project—Ariel Bautista (Samsung Renewable Energy, Project Development Manager)
email: ariel.bautista@samsungrenewableenergy.ca
- Solar Project— David Oxtoby (CarbonFree Technology Inc.)
email: doxtoby@carbonfree.com (647 282-3269)

Contact for the operation phase

- An operations office phone number and a website will be established for the operations phase of the Project. Signage will be installed to indicate the operations office location.

Action: The phone number for the operations building will be distributed to the CLC and others once it is available.