Meeting Summary Report

City of Kingston Public Consultation	
Wednesday, June 3, 2015	**6:00pm – 8:00pm**
Meeting Location	Matthew J. Dawe Royal Canadian Legion 4034 Bath Road Kingston, ON K7M 4Y4
Attendees	25 community members (of which 19 signed in), including one councillor Ward 3 (Ernestown) from the Township of Loyalist Six Registered Proponent project team members *With personal information removed in accordance with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, 2000.*
Overview of the Meeting	
	The meeting was open format. Community members were welcome to come at any time, view the publicly displayed material, and ask questions.
Comments and Concerns	
Construction/traffic/damage of roadways during construction	**Community Member #1**: • Concerned about construction traffic near Burbrook Road. Would prefer to have trucks use Highway 38 or alternative route to avoid the quiet neighbourhood. **Community Member #2:** • Concerned about the potential road destruction and subsequent repairs post-construction. **Proponent's Response:** Renewable energy projects require some time to be built and as such, require the use of local roadways adding some additional traffic to the community. Solar projects of a large scale (over 10 MW) tend to take approximately nine to 12 months to construct. All construction is approved via the Ontario Government's Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process and the local municipality prior to work commencing.
Drainage, Well water and ground water contamination	**Community Member #4**: • Concerns about the impact to well and ground water during the construction phase.

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	• Due to elevation of MajesticLight, the current property rainwater drains onto a neighbouring property, which is used to grow sod. Concerned about how this project will affect the amount and quality of rainwater and how it affects current sod production as well as future building site and sceptic site. **Proponent's Response:** Community interest and public scrutiny are common in relation to any land development and the potential threat to wells, ground and source water. To address these inquiries, the Government of Ontario requires all renewable energy projects to complete a Renewable Energy Approvals (REA) process. Through the REA process, proposals competing under the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) program must, upon awarding of a contract, meet extremely strenuous criteria relating to the environment. This applies to all aspects of the environment, from water sources to flora and fauna. Before construction of a project can even begin, all aspects of the Ontario REA process must be met, or the project does not get built. In addition, flooding and drainage are often areas of interest to residents living in proximity to renewable energy projects. It is for this reason that the Government of Ontario has created a storm water management plan to ensure that drainage is properly routed, ensuring flooding is kept to a minimum. Proposals competing under the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) program must, upon awarding of a contract, meet extremely strenuous criteria relating to the environment. This applies to all aspects of the environment, from water sources to flora and fauna. It also includes a storm water management plan to speak to drainage and flooding concerns. All aspects of the Government of Ontario's Renewable Energy Approval (REA), including a storm water management plan, must be met, or the project does not get built.
Visual Impact	**Community Member #**3: • Concerned about the visual impact of the project. **Proponent's Response:**

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	Visual impact is one of the most frequent questions we receive from community members with regard to solar park development. Visual abatement is a key component of solar park development. While the park is being constructed, it is quite visible as the construction process calls for open space. However, once the construction phase is complete, we work with community members and local governments to ensure the integration of the solar park into the landscape. Using various techniques such as setbacks, land forming, strategic placement of mature trees and vegetation and fencing, the goal is to have the solar project nearly invisible to any passerby.
Glare from Solar Panels	**Community Member #4**: • Concerns about the impact of the glare from the south facing panels to the property south of the project. **<u>Proponent's Response</u>:** Often because of the nature of solar panel design, many scrutinize the glare as being an annoyance and dangerous to aircraft and birds. This is in fact a false statement. SkyPower is proud to have constructed the first solar park on airport lands in Canada. Showing that, in fact, no plane is distracted by the panels and that operation of an airport experiences no adverse effects due to solar panel proximity. The leading cause of glare at airports is the sun itself, especially when low on the horizon. It is in our interest to use non-reflective panels, as any light reflected is not absorbed and subsequently not produced into electricity. Additionally, no identified issues have been raised with any type of birds at our solar sites. Occasionally, some birds nest and care for their young under the panels. This area is safe from natural predators because of perimeter fencing and thus allows the birds to flourish. Inquiries Impact on birds and other fauna are looked at rigorously through the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process.