



# Meeting Summary Report

Township of Loyalist Public Consultation	
Tuesday June 2, 2015	6:00pm – 8:00pm
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Amherstview Community Hall 108 Amherst Drive, Odessa, ON K7N 1H9
<b>Attendees</b>	13 community members (of which 8 signed in)  Six Registered Proponent project team members  <i>All personal information removed in accordance with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, 2000.</i>
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	
<b>Construction/traffic/dust/noise during construction</b>	<p><b>Community Member #1:</b> Fed up with the current construction of solar projects by another developer.</p> <p><b>Community Member #2:</b> Based on the current construction of solar projects by another developer, concerns regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous construction noise between 7:30 am and 5:00 pm, including rock breaking and drilling</li> <li>• Construction traffic including the roads used (as well as trucks not using the designated road – large trucks exit Work Zone 1 by turning west rather than east)</li> <li>• Amount of dust in the air from tractor sweepers and trucks not using covers over their load</li> <li>• Lack of information and/or signage about the solar project</li> <li>• Community Member #2 would like MajesticLight to have signs posted with contact information for the public to reach the company</li> </ul>



# Meeting Summary Report

	<p><b>Community Member #3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Based on the current construction of solar projects by another developer, Community Member #3 is concerned about the amount of dust generated by construction</li><li>• Community Member #3's source of water in their home is through the collection of rainwater. The current construction of the solar projects by another developer has caused the contamination of this water</li><li>• Noise level during the construction phase</li></ul> <p><b><u>Proponent's Response:</u></b></p> <p>The construction phase of a solar energy project is a relatively brief period compared to the total lifespan of the project. During this construction phase, the use of local roadways, may add 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, whereas other fossil fuel generating facilities can take years to complete. All construction is approved by the Ontario Government's Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process and the local municipality prior to work commencing.</p> <p>In order to mitigate any potential contamination of the neighbouring landowner's rainwater collection system due to dust, the Registered Proponent is willing to work on case by case basis with the landowners to ensure that their concern with the rainwater collection is addressed. In addition, during construction as part of the Construction Plan to be approved in the REA process, there will be measures taken at the overall site level to curtail dust caused by construction of the solar project.</p> <p>It is understandable that some community members may express concern regarding the noise related to the construction of a renewable energy facility. Once grading and levelling of the site is complete, other than the creation of piles (holes in the ground for support racking) with a boring machine, construction is relatively simple and as such, the sound impact is minimal. The majority of installation is conducted by hand using a screwdriver or drill. Once the solar project is built, the operation of the park requires only security and maintenance to visit the site as necessary.</p> <p>Noise studies are part the Ontario Government's Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process. Sound from the proposed project from offsite, and any other potential projects nearby, may not exceed 40 decibels, or</p>
--	--



# Meeting Summary Report

	<p>the equivalent of rustling leaves.</p>
<p><b>Well water and ground water contamination</b></p>	<p><b>Community Member #1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerned about the impact to well water (quality and amount) because of the project.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Proponent's Response:</u></b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 rigorous 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 will not be built.</p>
<p><b>Visual Impact</b></p>	<p><b>Community Member #2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerned about the visual impact of the project. The dirt berm from another solar project on Unity Road currently under construction by another solar developer does not sufficiently hide the solar farm from public road view. As a result, it looks like an industrial operation in a rural setting with nothing to mitigate the view.</li> <li>Noticed that the majority of the planted cedars at an existing solar project near Elginburg have died.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Proponent's Response:</u></b></p> <p>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, typically a period of approximately nine to twelve months, the solar park can be quite visible as the construction process calls for open space. However, once the construction phase is</p>



# Meeting Summary Report

	<p>complete, we work with community members as well as local governments to ensure the integration of the solar park into the landscape. Through the use of various techniques such as setbacks, land forming, strategic placement of mature trees, vegetation and fencing, our goal is for the solar project to be inconspicuous to any passerby.</p>
--	--