

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your email. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) welcomes input and feedback from stakeholders and communities about proposed electricity projects that affect them. Hearing from our stakeholders is integral to our commitment to continuing to improve the siting of future electricity infrastructure across the province, including improving municipal and community participation in the process.

The Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) is a competitive process for the procurement of large renewable energy projects. The LRP I Request for Proposals (RFP) has been designed to strike a balance between early community engagement and achieving value for ratepayers. It is an important component of Ontario's ongoing commitment to building a cleaner and more sustainable energy system.

Stakeholder and community engagement has been a key component in the development of the LRP. The framework for the RFP, including the community and municipal engagement requirements, was developed by the IESO with consideration of the extensive feedback received from stakeholders including the public, municipalities and Aboriginal communities during the broad stakeholder engagement activities conducted in 2013 and 2014.

At this stage of the process, each proposed project is competing with all other proposed projects to be offered an LRP I contract, which would allow for its development, construction and operation. The deadline for proposal submissions was September 1, 2015. The IESO is currently evaluating the proposal submission packages and will be communicating the results when the process is complete. This competitive procurement is adhering to robust and transparent public procurement practices and each proposal will be evaluated against the criteria set out in the LRP I RFP. Therefore, no other feedback or information will be considered as part of the review of proposals.

The LRP I RFP includes mandatory community engagement requirements, including the development of a community engagement plan, a minimum of one public information meeting, and best efforts to hold at least one meeting with local officials. In addition to the mandatory requirements, points are awarded to proposals that demonstrate community engagement over and above the mandatory requirements. These are optional measures focused on engagement and participation, and are intended to promote relationship-building between the developer and the local community while providing additional opportunities for local needs and considerations to be identified and addressed. To ensure administrative transparency, and with consideration of feedback, the LRP I RFP was designed to recognize community support through support of the municipality or Aboriginal community (through a support resolution or other agreement) and immediate neighbours.

The LRP provides opportunities for communities to participate in the development of renewable energy projects. Proponents in the LRP process must engage with communities, demonstrate site and resource due diligence, and tailor a Community Engagement Plan unique to each large renewable project.

It is incumbent upon all registered proponents to ensure they are aware of and can meet all applicable regulatory requirements necessary for the development, construction and operation of their proposed facility should they be successful in receiving a contract. Depending on the type of project, regulatory approvals may include receiving a Renewable Energy Approval (REA), which includes mandatory community engagement and information sharing. Questions related to the REA or other Ontario environmental requirements should be directed to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change: <http://www.ontario.ca/ministry-environment-and-climate-change>.

Should you have questions or concerns about the activities of a registered proponent in relation to their proposed project, you are encouraged to contact the proponent directly to make them aware of your concerns. Contact details for registered proponents have been posted on the LRP website at www.ieso.ca/lrp.

We appreciate that some members of the public may have concerns around the involvement of certain technologies in this procurement or the proposed siting and placement of projects. These comments are being captured for consideration in future procurements. Following the completion of the LRP I procurement, the IESO has been directed by the Minister of Energy to engage with stakeholders, municipalities, and Aboriginal communities to ensure that any lessons learned and opportunities for improvement are taken into account before initiating any subsequent LRP procurement. We would encourage you to subscribe to the IESO's LRP program updates here, <http://powerauthority.on.ca/subscribe-updates>, to ensure you are notified of the planned LRP engagement in 2016.

Should you have any general questions regarding renewable energy development in Ontario, you can also contact the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office at the Ministry of Energy at REFO@ontario.ca or by phone at 1-877-440-7336 (416-212-6582 within the GTA).

We thank you for your submission and interest in the LRP process.

The LRP Team

Market & Resource Development

Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)

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On January 1, 2015, the Ontario Power Authority merged with the Independent Electricity System Operator. Please note the new email address.