

MULTI-MUNICIPAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP
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November 23, 2023

Independent Electricity System Operator
1600-120 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 1T1
Via email: engagement@ieso.ca

Re: LTI-RFP Municipal Support Requirements across Municipal Boundaries

Attention: IESO Community and Regional Engagement

We are in receipt of your response to our feedback dated October 18, 2023.

The letter states that municipal support is required to be submitted for each project or within 18 months of a contract being issued. However, recent proposals have raised further concerns with this vague requirement where projects are in close proximity to neighbouring municipalities.

To add context to this concern, consider the siting location of the Bruce Trail/Orchard Storage Project. Although the host municipality is the Municipality of Meaford, the City of Owen Sound as well of the Township of Georgian Bluffs are also affected by the proposal. Fire protection and emergency services to the proposed site are not provided by the Municipality of Meaford and are provided by an inter-township fire protection agreement that involves the Township of Georgian Bluffs and connection to the grid for the project is in the City of Owen Sound, yet the public meeting was held in Bognor, a small village over 15 km away from the site.

A similar proposal in the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie is directly adjacent to the Grey-Bruce Line, which is the border between upper-tier counties of Grey and Bruce and the Township of Chatsworth is a direct neighbour. The public meeting was held in the Village of Tara, within Arran-Elderslie and no notification was provided to adjacent stakeholder. Similar concerns regarding fire suppression and the adverse affects that a failure at this site have could have on the neighbouring municipalities should be a required consideration during the community engagement process.

As a result, the MMEWG has passed the following resolution:

Thursday, November 16, 2023
Resolution No. MMEWG-2023-44

Moved by: Jim Hanna - Township of Huron Kinloss
Seconded by: Mark Davis - Municipality of Arran-Elderslie - Citizen Appointee

Be It Resolved that the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group hereby directs that a response to the IESO be drafted regarding the public meeting requirements and municipal support requirements across municipal borders where projects are within 1500 metres of a neighbouring municipality and that the letter be copied to the Minister of Energy, Grey and Bruce Counties, their lower tiered municipalities and the Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

The MMEWG recognizes that the submission deadline is approaching quickly, however, as per the letter provided to us, municipal support can be submitted within 18 months of a contract being issued and we strongly urge the IESO to require municipal support from neighbouring municipalities within 1500 metres of a BESS site.

Regards,

p.p. 

Tom Allwood,
Chair, Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group
Councillor, Municipality of Grey Highlands

c. Hon. Todd Smith, Minister of Energy
Municipalities in Grey and Bruce County
Association of Municipalities of Ontario