

Nanticoke Solar

Six Nations Community Engagement Report

Prepared by: Wade Griffin – Projects Manager

April 27, 2017

Executive Summary

On April 5th SNGRDC, in cooperation with Ontario Power Generation (OPG), held a community engagement session that ran from 5pm to 8pm on the Nanticoke Solar Project (NSP).

The participation level for NSP engagement process consisted of seven (7) community participants at one (1) engagement session. The session was attended by eight (8) members from SNGRDC and the Consultation and Accommodation Process Team (CAP team). One (1) comment sheet was completed.

The comments gathered throughout the process indicate that there is general support for the project. Most Community concerns revolve around the Archeological Assessment (how it was done, what did they find, and how would they be stored), Community Benefits (monetary and social), and about the Application for Contracts/Jobs process for Community Members.

Community Engagement Team

Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation

Wade Griffin – Projects Manager

Tabitha Curley – Corporate Communications Officer

Nicole Kohoko – Director of Corporate Affairs

Steve Morton – Director of Projects

Ontario Power Generation

Anthony Zlahtic – Director of Business Development (Thermal)

Gillian MacLeod – Sr. Environmental Advisor

Simon Gill – Corporate Business Development

Impact on Rights

The Nanticoke Solar Project (NSP) site is located within the 1701 Fort Albany (NANFAN) Treaty Lands. The 1701 Fort Albany (NANFAN) Treaty are constitutionally protected treaty rights (Section 35 (1) of Canada's Constitution Act, 1982) between the Imperial Crown and the Five Nations, which would become Six Nations, upon acceptance of the Tuscarora Nation into the Confederacy. The NANFAN Treaty was to ensure the right for Six Nations to freely pursue their economic livelihood utilizing the natural resources within lands that extend throughout central and southwestern Ontario.

Six Nations maintains that rights extend beyond hunting, fishing and gathering for subsistence, as these activities were traditionally a means of economic livelihood as well as community subsistence. The NSP utilizes land and natural resources that Six Nations has a treaty entitlement to therefore the economic impact should be shared with the rights holders of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

Methodology

The community engagement strategy for the NSP was completed within the months of March and April 2017. One engagement session (April 5) was organized at the Six Nations Tourism Building. This session was organized to inform the community of the project.

A write in period was open from Wednesday, March 22, 2017 until Wednesday, April 19, 2017 to compliment the engagement session. The write in period was advertised two additional weeks in the Two Row Times and Turtle Island News.

Advertisements ran in the Two Row Times and Turtle Island News for 2 weeks promoting both the engagement session and the write in period.

Information cards were also mailed to all Six Nations households. Comments could also be submitted electronically via the website SNFuture.com

Comment Cards

The comment cards were created to assist the project team in creating awareness of engagement process and providing opportunity to capture comments. The comment cards provided a summary of the Nanticoke Solar Project, the community benefits for the Six Nations community, a listing of the community engagement session, and contact information.

Received comments cards are attached as Appendix A.

Website – www.SNFuture.com

The website was designed to share information with all members of Six Nations community, inform them of current projects and involve them in the decision-making process. The website contained the project information, meeting date, a link to the Nanticoke Solar webpage with the project studies, contact information for the engagement lead and a comment section.

Meeting

The meeting was held at the Tourism Building and was an “Open House” meeting.

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 – 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Six Nations Tourism – Assembly Room

The meeting was attended by seven (7) community members, two (2) Board members (Dr. Sabrina Saunders and Barbara-Helen Hill), three (3) OPG members (Anthony Zlahtic, Gillian MacLeod and Simon Gill), two (2) press (Lynda Powless and Chris Pimentel), a CAP Team Member (Paul General), plus five (5) SNGRDC Members including the President/CEO. One (1) comment card was received simply stating “Good Luck”. There were three (3) main areas of concern discussed thought the open house; Archeological Assessment, Benefits to the Community, and Application for Contracts and Jobs.

- 1) **Archeological Assessment:** Regardless of the project, there is always considerable concern about the archeological assessment and making sure any findings are handled properly. Questions were raised about care and control of the artifacts as well as nature of the findings.
- 2) **Benefits to the Community:** Some concern was brought forward regarding how the project was being financed. There were also questions about how much money SNGRDC would receive over the term of the agreement and how this figure was calculated. Additionally, there were questions raised about what will happen to the project after the Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) contract ends.
- 3) **Applications for Contracts/Jobs:** There were several questions regarding the potential contracts and jobs that could be offered during this project. Most of these questions were about how to apply and whom to apply to.

The overall feel was supportive and there were few questions from the press after the session.

Analysis

The community engagement session was sparsely attended. The write in period received only one comment card.

There are assumptions that could be made as to why participation is low. With experience in previous solar project engagements, it has become evident that the community generally accepts and agrees with the principles of solar development. Another possibility thought is that community members still are unaware of the engagement process, and therefore the project being discussed.

Regardless of the assumption, actions need to be taken to determine at what level and how often community members would like to be involved in the decision-making process. While the participation was low, we do know from the previous projects that solar and wind projects are generally supported by the community. Renewable energy has proven to be a reliable income stream from past projects.

These revenues have provided the ability to create legacy future development plans for the community.

SNGRDC will continue to seek feedback through an open and transparent engagement process that will inform future negotiations to reach the possible agreement for Six Nations.

Conclusion

That Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation proceed with the project, as it appears the Six Nations community is generally accepting of the project.

Appendix A

A Community Information Session for Six Nations Community Members



Your Comments It's Our Community's Future. Let's Talk About It.

Good Luck
RJ

SNCC

Thank

Contact Information

Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Sex: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ Six Nations
Community
Member

☐ Please contact me regarding future projects and/or
engagement sessions.

☐ Non-Six Nations
Community
Member

All comments must be submitted by Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

To submit comments: In-person, please drop off comment card in the black mailbox outside the Six Nations Tourism Office (2498 Chiefswood Rd.); Electronically, please complete the electronic form on www.snfuture.com