

Request for Decision

Solar Power Network – Valley East Long Term Care Centre Inc. (Jarlette Health Services) Rooftop Power Project in Val Caron

Presented To:	Planning Committee
Presented:	Monday, Oct 22, 2012
Report Date	Wednesday, Oct 03, 2012
Type:	Routine Management Reports

Recommendation

WHEREAS Solar Power Network (the “Applicant”) proposes to construct and operate a rooftop solar photovoltaic project upon receipt of a FIT Contract from the Ontario Power Authority (the “Project”) at the Valley East Long Term Care Centre, 2100 Main Street in Val Caron (the “Property”) under the Province’s FIT Program.

AND WHEREAS the Application has requested that Council of the City of Greater Sudbury indicate by resolution Council’s support for the construction and operation of the Project on the Property. AND WHEREAS, pursuant to the rules governing the FIT Program (the “FIT Rules”), Applications whose Projects receive the formal support of Municipalities will be awarded Priority Points, which may result in the Applicant being offered a FIT Contract prior to other persons applying for FIT Contracts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council of the City of Greater Sudbury supports in principle the construction and operation of the Project on the Property in accordance with all applicable laws. This resolution’s sole purpose is to enable the Applicant to receive Priority Points under the FIT Program and may not be used for the purpose of any other form of municipal approval in relation to the Application or Project or any other purpose.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Stephen Monet
Manager of Environmental Planning Initiatives
Digitally Signed Oct 3, 12

Reviewed By

Paul Baskcomb
Director of Planning Services
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Recommended by the Department

Bill Lautenbach
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Recommended by the C.A.O.

Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer
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Province of Ontario Renewable Energy Initiatives

The *Green Energy Act* (the “Act”) came into effect in 2009. The Act addresses energy efficiency, energy conservation and demand management, and the promotion of renewable energy technologies. Renewable energy sources include: wind, waterpower, biomass, biogas, landfill gas, solar photovoltaic, and geothermal. The Act removes Planning Act authority over renewable energy projects. The Building Code Act remains applicable law and, as such, building permits are required depending on the size of the project.

In 2009, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) released a Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program whose purpose was to encourage renewable power generation through a guaranteed pricing structure for renewable electricity production. It included standardized program rules, prices and contracts for those interested in developing a qualifying renewable energy project.

In October 2011 a review of the FIT program rules was announced. In August 2012, the OPA posted final FIT 2.0 Rules. Under the new rules, projects will be prioritized according to the number of 'points' they earn. One way in which a project may earn points is through a motion of support from the Council of the municipality in which the project is located. The rules allow Councils to indicate their support on a project-by-project basis, or by adopting a blanket support motion on a technology-specific basis. The OPA's support motions for both alternatives clearly states that the motion's sole purpose is to enable the applicant to receive priority points under the FIT Program and may not be used for the purpose of any other form of municipal approval in relation to the application or project or any other purpose.

The increased local supply of energy derived from renewable sources is one of the key objectives of the City's EarthCare Sudbury Action Plan. On June 12, 2012, Council passed a motion (R-18) that provides blanket support in principle to community-based power projects. Private solar photovoltaic, however, are not included in this resolution, thus requiring Council support on a project-by-project basis.

Solar Power Network Request for Council Resolution

Solar Power Network (SPN) is proposing to develop a rooftop solar photovoltaic project measuring 22,400 sq.ft. at the Valley East Long Term Care Centre, 2100 Main Street in Val Caron. The project, which will be scheduled to generate 233.3 kW, will be using state-of-the-art solar panels manufactured in Ontario by SLK Solar. This project will meet or exceed the Domestic Contents requirements of the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) Program.

SPN is seeking a resolution from City Council offering support for the project to enable SPN to receive priority points under the FIT Program.

SPN has been engaged in roof top solar since 2009 and currently hold 34 OPA contracts or 10 MWs of power generation capability. During the 2012 application window SPN will be tabling over 300 applications or over 100 MW in production projects, making it one of the largest roof top solar energy companies in Ontario.

SPN is a completely Canadian, privately funded company. SPN is committed to local jobs and local commerce. This company uses panels manufactured in Ontario, as well as locally built mounting systems and inverters. SPN also hires from local talent shops and boast a completely resident Canadian executive team.

SPN is requesting that Council indicate by resolution their support for the construction and operation of the project on the property described above.