

IESO LRP1 Review Input – North Frontenac

Mayor Ron Higgins of North Frontenac would like all interested parties to know that North Frontenac has not changed its position with regards to renewable energy projects and in fact will be addressing this issue with vigour over the next year. Our first step is to address issues with the IESO RFP process due to the short timeline for input. Our second priority is to address the issues identified in the position paper with regards to lack of collaboration from the Ministries involved with Municipalities and issues and legalities related to the Green Energy Act.

North Frontenac has been, and will be, engaging all interested municipalities and organizations to fight this issue on a common front.

On March 18 2016 North Frontenac passed a resolution requesting that the criteria for Municipal support for renewable energy projects be changed from the scoring criteria to be a mandatory requirement in the request for proposal process for future LRP projects.

This resolution will be passed on to the IESO, Minister of Energy, AMO and ROMA. In addition North Frontenac will be asking all Ontario Municipalities to support our resolution.

The resolution reads;

Whereas:

The Independent Electrical System Operator has requested input on the RFP process used to award renewable energy contracts; and,

Whereas:

The government indicated that new contracts would be directed to willing host communities with the Minister of Energy indicating on March 7 that it would be 'almost impossible' for a contract to be granted under the current process without municipal agreement; and,

Whereas:

Four of the six contracts announced on March 10 2016 did not have municipal support for the project; and,

Whereas:

The current process does not meet the government's standards for openness and transparency because municipal Councils are asked to support power projects based on little or no detail and further, the recipient municipalities are unable to determine the basis on which individual contracts were awarded; and,

Whereas:

The province has not demonstrated that renewable energy projects are of sufficient strategic importance in meeting Ontario's electricity generation requirements and/or carbon emission reduction targets to warrant the province taking action to override municipal decisions;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of North Frontenac requests:

1. That the Municipal Support Resolution become a mandatory requirement in the IESO process;
2. That the rules be amended to require that the resolution related to this support must be considered in an open Council meeting held after the community engagement meeting organized by the proponent;
3. That full details of the project, including siting of project elements and site consideration reports, are required to be made available at the community engagement meeting and to the Council before the resolution is considered;
4. That the terms of any municipal agreement related to the project also need be discussed In open Council and that such agreements cannot contain terms that limit the municipality's ability to exercise Municipal Act powers relative to the project;
5. That the process includes the requirement for the municipality to provide comments on the project directly to the IESO;
6. That any points for Aboriginal participation in a given power project be limited to the First Nation who has a comprehensive claim on the land where the project will be built;
7. That any announcement of the successful bidders includes an explanation of the points awarded to each bid.