

### **Appendix C**

**Information from First Public Meeting** 



## Northland Power

# Welcomes You to the First Public Meeting

for the Abitibi Solar Project Empire Solar Project and Martin's Meadows Solar Project

Wednesday, July 27, 2011 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm Tim Horton's Event Centre, 7 Tim Horton Drive Cochrane, Ontario



## Purpose of this Public Meeting

A public meeting to solicit stakeholder input is an important aspect of the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process and project planning.

This public meeting provides an opportunity to:

- Gain further understanding about Northland Power's proposed solar energy projects in your area
- Obtain information about the REA Process
- Ask questions regarding the proposed Projects
- Raise concerns or issues regarding the proposed Projects

## HOW can I provide comments or concerns?

A variety of methods are available for providing comments or concerns. You can:

- 1. Fill out a comment form provided at this public meeting. This form can also be used to register your name and mailing address so you are included on the Project mailing lists.
- 2. Discuss your comments or concerns with one of the representatives of Northland Power or Hatch present at this public meeting.
- 3. Contact the Environmental Coordinator for the Project via the following information:

Sean Male, MSc

**Environmental Coordinator** 

Hatch Ltd.

Address: 4342 Queen Street, Suite 500

Niagara Falls, Ontario,

L2E 7J7

Phone: 905-374-0701 Ext 5280

Fax: 905-374-1157 Email: smale@hatch.ca

For more information please visit:

www.northlandpower.ca



## **Northland Power**

Northland Power develops and operates clean and green power generation projects, mainly in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, with Saskatchewan being added to that list shortly. Our facilities produce about 900 MW of electricity. Northland Power has been in business since 1987 and has been publicly traded since 1997.

Sustainability is a core value at Northland Power. All of our development efforts and operational practices focus on providing long term benefits to our customers, investors, employees, communities and partners.

#### For Northland Power, sustainability has many dimensions:

Environmental: Northland Power was founded on the belief that clean and green energy sources are vital to the future of our planet. Our construction and operational practices are engineered to meet the highest environmental standards, even in jurisdictions where lower standards are legislated.

**Community:** Northland Power takes an active interest in its host communities, to ensure they remain vibrant, healthy places to live.

**Operational:** Northland Power maintains and reinvests constantly in their operating assets to achieve maximum efficiency and economic life.

Health and Safety: Ensuring that our staff has the knowledge, tools and time to work safely is Northland's first priority. Our culture of safety, respect and independence helps to ensure we attract and retain the people that we need to perform.

**Financial:** Northland Power consistently chooses long term success over short term gain. Northland Power only pursues projects that meet strict return thresholds and have creditworthy customers. As a result, we have paid stable monthly dividends since 1997.



Northland Power has retained Hatch Ltd. to undertake the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process, subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09. Hatch is an Ontario-based consulting, engineering and management company with operations worldwide and a reputation for excellence acquired over 80 years of continuous service to its clients. Hatch will undertake the REA process from its Niagara Falls, Ontario office.



## Solar Technology

A solar photovoltaic (PV) module (or panel, as they are often called) transforms the suns energy into electrical energy. Silicon, a semi-conductor, is the material that transforms a ray of sunshine into electricity. The silicon is located within a grid (commonly made of metal) that conducts electricity. When the sunlight hits the silicon, electrons flow from the silicon into the grid, thereby producing electricity. The silicon and metallic grid are located beneath a layer of glass to provide weather protection. The glass has a special coating applied to maximize the capture of sunlight by the panel, thereby reducing glare.

#### Advantages of Solar Energy

Solar power has a multitude of advantages compared to most other power generation technologies.

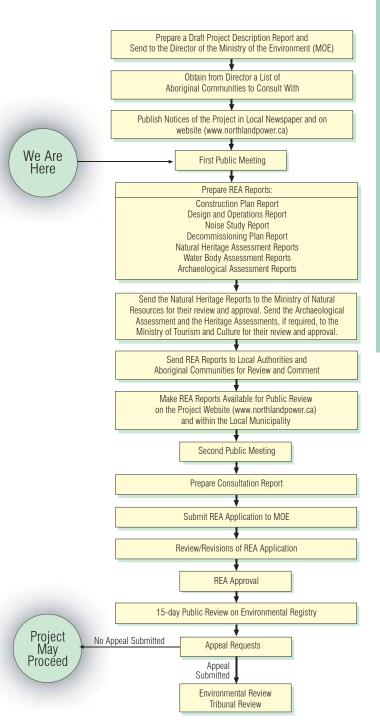
- First and foremost, the fuel is free. As the cost of many fossil fuels is expected to increase in the future, having solar energy on the grid at a set price will give greater stability to future energy prices.
- Another key benefit is the absence of any green house gas emissions and other pollutants. This ensures that the local community will not have to live with poor air quality or noxious odours.
- Solar PV systems are comprised of safe, common materials that will not affect the lands on which they are located, allowing for easy remediation upon decommissioning.
- Most solar PV systems have no moving parts, unlike almost all other power generation technologies. Having no moving parts reduces the environmental impact, maintenance costs, and noise levels of this type of power generation,
- There is a natural supply/demand match that is inherent to solar power, as the sun rises and sets in parallel with society's general daily electricity demand pattern. This helps mitigate the need for the development of other technologies that traditionally meet peak electricity demand.



The Ontario Power Authority awarded 184 FIT contracts to renewable power developers in Ontario on April 8, 2010. Northland Power was awarded a total of 13 contracts for proposed solar ground-mount developments throughout the province. These projects are currently proceeding through the REA process.







## Renewable Energy Approval Process

The proposed Project is subject to the (REA) process, subject to the provisions of Part V.0.1 of the Environmental Protection Act and Ontario Regulation 359/09. The REA process entails consideration of environmental aspects, including natural heritage features and water bodies, as well as heritage and archaeological resources. In addition, the REA process includes public, government agency and First Nation consultation.

The main components of the REA process are shown in the flow diagram.



## Abitibi Solar Project

#### **Project Location**

The proposed Project is located on Lots 14,15 Concession 8, northeast of the Town of Cochrane. The proposed Project, if approved, will be constructed on privately owned lands.

#### **Project Description**

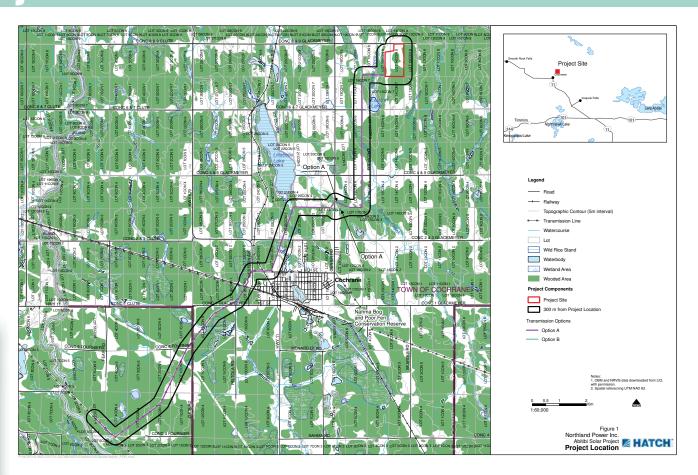
The proposed Abitibi Solar Project is considered to be a Class 3 solar facility, as defined under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09. Class 3 solar facilities are defined as having a name plate capacity of 10 kilowatts (kW) or greater and the solar panels are mounted on the ground. Specifically, this proposed Project has a nameplate capacity of 10MW (ac).

The proposed Project will use crystalline technology photovoltaic (PV) panels installed on ground-mounted rack structures made of steel and aluminum. The panels will be tilted and fixed in place (i.e., they will not move to track the sun). The project will consist of approximately 50,000 panels and will be designed to optimize energy production.

#### Project Schedule – Abitibi Solar Project

FIT Application – November 2009
Submission of Project Description to MOE – April 2010
FIT Contract Award – April 2010
First Public Meeting – July 2011
Second Public Meeting – November 2011
REA Application Submission – December 2011
REA Received – May 2012
Start of Construction – May 2012
Commercial Operation Date – December 2012

For more information regarding this Project please visit the Project website at northlandpower.ca/abitibi.





## Abitibi Solar Project

#### **Environmental Features**

