



Report to Council

Report Number: PLA-1-2024-2

Subject: REPORT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

Prepared by: Guylain Lafleche, Director of Planning Department

Revised by: Josée Brizard, CAO/Clerk

Date of the meeting: February 12th, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

On September 25th, 2023, Council passed resolution 359-2023, recommending the Planning Department to proceed with hiring WSP Consultants to establish a memo on how to regulate the establishment of future Large Scale renewable facility, including Windmills and Battery Storage.

On December 1st, 2023, the Planning Department received a report from WSP, reviewing the policies of the UCPR Official Plan 2022 and explaining options for regulating the establishment of renewable energy structures.

On January 15th, 2024, the Planning Department presented the draft report on renewable energy structures to the Council. No comments were submitted. The Planning Department had prepared an interim by-law to prohibit renewable energy structures until the adoption of the new zoning by-law of the municipality.

DISCUSSION:

During January 15th, 2024 presentation, it was raised by a member of Council that the battery energy storage system (BESS) should be prohibited even though it wasn't in relation or accessory with a renewable energy project.

We have done some research on BESS and one was proposed on Skye Road on the North Glengarry Township side. This BESS would just store the excess electricity production over the existing grid and redistribute it during peak hours. It is not in relation with a renewable energy project. (We have a copy of the presentation)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends finalizing the draft report from WSP and establishing new provisions to regulate the location of all "Large scale renewable energy projects" through the zoning by-law process, that will be done over the next year.

The Department also recommend including BESS within this interim control by-law until we have new provisions for BESS and Large-Scale renewable energy projects.

Theses recommendations are for the interim control by-law and not for the provisions of the future zoning by-law.

We have prepared two drafts copies of an interim control By-law (4-2024) for your review (Annexes 1& 2).

Guylain Lafleche, MCIP, RPP
Director of Planning

CORPORATION OF THE NATION MUNICIPALITY

BY-LAW NO. 4-2024

BEING A BY-LAW PASSED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 38 OF THE PLANNING ACT, R.S.O. 1990, AS AMENDED TO ESTABLISH INTERIM CONTROL PROVISIONS FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE NATION TO PROHIBIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW LARGE SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE APPROPRIATE COMPLETION OF FURTHER RESEARCH AND CONSULTATIONS.

WHEREAS Section 38.(1) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 as amended, permits the Council of a municipality to pass an Interim Control By-Law where Council has directed that a review or study be undertaken in respect of land use planning policies and regulations within the municipality or and defined areas thereof;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of The Nation passed a resolution directing the necessary research and consultation be undertaken with respect to developing land use planning policies and regulations concerning new large scale “renewable energy facilities” on all lands located within The Nation Municipality.

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of The Nation deems it appropriate to now enact such an Interim Control By-law, in order to ensure that any new large scale “renewable energy facilities” and battery storage facility are appropriately situated and regulated within the Municipality;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of The Nation enacts as follows:

1) THAT in this By-law the following definitions shall apply:

-“Battery storage facility” means a battery storage facilities, or battery energy storage systems (BESS) or similar devices that enable energy from renewable sources, like solar and wind, to be stored and then released when power is needed most.

-“renewable energy facility” means a new large scale generation facility that generates electricity from any renewable energy sources and that meets such criteria as may be prescribed by regulation and includes associated or ancillary equipment, systems and technologies as may be prescribed by regulation and also include battery storage facilities, but does not include an associated waste disposal site, unless the site is prescribed by regulation for the purposes of this definition;

-“renewable energy project” means the construction, installation, use, operation, changing or retiring of a new large scale renewable energy generation facility.

-“Solar Farm Project” means a commercial project at which one or more photovoltaic collector panels or devices use light to generate electricity and is on a stand-alone structure. This does not include the project installed on existing structures.

- 2) That no new battery storage facility, renewable energy facility, renewable energy project or solar farm project shall be permitted on any lands within The Nation Municipality for a period of 12 months.

**READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED IN OPEN COUNCIL THIS
12th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024.**

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-“Battery storage facility” means a battery storage facilities, or battery energy storage systems (BESS) or similar devices that enable energy from renewable sources, like solar and wind, to be stored and then released when power is needed most. (RED OUT)

-“renewable energy facility” means a new large scale generation facility that generates electricity from any renewable energy sources and that meets such criteria as may be prescribed by regulation and includes associated or ancillary equipment, systems and technologies as may be prescribed by regulation and also could include battery storage facilities, but does not include an associated waste disposal site, unless the site is prescribed by regulation for the purposes of this definition; (YELLOW IN)

-“renewable energy project” means the construction, installation, use, operation, changing or retiring of a new large scale renewable energy generation facility.

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