

COMMUNITY AND FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT PLAN

July 2017



WIND



SOLAR



ENERGY
STORAGE



TRANSMISSION

1 INTRODUCTION

As part of RES Canada’s sustained commitment to local communities and First Nations, this Community and First Nations Engagement Plan (CFNEP) was prepared to provide an overview of the company’s approach to engaging with various stakeholders when developing wind and solar projects. It should be noted that the Plan is, in virtually all project cases, combined to a thorough environmental assessment process which details environmental and social baselines of the project surroundings, impacts and mitigation strategies.

Different communities, stakeholders and First Nations have different expectations regarding the form, frequency and nature of consultation. As such, this CFNEP is intended to be a “living document” that outlines an engagement process that will likely change in response and adaptation to the feedback and expectations of the local communities and First Nations; it is also adapted to be project-specific. Through the process of engagement and consultation, and working closely with all stakeholders, the focus will be on developing the best possible project in close collaboration with the host community(ies) and local First Nations.

2 WHO IS RES CANADA?

Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc. (RES Canada) is a member of the Renewable Energy Systems Holdings Ltd. (RES Group), a firm dedicated solely to the development and construction of renewable projects, mainly wind and solar. RES was founded in 1981 and remains a subsidiary of the Sir Robert McAlpine Group, a family-owned civil engineering and construction company in business for over 134 years with over 2400 employees. Globally the RES Group is present in 14 countries and has undertaken 12,000 MW of renewable power.

RES is vertically integrated and offers all in-house expertise necessary to develop, build, and operate successful renewable energy projects.

RES has successfully developed very large, as well as small projects. RES' wind energy experience has been gained over involvement totalling over 8,000 MW of wind farm and solar capacity in North America alone. RES has grown to become one of North America's leading wind farm developers and constructors, participating in more than 10% of all installed wind power capacity in the US. This position ranks RES Americas second in the number of total megawatts constructed in North America.

In Canada, RES has successfully developed six large-scale wind power projects that were awarded long-term power purchase agreements under Hydro-Québec's 2005 Power Call, five in the 2008 Power Call and one project in the 2013 Power Call. 198 MW were also awarded under Ontario's Renewable Energy Supply process (constructed and commissioned in 2010).

RES Canada is also involved in other provinces of Canada, with a portfolio of over 2,000 MW of projects in various phases of development.

RES Canada's objective with its projects is to supply clean, renewable energy using state-of-the-art wind technology, while providing economic benefit to local communities and First Nations where projects are established.

3 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

Effective and thorough stakeholder engagement and consultation is vital to the success of a project. Keeping the community informed, giving the community and general stakeholders the opportunity to provide input, have discussions, and provide responses to concerns in a timely manner and above and beyond the opportunities under the mandated EA process are key objectives of our consultation plan. Feedback from the public, First Nations and from other stakeholders is highly valued and is viewed as a critical component to project planning and development. Through engagement and consultation activities, we hope to gain the trust of the community. Ultimately, the goal is for everyone interested to be well informed, to understand the project, and to be aware of the various benefits and impacts of such a development. The following concepts form the basis of our proposed engagement process.

Community Focus

We want to collaborate with a broad range of stakeholders and present opportunities for groups and individuals to provide feedback; if anyone has an interest in the project or has questions, we want to hear from them. That being said, we are mindful that the local community and First Nations sees the largest changes occur because of the introduction of the project. This can be a positive experience, through spin-off benefits of the project, or it can be seen as a major change, with a new facility being introduced to the area. We believe that meaningful and open dialogue is critical to the proper understanding and communication between proponent and host community, and this will be a primary focus of our efforts under this Plan. Through discussion and the preparation of the appropriate materials, feedback from the community can be vital to the overall improvement of site design and integration, appropriate project decision-making, issue resolution and ultimately mitigation and minimization of project impacts. First Nations will often undertake a Traditional Knowledge and/or a Traditional Land Use study, where appropriate, which will greatly help in understanding the land, especially on Crown lands or public lands which are considered part of First Nations territory.

We will look to consult with anyone interested in the project through a variety of engagement activities and forums, with a focus specifically on the local community and local First Nations, and will arrange for additional consultation activities as needed as the project advances.

Transparent Sharing of Information

We wish to provide accurate, specific information in the proper context and appropriate time in the process. Stakeholders need to understand what is being proposed and how the overall project development process proceeds. As the proponent representing the project, the aim is to be open and transparent about the project and the associated timelines and requirements, leading to the ultimate construction and operation of the facility. It is also noted that sometimes the information requested by a stakeholder is not available or is incomplete. In such

cases, the challenge is to communicate clearly as to why the information is not yet available, and to commit to providing the requested information in a timely manner once it does become available.

Meaningful and Timely Consultation

Engagement and consultation activities will be planned at appropriate stages of project advancement. As feedback is received, responses to stakeholder questions or follow up requests will be done in a thorough and meaningful manner, and will answer as directly as possible the question(s) being asked. We will aim to return all phone calls and emails in a timely and respectful manner. Detailed responses to calls, emails, and letters will be provided and documented clearly in the consultation record, always with the mindset to take any relevant information into consideration in the actual development and design of the project.

Variety in Engagement Opportunities

Consultation for a project can take many forms, and different people respond differently depending on the timing and venue of the engagement event. We are mindful to ensure that a variety of different events are held at a variety of times and places to ensure that everyone has reasonable access to learn about the project. This may mean that in some cases one-on-one consultation at a home or public place is appropriate, and in other cases a more formal open house event is the best venue. We will use a variety of communications strategies to engage with the public, First Nations and with more broad stakeholders such as open houses, informal information sessions, one-on-one meetings, phone calls, project mailings, newsletters, public advertisements and various stakeholder presentations.

4 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLANNING

Typically, the consultation process under a prescribed EA process is a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process lasting upwards of 12 to 24 months. The process will usually require clear and deliberate notification of at least two public meetings for the host municipalities, as well as providing baseline information on the project via a website and in accessible public places. Specific meetings with First Nations, usually guided by Chief and Council or an affiliated economic development corporation, are also held on demand.

As the project progresses, more and more detailed information is shared on the final design and assessment of the project, as it becomes available to us. What follows in this section and the next is a more detailed description of the key consultation activities and tasks to be undertaken with this project, which go above and beyond the minimum requirements outlined in the REA process. A preliminary schedule for these activities is provided below in section 7.

Identifying Project Stakeholders

A variety of individuals and groups may be interested in this project and consider themselves stakeholders. At a minimum, the EA process outlines local governmental and non-governmental groups, as well as local First Nation groups as stakeholders for the project. Furthermore, local landowners living in and around the project site are also key stakeholders. We encourage anyone interested in the project and wishing to become a stakeholder to contact us via our website or other means (see the contact section of this document) to stay informed about the project.

An initial mailing list will be established for the project and will continuously be improved as more individuals or groups want to be informed of the project. Individuals on the mailing list will receive a copy of public meeting notices, other events and other news about the project. The following list of individuals and groups consists of stakeholders applicable to this project for whom notification of a project meeting will automatically be provided:

- landowners in proximity of the project location;
- every assessed owner of property abutting a parcel of land on which the project is located;
- every First Nations group as per governmental listings to ensure proper distribution;
- local government (township, municipality, regional county, etc.) administrators;
- relevant staff from governmental departments, as applicable;
- companies operating oil and gas activities or other industrial activities in the vicinity of the project;
- the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and any other entities in compliance with the Radio Advisory Board of Canada guidelines; and
- the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Mobile Communications Services;

Identifying Landowners

For projects on private lands or in close proximity to private lands, significant effort is made to accurately identify local landowners and obtain the most relevant and accurate mailing addresses. Specifically, the following steps are typically taken:

- Properties abutting and within the 550 metre consultation zone of the project site and connection line are mapped and the property PINs are retrieved;
- The property PINs were then matched with the publicly available property assessment (tax) roll numbers;
- The tax roll numbers are then compared to the most recent annual mailing information at the municipality for municipal tax assessments.

Identifying First Nations Groups

Over and above RES' ability to identify affected First Nations groups through local contacts and general knowledge of project sites, First Nations are also identified by consulting provincial departments, where relevant to do so. Provincial departments can also provide guidance on First Nations consultation and requirements. These communities, as well as any other communities who express an interest in the project during the initial engagement period, are added to the project mailing list and are updated throughout the EA process, as applicable.

Notification

Information on the project and notification of certain consultation and engagement activities, such as public meetings are typically distributed through the following means:

- Newspaper notices
- Direct mailings
- Project website

5 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Public Community Meetings

The public meetings are held in host municipalities at a central and convenient location close to the project site. The meetings are typically conducted as casual open houses to share information with the people and to keep flexibility for people to get full access to some or all of the information over the entire time of the meeting. The meetings are generally held in the early evening, mid-week, to allow for maximum attendance. Information presented is commonly in the form of information panels, information 'stations' for key issues of concern, as well as audio visual information about typical project aspects such as the construction and operation of wind farms. Project materials, such as environmental reports, are made available.

Sufficient staff are on hand to converse with everyone who wishes to be engaged, and follow ups are scheduled in the event that people request further opportunities to learn and talk about the project. Feedback forms are circulated, but not mandatory, for attendees, and people are encouraged to take the time to communicate and express any comments or concerns they might have about the project. All information from meetings will also be made available on the project website.

Preliminary project information provided at the first public meeting will include:

- Clear information on the proponent;
- Descriptions of the project study area;
- Environmental and social considerations;
- An overview of the governmental EA process;
- Typical constraints to a wind project;
- Typical concerns with wind development;
- Next steps for the project and associated timelines; and
- Any other relevant information that might be requested through consultation that is specific to the project.

The feedback received is compiled and to the extent possible incorporated into the project design. Where relevant, additional follow up meetings with stakeholders will be carried out. In some cases, feedback received may not be practically applied to the project design, and in such cases at a minimum a follow up discussion or explanation with the reasoning behind the decision will be presented to the respective stakeholder.

Meeting with Project Communities

It is important to RES to be a good neighbour and work with the host communities. We will work with the host municipalities to develop road use agreements and to respect building permits and requirements. Furthermore, we want to work to ensure that the project is a net positive in the community, and does not cost the municipalities or taxpayers anything. All roads used and infrastructure needed will be built or upgraded, as needed, by the project. Nothing will be asked of the municipalities. Consultation will also be conducted with municipal officials to ensure that feedback from the municipalities on site access, infrastructure needs, and any upgrades required will be done in collaboration with the local government. Furthermore, we will consult on developing and finalizing a commitment to fund various sustainability initiatives within the local community. The goal is for consultation to be ongoing and collaborative, in order to garner feedback on the project development and design.

Other Consultation Activities

Other consultation activities, above and beyond the EA requirements, may be in a format or at a time that is more conducive for some local landowners and stakeholders. We believe that a varied option of activities and information is the best way to ensure that the project information is getting out to the most people possible. Other activities that may be used for consultation purposes outside of the EA process include:

- **Personal Engagement** – Meetings will be sought with people individually or in small groups allowing them to freely express their views and concerns directly to us. For example, having meetings at people's homes, or discretely at convenient places within the community provides some people extra access to information that cannot be obtained at a large public meeting setting. RES Canada has from time to time undertaken “door-knock” campaigns, where project location warrants it, to meet with individuals and families directly, in an informal fashion.
- **Information Sessions** – Smaller than the formal public meetings that may be mandated under the EA process, information sessions once again allow groups of people to get specific information about certain issues, without being flooded with superfluous information.
- **Newsletters** – A project newsletter is a good way to provide short term updates to local residents and stakeholders who want to know what the latest activities or updates for the project are, without the formality of a larger open house.
- **Tours** – In many cases, nothing can substitute for seeing a real project with your own eyes. A complementary tour of a wind farm can be set up for stakeholders and local residents who want to experience a project for themselves, first hand.
- **Phone Calls and Emails** – Having the opportunity for a brief discussion by email or phone can also be a powerful way to discuss and share information on the project. Our contact information can be found on all project documentation.

Project Website

Where relevant, RES Canada can set up a project-specific website for easy access to project information.

The following is some of the typical information that is posted on the project website:

- **Proponent Contact Information** – A clear mailing address, phone number and email address is present on the website to facilitate feedback and commentary.
- **RES Canada Community and First Nation Engagement Plan** – This plan, along with a project-specific engagement plan, will be posted on the project website continuously for stakeholders to review.
- **Project Information** – Mapping of the project area, relevant studies, updates, events and other key information will be posted and updated from time to time as the project evolves due to consultation feedback.
- **Notice of Public Meetings**
- **Frequently Asked Questions** – During consultation, common themes of questions arise, and an FAQ section on the website will attempt to address these concerns and questions. It is anticipated that the FAQ list will be updated and expanded frequently throughout the consultation process.
- **Supplemental Information** – Any relevant information to address concerns or commentary would also be posted to the website. Such information could include studies or other relevant 3rd party information on key wind power issues for stakeholders to review and consider.

Local Project Benefits

A key part of the consultation plan will be to consult on, develop, establish, and communicate project benefits to the local community. Outside of inherent project benefits such as project construction employment, increased municipal tax revenues, and local landowner rent, there are various additional benefits that can be established for the project. Supplemental benefits for this project could take the form of:

- **Vibrancy/Community Fund** – Separate from taxes, this funding would be established specifically for the local community to invest as they like in local initiatives.
- **Education & Training Bursaries** – Through the project, bursaries will be established for local residents who wish to get a specific diploma or certification in a field related to renewable energy and sustainability.
- **Special Projects Funding** – Fundraising initiative through the project for specific groups, plans or activities that align with sustainability and renewable energy within the community.
- **Other needs as requested by the community** – We are mindful not to close the door on any other special interest or need that may arise through the consultation process.