

# Meeting Summary Report

<b>*Township of Muskoka Lakes</b>	
<b>Wednesday, June 10, 2015</b>	<b>6:00pm – 8:00pm</b>
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Windermere Community Centre 2416 Windermere Road Windermere, ON P0B 1P0
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>12 community members, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two municipal councillors</li> <li>• Seven Registered Proponent project team members</li> <li>• No media</li> </ul> <p><i>All personal information removed in accordance with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, 2000.</i></p>
<b>Overview of the Meeting</b>	
	The meeting was open format. Community members were welcome to come at any time, view the publicly displayed material and ask questions.
<b>Comments and Concerns</b>	
<b>Natural habitats and animal migration patterns</b>	<p><b>Community Member #1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked: “Does the solar farm glare harm the birds?”</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Proponent’s Response</u></b></p> <p>Due to the nature of solar panel design, a common question many have is about glare and whether it is dangerous to aircraft and birds. The reality is that there is no nuisance or danger. SkyPower is proud to have constructed the first solar park on airport lands in Canada – demonstrating that, in fact, no plane has been distracted by the panels and that an airport can operate with no adverse effects due to solar panel proximity. The leading cause of glare at airports is the sun itself, especially when low on the horizon. It is in our best interest to use non-reflective panels so that any light reflected will not be absorbed or converted into electricity.</p> <p>Additionally, no identified issues have been raised with any type of birds at our solar plants. Occasionally, some birds nest and care for their young under the panels. This area is safe from natural predators because of perimeter fencing and thus allows the birds to flourish. The potential for any impact on birds and other fauna are rigorously</p>



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	<p>investigated through the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process.</p>
<p><b>Well water and ground water contamination</b></p>	<p><b>Community Member #1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked: “Is the construction going to affect the water?”</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Proponent’s Response</u></b></p> <p>Community interest and public scrutiny are common in relation to any land development and the potential threat to wells, ground and source water. To address these inquiries, the Government of Ontario requires all renewable energy projects to complete a Renewable Energy Approvals (REA) process.</p> <p>Through the REA process, proposals competing under the Independent Electricity System Operator’s (IESO) Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) program must, upon awarding of a contract, meet extremely rigorous criteria relating to the environment. This applies to all aspects of the environment, from water sources to flora and fauna. Before construction of a project can even begin, all aspects of the Ontario REA process must be met, or the project will not be built.</p>
<p><b>Visual Impact</b></p>	<p><b>Community Member #2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked: “Since this project is on a main road, what measures will your company take to ensure the project site is not visible from the road?”</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Proponent’s Response</u></b></p> <p>Visual impact is one of the most frequent questions from community members with regard to solar park development. Visual abatement is a key component of solar park development. While the park is being constructed, typically a period of approximately nine to 12 months, the solar park can be quite visible as the construction process calls for open space. However, once the construction phase is completed, we work with community members as well as local governments to ensure the integration of the solar park into the landscape. Through the use of various techniques such as setbacks, land forming, strategic placement of mature trees, vegetation and fencing, our goal is for the solar project to be inconspicuous to any passerby.</p>
<p><b>Land Use/Project Location</b></p>	<p><b>Community Member #1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked: “Why did your company choose this land? Muskoka has a lot of rock farms. This seems like a better location.”</li> </ul>

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	<p><b><u>Proponent’s Response</u></b></p> <p>One of the more frequent areas of interest from community members is regarding the apparent use of agricultural land for renewable energy development. The Ontario government has put in place regulations that forbid proponents from building on certain types of land, including prime agriculture land.</p> <p>For further information regarding Canada Land Inventory, please visit: <a href="http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/nsdb/cli/index.html">http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/nsdb/cli/index.html</a></p> <p>For more information on the agricultural land use, please visit: <a href="http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/">http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/</a></p>
<p><b>Community Benefit</b></p>	<p><b>Community Member # 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked: “We understand that this is a green energy project. What do we as a community gain from it? How do we benefit from this?”</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Proponent’s Response</u></b></p> <p>As a member of the community who supports this project, you ensure a clean source of reliable energy from within your community for 20 years, which is free from harmful environmental side effects.</p> <p>You will belong to a forward-thinking community that prioritizes the health of its citizens and supports the removal of harmful emissions from fossil fuel generation facilities. Most importantly, you and your community will be part of one solution to mitigate the effects of climate change.</p>