

Barristers and Solicitors

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April 25, 2011

BY COURIER, EMAIL AND RESS

Ms. Kirsten Walli Board Secretary Ontario Energy Board 2300 Yonge Street 27th Floor, Box 2319 Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re:

Ontario Waterpower Association ("OWA")

Response to Interrogatories Board File No.: EB-2011-0067

Please find attached the response of the Ontario Waterpower Association to the interrogatories of Board Staff. The materials have been filed on the Board's RESS and hardcopies are being couriered to the Board.

Please note, certain appendices to the responses have been redacted as they contain confidential information regarding the various waterpower developments. Complete responses are being filed confidentially with the Board pursuant to the Board's Practice Direction on Confidential Filings. The responses include financial information, schedules and contractual commitments made by the members of the OWA that are participating in the proceeding. The OWA would note the Feed-In Tariff Contract which each of the developers has entered has a confidentiality provision.

If there are any questions please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

AIRD & BERLIS LLP

Scott A. Stoll SAS/hm

Encl.

cc:

All Intervenors

P. Norris G. Jaff M. Graham

EB-2011-0067 OWA Response to OEB Interrogatories Filed: April 25, 2011 Page **1** of **18**

<u>OEB – IR #1</u>

Reference:

Section 13.4, OPA FIT Program Rules

From October 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009, the OPA accepted applications for its first round of contracts awarded under the FIT program the so-called "Launch Period". Applications received by the OPA during this period were able to specify the project's Commercial Operation Date Acceleration Days, defined as: "a number of days by which the Applicant is willing to reduce the time between the Contract Date and the Milestone Date for Commercial Operation from that which it would otherwise be under the FIT Contract." (Section 13.4 of the FIT rules). The acceleration days offered by the applicant were in turn used to rank projects, with reference given to those projects which were willing to offer the highest acceleration days.

Questions:

1.1. Have any of the 27 waterpower projects listed at Exhibit A, Tab 3 of OWA's prefiled evidence (the "Impacted Projects") received OPA FIT contracts during the Launch Period? If so, what were the acceleration days bid by each of the Impacted Project?

OWA Response:

Yes. All of the 27 projects received OPA FIT contracts during the Launch Period. The acceleration days bid by each project are listed in Appendix C. The bidding of acceleration days, a new design feature of the FIT program, was widely viewed as a necessary requirement in the competition for limited connection capacity, as evidenced by the Appendix. For many waterpower projects, with more complex, longer and less certain site access, environmental assessment and permitting approvals requirements, this design feature introduced a new risk over which the proponent had little control. Given the underrepresentation of waterpower projects in procurements prior to the FIT program that resulted from provincial policy differences amongst renewables and despite the specific economic and energy benefits waterpower generation provides, it is not surprising that proponents have been willing to assume these risks to advance their projects. The OWA and the project proponents consider the information in Appendix C to be a matter of commercial confidentiality. As such, the OWA requests that Appendix C not be made publically available.

Page **2** of **18**

Filed: April 25, 2011

OEB - IR #2

Reference:

Section 6.3, OPA FIT Program Overview

Section 6.3, of the FIT Program Overview made specific comments with respect to timelines to apply for a Connection Impact Assessment ("CIA"). The OPA stated in the overview that:

Each contract will be issued with a specific time in which you should apply for your impact assessment (referred to as the "impact assessment priority start and stop time"). You are not permitted to apply for a connection impact assessment before the start time. You may apply for your impact assessment after the specified window. However, submitting your impact assessment application within the window will ensure that the connection capacity that has been reserved for your project through the OPA is secured for your project.

Questions:

2.1. Please confirm that the FIT contracts of each of the Impacted Projects contained an "impact assessment priority start and stop time".

OWA Response:

The OWA confirms that each of the Impacted Projects contained an impact assessment priority start and stop time. The OWA notes that these sixty (60) minute "windows" for filing the application for FIT contracts were provided on the condition that project proponents rescinded existing Connection Impact Assessments, forgoing the certainty (including cost estimates) that such CIA's provided. Applicants, in essence, started again with respect to competition for limited capacity, along with attendant uncertainty with respect to potential amendments to the required connection cost deposits.

2.2. For each of the Impacted Projects, please provide the "impact assessment priority start and stop time".

OWA Response:

Appendix A provides the impact assessment priority start and stop time date. Again, The OWA notes that these sixty (60) minute "windows" for filing the application for FIT contracts were provided on the condition that project proponents rescinded existing Connection Impact Assessments, forgoing the certainty (including cost estimates) that such CIA's provided. Applicants, in essence, started again with respect to competition for limited capacity, along with attendant uncertainty with respect to potential amendments to the required connection cost deposits. The OWA and the project proponents consider the information contained in Appendix A to be commercially confidential. As such, the OWA requests that Appendix A not be made publically available.

2.3. In general, was the CIA window provided by OPA a driver for the OWA's waterpower generator proponents to advance their requests for CIAs? If so, please comment with respect to

EB-2011-0067

OWA Response to OEB Interrogatories

Filed: April 25, 2011

Page **3** of **18**

the Impacted Projects specifically and indicate whether this resulted in the completion of CIAs earlier in the planning.

OWA Response:

Yes, the CIA window provided by OPA was definitely a driver for the proponents to advance their requests for CIAs. The OPA FIT Contract Execution Instructions state the following:

- "The intent of the CIA start and stop window is to help ensure that capacity has been set aside for projects during the OPA connection will be available and in appropriate connection priority when the Supplier applies for a CIA"
- "The CIA start and stop window allows a FIT Supplier to be the only project applying to an LDC for a CIA at that time and thereby establish and retain their priority order".
- "...applying for a CIA at a later time would likely result in other FIT projects gaining their capacity allocation ahead of your project. You are encouraged to prepare your CIA application ahead of time and have it ready to transmit during your unique time window"

Therefore, if a proponent did not apply during the 60 minute window, and instead waited until a time in which this would normally be done in the development process (i.e. when the projects are further along in development), they would have lost their connection capacity priority and been in real jeopardy of losing the connection capacity altogether. Given this risk, and the uncertainty with respect to the potential loss of access to remaining capacity proponents had little choice but to comply with these new requirements.

Filed: April 25, 2011

Page **4** of **18**

OEB - IR #3

Reference: Hydro One Materials:

- Connection Process for distribution connected generators under FIT http://www.hydroone.com/Generators/Pages/ConnectionProcess.aspx
- Connection Impact Assessment
 http://www.hydroone.com/Generators/Pages/ConnectionImpactAssessment.aspx
- Available Capacity on Hydro One's system (updated April 1, 2011) http://www.hydroone.com/Generators/Pages/AvailableCapacity.aspx

Hydro One publishes the available capacity at each Distribution Station (DS) on its system on its public website, as well as the applications for capacity on each feeder.

Questions:

- 3.1. For each Hydro One DS affected by the Impacted Projects, please provide a table reflecting the information listed below along with explanatory notes where necessary:
- 3.1.1. total Station Capacity;
- 3.1.2. available Capacity;
- 3.1.3. total MW of Capacity requested as listed under "List of Applicants";
- 3.1.4. any other FIT projects, including but not limited to other waterpower FIT project applicants, that would be able to use the capacity allocation that is currently allocated to the Impacted Projects.

OWA Response:

3.1.1 - 3.1.3.

Appendix B, attached, provides information with respect to questions 3.1.1 - 3.1-3 inclusive, as is publically available on Hydro One's Website as of April 25, 2011.

3.1.4

The OWA notes, however, that information regarding question 3.1.4 is not publically available, and, in fact, observes that it is precisely this lack of information that results in an inability for proponents to determine the degree of risk with respect to the potential loss of connection capacity. This is a key factor -requiring that retention of Connection Capacity Allocation as secured through remittance of the Connection Cost Deposit - notwithstanding that, for the majority of the affected waterpower projects, such payment is well in advance of the satisfaction of site access environmental assessment and/or permitting requirements and attaining the attendant debt financing. The OWA and the project proponents consider the information contained in Appendix B to be commercially confidential. As such, the OWA requests that Appendix B not be made publically available.

OWA Response to OEB Interrogatories Filed: April 25, 2011

Page **5** of **18**

OEB - IR #4

Reference: Notice of Proposal to Amend a Code, EB-2009-0088, dated May 14, 2009

On May 14, 2009, the Board issued a Notice of proposal to amend the Distribution System Code, moving from a first-come-first-served queuing approach to a capacity availability and ability-to-connect approach. The Board strongly expressed its views with respect to what Board Staff refers to as project readiness, and how capacity allocation should be held and released by proponents in the Code, and in conjunction with the operation of the FIT program. With some modifications, the proposed amendments were adopted in September 2009.

Questions:

- 4.1. Why did the OWA and the proponents of the Impacted Projects allow such a prolonged period of time to elapse before applying for relief from the Board?
- 4.2. Have any of the Impacted Projects gone beyond 6 months of the date on which the generator received a capacity allocation without signing a connection cost agreement with Hydro One? If so, for each project, please provide reasons for not signing the connection cost agreement with Hydro One within the prescribed timelines?
- 4.3. Can the OWA provide evidence demonstrating that each of the Impacted Projects will likely meet the expected Commercial Operation Date? If yes, please do so. If no, please provide a detailed explanation.

OWA Response:

<u>4.1</u>

The OWA notes that the introduction and launch of the FIT program resulted in a number of important policy and program amendments, creating new requirements and risks for project proponents (e.g. Site Access, REA/Class EA.) In particular, the requirement to re-apply for connection capacity coupled with the previously introduced Distribution System Code amendments requiring the Distributor to provide Connection Cost Estimates within a defined timeframe and the necessary payment of 100% of the Connection Cost Deposit in order to retain capacity connection rights presented a new unknown, the implications of which could only be fully appreciated and understood by proponents once these new cost estimates were provided. The OWA also notes that several of the Connection Cost Estimates ultimately provided differed materially from the Connection Impact Assessments surrendered as a condition of participation in the FIT program. Among the reasons cited for these differences were the new requirements related to Protection and Control costs as well as the Harmonized Sales Tax. As such, the issue and its extent and magnitude only became known and understood once the CCE's were provided. The OWA responded to the identification of the issue by individual proponents guickly by outreaching to the entire membership with FIT contracts in an effort to take a coordinated and cooperative approach to issue resolution. This approach lead to the determination that the most effective and efficient means of seeking

resolution, both for the proponents as well as for the Board, was to file the Application that is the subject of this proceeding.

4.2

A number of the project proponents have attempted to continue to finalize the details of the connection cost agreement with Hydro One, extending in some instances beyond 6 months of the date on which the generator received a capacity allocation. In a number of situations, these discussions have resulted in amendments to the initial CCE. The general reasons for extended timelines as well as the rationale for each project is provided below, developed in concert with HONI.

Volume of Applications

All twenty-seven Impacted Projects experienced some delay due to the high volume of applications from Feed-In Tariff (FIT) proponents by Hydro One.

Revision or Additional Work

Seventeen Impacted Projects had their connection impact assessments (CIA) revised by Hydro One or had their CCA revised by Hydro One to include additional work.

Transmission Studies Required

In doing the CIA for two specific projects it was determined that those two projects will require material investment to transmission facilities and have therefore triggered a transmission customer impact assessment study and cost estimate.

Administrative Error

One project's application for a CCA was not submitted per directions and was subsequently not processed in time.

ID Number	Name	Reason
44.700	Woodell Falls Waternewer Project	Values
11,790	Wasdell Falls Waterpower Project	Volume
11,850	Okikendawt Hydroelectric Project	Revision/Addition of Work
12,190	North Bala Small Hydro Project	Revision/Addition of Work
12,300	Lizard Creek	Volume
12,310	Pecors Power	Revision/Addition of Work
12,320	Webbwood (Birch Creek Hydro)	Administrative Error
12,500	Latchford Dam	Revision/Addition of Work
12,630	Latchford Dam 2	Revision/Addition of Work
12,680	Wanatango Falls GS	Revision/Addition of Work
12,690	Four Slide Falls Ltd	Revision/Addition of Work
12,700	Wabageshik Rapids GS	Revision/Addition of Work
12,710	Allen and Struthers GS	Requires Transmission Study

ID Number	Name	Reason
12,720	Ivanhoe Chutes GS	Revision/Addition of Work
12,740	McCarthy Chute GS	Revision/Addition of Work
12,790	Larder and Raven G.S.	Volume
12,890	Wendigo Waterpower Project	Volume
13,430	High Falls Hydropower Development (Namakan)	Requires Transmission Study
12,150	McGraw Falls	Revision/Addition of Work
12,650	At Soo Crossing GS	Revision/Addition of Work
11,730	Charlton Dam G.S. Expansion	Revision/Addition of Work
11,740	Old Woman Falls Hydroelectric Project	Revision/Addition of Work
11,750	White Otter Falls Hydroelectric Project	Revision/Addition of Work
11,760	Camp Three Rapids Hydroelectric Project	Revision/Addition of Work
11,780	Big Beaver Falls Hydroelectric Project	Revision/Addition of Work
12,660	Cascade Falls GS	Volume
12,670	McPherson Fall GS	Volume
12,730	Marter Twp GS	Volume

<u>4.3</u>

The OWA and the proponents of the Impacted Projects remain confident that the projects can achieve the expected Commercial Operation Date, provided that key regulatory authorities deliver on their respective legislative requirements within a reasonable timeframe. Much of the site access, environmental assessment and subsequent permitting and approvals process is outside the direct control of proponents, with decisions reliant on the myriad of federal and provincial agencies that govern waterpower development in Ontario. Both the FIT Program Rules and provisions of the Distribution System Code recognize that waterpower development takes longer than other renewable energy projects. The OWA has taken a leadership role in advancing improvements and imparting discipline into the waterpower development process, as evidenced by the Class Environmental Assessment and the Practitioner's Guide to Federal Requirements for Waterpower Development Environmental Assessment Processes in Ontario. As outlined in Appendix A, all of the Impacted Projects are proceeding through this complex and unique development process. The OWA and the project proponents consider the information contained in Appendix A to be commercially confidential. As such, the OWA requests that Appendix A not be made publically available.

Filed: April 25, 2011

Page **8** of **18**

OEB - IR #5

Reference:

- Exhibit A, Tab 3 (redacted) of OWA's Pre-filed Evidence
- Exhibit B, Tab 1, Page 1-2 of OWA's Pre-filed Evidence
- Notice of Amendment to a Code, EB-2009-0088, Dated September 21, 2009
- CanSIA Letter of Comment, Dated August 28, 2009
- CanWEA Letter of Comment, Dated August 28, 2009

The OWA has cited numerous issues with the quanta of the Connection Cost Deposit (CCD). The Board made several comments with respect to deposits required for projects, and the proponents, at page 3 of its Notice of Amendment to a Code (EB-2009-0088):

Excerpt 1:

Since the amount of any connection cost deposit is used by the distributor to pay for costs allocated to the applicant and related to the connection of the generation facility to the distribution system and since any excess amounts not used for this purpose are returned to the applicant at the time of connection, proponents of viable projects should not be concerned with this deposit. (Emphasis added)

Excerpt 2:

Similarly, since capacity allocation deposits and additional capacity allocation deposits are fully refundable (including interest, if applicable) following the connection of a generation facility to the distribution system, these deposits should not be of concern to proponents of viable projects. (Emphasis added)

Excerpt 3:

While the Board understands that cash flow and creditworthiness are issues that may arise for some legitimate project proponents in securing the necessary deposits, these costs are not disproportionate relative to overall project costs and should not be prohibitive for legitimate generation developers. Further, any burden to project proponents associated with raising the necessary funds or obtaining the necessary credit is outweighed, in the Board's view, by the need to ensure that capacity is allocated to projects that are most likely to be viable. (Emphasis added)

In response to the Board's Notice, CanSIA provided comments on August 28, 2009 directly related to the quanta of the CCD required at the time that the CCA is completed, stating that: the initial payment should be no more than 25% of the total deposit, with the balance to be paid in stages over the distributor's construction program, and the purchase of major equipment.

The Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA) also registered its concern with the amount of the Code required CCD, on August 28, 2009 stating that:

...as this revised proposed amendment does not address the issue that requiring 100% (even if reduced) of the total allocated costs of connection may be too onerous for some proponents, we

therefore resubmit that the amount available upon execution of the Connection Cost Agreement("CCA") should be reduced to 30% and the remaining 70% payable upon commencement of construction.

Questions:

- 5.1. The total average CCD for the Impacted Projects is approximately \$256,000/MW. Using the best information available, can OWA provide in \$/MW the CCD for typical wind and solar FIT projects? If yes, please provide the information. If no, explain why not.
- 5.2. Please provide the overall capital investment for each of the Impacted Projects.
- 5.3. Please provide the CCD as a percentage of the overall capital investment for each of the Impacted Projects.
- 5.4 With respect to waterpower generation projects, is it OWA's position that a standardized CCD payment schedule with payments based on specific milestone dates in FIT contracts would be more suitable than the DSC provisions relating to CCDs? If so, please provide a detailed proposal. If this is not OWA's position, what sort of schedule does OWA propose other than the one proposed in its pre-filed evidence.

OWA Response:

<u>5.1</u>

A key difference between waterpower projects and solar and wind projects is time required to move a project from concept to commissioning. Projects contracted under the FIT Program with shorter development timelines can reasonably be expected to be more closely aligned with the necessity of securing financing required (i.e. construction and commissioning) to make the investments to connect than waterpower projects. Not only do waterpower projects take longer to proceed through the unique site access, environmental assessment and subsequent permitting and approvals process, they take longer to construct due to primarily to the limitations of undertaking work in water. In addition, as noted in the OWA's filed evidence, the average capacity of the affected waterpower projects is less than 5MW. Moreover, waterpower projects, by definition, "are where they are" and do not have the ability to be moved to accommodate alternative connections to the distribution system. The OWA does not have access to comparable CCD costs for other forms of renewable generation projects, but would note that the average installed capacity of the seventy-seven (77) solar ground mount FIT projects is 8.4 MW and that only ten (10) of these projects are less than 5 MW in installed capacity. Similarly, the average capacity of the forty-seven (47) on shore wind projects contracted is 26.2MW and only three (3) are less than 5 MW in installed capacity. In general, these larger and more modular types of development can be expected to have more flexibility in terms of both location and project sizing, relative to waterpower projects.

The OWA would also note that the FIT Program has issued many contracts to small rooftop solar projects for which electricity connection is generally readily available as the projects are considered Capacity Allocation Exempt. Attached to these responses is Appendix D, which provides the OPA summary of the FIT Program as at April 15, 2011.

EB-2011-0067
OWA Response to OEB Interrogatories

Filed: April 25, 2011 Page **10** of **18**

<u>5.2</u>

Appendix A provides the estimated capital investment requirements for the Impacted Projects, as well as the estimated percentage of the overall capital investment for each of the Impacted Projects for the CCD. The OWA notes that the FIT Program does not differentiate the allocation of connection capacity based on economic (e.g. price per Kwh, return to the Crown) or energy (e.g. capacity factor, voltage support) attributes. In addition, relative to other renewable energy projects, waterpower, on average has a much longer financial payback period, with attendant differential expectations of lenders. The OWA and the project proponents consider the information contained in Appendix A to be commercially confidential. As such, the OWA requests that Appendix A not be made publically available.

<u>5.3</u>

Appendix A provides the estimated capital investment requirements for the Impacted Projects, as well as the estimated percentage of the overall capital investment for each of the Impacted Projects for the CCD. The OWA notes that the FIT Program does not differentiate the allocation of connection capacity based on economic (e.g. price per Kwh, return to the Crown) or energy (e.g. capacity factor, voltage support) attributes. In addition, relative to other renewable energy projects, waterpower, on average has a much longer financial payback period, with attendant differential expectations of lenders. While the OWA acknowledges the Board's previously expressed views in this regard (EB-2009-0088), as well as the positions brought forward by other organizations, we respectfully maintain that the unique requirements of waterpower project development, particularly with respect to timing, warrants further consideration. The OWA and the project proponents consider the information contained in Appendix A to be commercially confidential. As such, the OWA requests that Appendix A not be made publically available.

<u>5.4.</u>

It is the OWA's position that the distributor (HONI) should not be placed in a position that requires the distributor to make capital and/or operating expenditures with respect to a waterpower project prior to receiving payment from the project proponent. The OWA is also supportive of waterpower proponents providing reasonable security at the time of CCD execution. Given the unique attributes of waterpower project development, the OWA proposes that proponents negotiate a project-specific payment schedule with HONI that respects the timelines for waterpower project development consistent with the timing of the required investments by the distributor. It should be noted that unlike more modular forms of renewable energy each waterpower development project is unique with respect to its configuration, design and operational regime. Moreover, waterpower project proponents can only make many of the significant investment decisions (e.g. turbines) once the regulatory approvals process has been completed and final design details are determined based on the available fuel (water) not allocated to other values (e.g. ecology, recreation etc.).

Filed: April 25, 2011 Page **11** of **18**

OEB - IR #6

6. Reference: Ministry of Energy Letter from Deputy Minister David L. Lindsay, dated January 28, 2011.

The OPA received a letter from the Minister of Energy on January 28, 2011 which noted that "a number of [FIT] applicants have experienced project delays that could jeopardize their ability to bring their projects on line in the time specified in their FIT Contract or their Conditional Offer of microFIT Contract." The letter further instructed the OPA to allow for extensions to the timelines for commercial operation, and to connect the affected FIT projects so as to avoid the risk of these projects losing their FIT Contracts or Conditional Offers. It is possible that the OWA may have sought similar remedy from the Ministry of Energy in the subject of its current application.

Questions:

- 6.1. Did the OWA consult and/or seek relief from the OPA, in concert with the Ministry of Energy for its concerns regarding challenging timelines?
- 6.2. What alternative approaches, if any, were used to resolve the issues that are the subject of the application currently before the Board prior to filing the application with the Board?

OWA Response:

<u>6.1</u>

No. The OWA did not advocate for the extension to the timelines for commercial operation for FIT contracts.

6.2

The OWA evaluated several alternatives including the potential for an amendment to the Distribution System Code and determined that, given that all affected projects were restricted to a single distributor (HONI), the most appropriate course of action was to file the Application that is the subject of this proceeding. The OWA notes that it has taken a collective and collaborative approach in advancing this Application, in the interest of effectiveness and efficiency for both the affected proponents and the Ontario Energy Board. The OWA is also of the view that this approach has the least possible impact on other parties, as evidenced by the decision of the vast majority of directly notified parties not to seek participation, the response to the public notifications provided and, importantly, the support for the OWA's proposal from those parties who have chosen to provide comment.

Filed: April 25, 2011 Page **12** of **18**

OEB - IR #7

Reference: Exhibit B, Tab 1, page 10. Lines 17-19, of OWA's Pre-filed evidence.

The OWA states that 46 waterpower projects were issued FIT contracts on April 8, 2010 of which 27 projects have aligned themselves to support the OWA in this Application.

Questions:

- 7.1. Please indicate whether any of the other 19 waterpower developers with FIT contracts are members of the OWA.
- 7.2. Please explain why the other 19 waterpower developers with FIT contracts are not part of this application.
- 7.3. Please indicate whether any of the other 19 waterpower developers with FIT contracts were able to make the CCD payment in accordance the subject sections of the DSC. If this information cannot be provided, please provide reasons.
- 7.4. Please provide a list of specific issues faced by each of the Impacted Projects including but not limited to other regulatory approvals/permits and explain how these issues are unique to water power projects.
- 7.5. Please summarize the specific differentiating factors with respect to the financing, permitting and regulatory project schedules faced by waterpower projects that differ from wind and solar FIT projects.
- 7.6. Can the OWA provide specific examples where the post Environmental Assessment Permitting and Approvals process has taken much longer than wind or solar projects? If yes, please do so.

OWA Response:

7.1

Yes. Of the forty-six (46) waterpower projects awarded a FIT contract, forty four (44) were awarded to OWA members.

<u>7.2</u>

Based on our outreach to members and subsequent analysis, these projects appear to be connecting directly to the transmission system, predominantly in northern Ontario. One very small project has been abandoned due to the burdensome and expensive regulatory approval process.

<u>7.3</u>

Filed: April 25, 2011

Page **13** of **18**

Based on the OWA outreach to members, the proponents of these waterpower projects are not directly affected by this proceeding and, hence, the OWA has no information to offer in this regard.

7.4

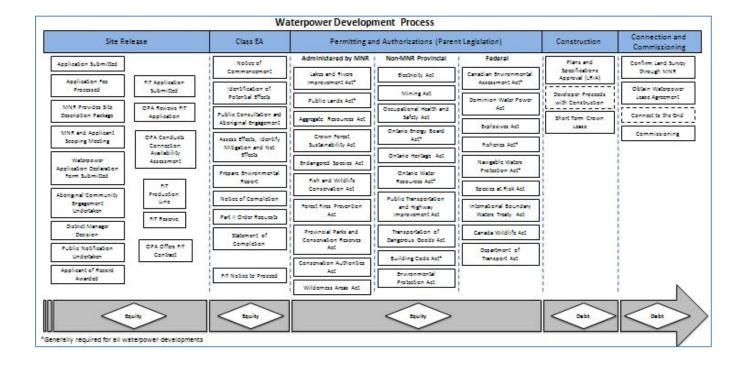
As noted in the OWA's filed evidence, the legislative, regulatory and policy requirements with respect to waterpower development in Ontario is unique relative to other forms of renewable generation. For example, the vast majority of waterpower projects are undertaken on provincial Crown land as opposed to private land. Unique to waterpower is the province's policy (Ministry of Natural Resources) that premises access to Crown land based on a preference for projects that demonstrate economic benefit for Aboriginal Communities. Moreover, waterpower projects are subject to the OWA's Class Environment Assessment for Waterpower Projects rather than the provincial Renewable Energy Approvals process. In addition, most waterpower projects trigger the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, by virtue of permit requirements pursuant to the Federal Fisheries Act and/or the Navigable Waters Protection Act. Subsequent to the completion of provincial and federal Environmental Assessment requirements, waterpower projects must satisfy, among others, the appropriate requirements of the Lakes and Rivers Improvements Act, the Ontario Water Resources Act and the Public Lands Act. The Ontario Power Authority's FIT Program Rules and the Distribution System Code have both recognized that waterpower projects take longer to develop (5 years as opposed to 3 for wind or 2 for solar).

Relative to other forms of renewable generation, waterpower projects have been significantly underrepresented in procurements to date (Renewables Requests for Proposals, Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program) due largely to the unique array of provincial and federal policies affecting waterpower development. For example, access to Crown land was only made available in November, 2004 through MNR's "Site Release" policy – too late for new waterpower projects to participate in the RFP processes. The subsequent Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program limited the participation of waterpower projects, prompting the issuance of a Minister's Directive to the Ontario Power Authority to develop a "Northern Hydroelectric Initiative", which was never implemented. Even the current FIT program places restrictions on waterpower projects (50MW and under) that are not in place for other technologies (e.g. wind).

<u>7.5</u>

Figure 1, below (a synopsis of which has been submitted in the OWA's filed evidence) provides a generic overview of the unique permitting and regulatory project requirements faced by waterpower project proponents, as well as an indication of the relationship of these requirements to project financing. Again, a key difference for waterpower development with respect to other renewables is the almost universal requirement for access to Crown land. In 2009 the OWA determined that, on average, it took more than two years for a project to proceed through MNR's Site Release Process (MNR has since made some administrative improvements to the procedure). Moreover, again pursuant to MNR policy, waterpower proponents cannot secure short term tenure until the construction stage of a project and only have the security of long-term tenure once the facility is constructed and commissioned.

Page **14** of **18**



<u>7.6</u>

Relatively few waterpower projects have achieved commercial operation in recent years. Solar and wind projects are subject to the Renewable Energy Approvals process and hence, once complete, have satisfied the necessary "environmental assessment" and permitting requirements concurrently, unlike waterpower projects which require additional provincial and federal permits subsequent to the completion of environmental assessment. In addition, the OWA notes that significant post-environmental assessment permitting requirements, standards and guidelines (e.g. MNR – Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act; MOE- Ontario Water Resources Act) have not been finalized, resulting in additional uncertainty and delays for waterpower project proponents.

Filed: April 25, 2011 Page **15** of **18**

OEB - IR #8

8. Reference:

- Notice of a Proposal to Amend a Code, EB-2009-0088, dated May 14, 2009
- Notice of Amendment to a Code, EB-2009-0088, Dated September 21, 2009

Some aspects of the risk to lenders and proponents associated with the CCD for FIT projects was described by the Board in its Notice of a Proposal to Amend a Code (EB-2009-0088):

The Connection Cost Deposit would represent an estimate of the costs of connection allocated to the applicant and would be used by the distributor to offset any allocated costs incurred by the distributor for the connection of the applicant's project to the distribution system. Any amount of the Connection Cost Deposit that was not used for the purpose of doing the work required to connect the project in question would be refundable upon connection to the applicant. If the applicant's project is not connected to the distribution system, the amount of the Connection Cost Deposit would be refunded to the applicant less any costs actually incurred by the distributor for any connection work completed in respect of the applicant's project. (Emphasis Added).

The Board further noted at page 3 of the Notice of Code Amendment that:

Since the amount of any connection cost deposit is used by the distributor to pay for costs allocated to the applicant and related to the connection of the generation facility to the distribution system and since any excess amounts not used for this purpose are returned to the applicant at the time of connection, proponents of viable projects should not be concerned with this deposit.

Questions:

- 8.1. Please indicate whether specific objections have been raised by potential lenders as to why credit will not be extended to allow payment of the CCD? If so, provide full particulars, including supporting documentation which would support the applicant's position.
- 8.2. Since the CCD is fully refundable if a project does not proceed, have potential lenders been made aware that the risk of extending funding/credit to allow payment of the CCD is virtually nil?
- 8.3. Have lenders sought significant securitization with respect to CCD which developers are unable to cover? If this is an over-simplification, please explain any complicating factors.
- 8.4. Please provide evidence that would demonstrate that lenders are unwilling to provide any project financing for waterpower projects until the conditions listed page 12, Exhibit B, Tab 1 of OWA's pre-filed evidence are satisfied? Please provide any letters, communications, or other materials to this effect which may support the OWA's position.

OWA Response:

EB-2011-0067
OWA Response to OEB Interrogatories

Filed: April 25, 2011

Page **16** of **18**

It is important to note that the majority of these projects are not yet at the stage of seeking debt financing, given the timelines involved in site access, environmental assessment and permitting and approvals processes. As such, for these projects, the current requirements would force the investment of equity and/or the pursuit of alternative funding mechanisms for the required deposits – again, far in advance of when the expenditures are actually to be made. For those projects that have or are close to attaining construction financing (i.e. debt), it should be noted that such financing and the specific Conditions Precedent will be tied to the details of the project (e.g. construction timelines), the lender and the proponent. The OWA notes that the conditions of the FIT contracts with respect to the potential for contract cancellation prior to the achievement of "Notice to Proceed" is yet another risk of direct relevance to lenders. For waterpower projects, Notice to Proceed has been determined by the OPA to be conditional on the satisfaction of "Statement of Completion" pursuant to the Class Environmental Assessment for Waterpower Projects.

8.2

Notwithstanding the premise that the potential risk is "virtually nil", the reality is that debt providers are unwilling to advance security against a project that has not been permitted and is entering into construction. Again, the timelines for waterpower projects that necessitate payment of the CCD well in advance of the required expenditures means, in essence that HONI is required to "bank" the deposits for an extended period of time while the proponent services the interest. In general, lenders take the position that, as proponents have no control with respect to the security provided, they are unwilling to advance funds prior to the achievement of the requisite permitting and approvals required for projects construction. Once satisfied, financing is most often tied to the achievement of milestones for the individual project through the construction and commissioning phase. Again, unlike other, more modular renewable energy projects, the requirements and milestones are site and project specific.

8.3

The OWA notes that the majority of these projects would be required to seek financing for the required Connection Cost Deposits from equity sources that are currently, and in our view most appropriately, dedicated to the higher risk and extended time frame requirements of satisfying the site access, environmental approvals and/or subsequent permitting and approvals process that are unique to waterpower projects. Moreover, given the lengthy construction and commissioning timelines specific to waterpower, the OWA is of the view that the required HONI expenditures related to connection are most appropriately coordinated with project construction, provided, as is proposed, that such expenditures are not made prior to the associated costs being assumed by the waterpower proponent within a reasonable timeframe prior to such expenditures being made. Finally, the OWA notes that should HONI, at their sole discretion, begin to expend some or all of the deposit, there is no assurance that such expenditures would be refunded to the proponent should the project be delayed or cancelled due to decisions beyond the direct control of the proponent (e.g. site access, environmental assessment, permitting and approvals).

EB-2011-0067
OWA Response to OEB Interrogatories

Filed: April 25, 2011

Page **17** of **18**

<u>8.4</u>

The reference to:

"For waterpower projects, debt will most often be advanced after Notice to Proceed, once the proponent has satisfied subsequent permitting requirements and/or obtained tenure. In general, to obtain debt financing, the waterpower developer will need to have obtained:

- (a) Connection Cost Estimate (+/-10 at construction);
- (b) Construction Estimate based upon sufficiently advanced design to provide the required certainty;
- (c) Permits;
- (d) Tenure"

refers to the provision of the <u>general expectations</u> of long-term "debt" providers to waterpower projects. As noted earlier for the majority of the projects in question, these projects would be required to seek financing for the required Connection Cost Deposits from equity sources that are currently, and in our view most appropriately, dedicated to the higher risk and extended time frame requirements of satisfying the site access, environmental approvals and/or subsequent permitting and approvals process that are unique to waterpower projects. The OWA is of the view that the required HONI expenditures related to connection are most appropriately coordinated with project construction, provided, as is proposed, that such expenditures are not made prior to the associated costs being assumed by the waterpower proponent within a reasonable timeframe prior to such expenditures being made.

OEB - IR #9

Reference: NA

Questions:

9.1. Please complete the table attached to this document as Appendix "A". If useful, add additional columns to explain other events.

OWA Response:

Appendix A is attached hereto. The OWA and the project proponents consider the information contained in Appendix A to be commercially confidential. As such, the OWA requests that Appendix A not be made publically available.

Project Name	FIT Contract Date (dd/mm/yy)	OPA's Impact Assessmen t Priority Start Date (dd/mm/yy)	OPA's Impact Assessment Priority Stop Date (dd/mm/yy)	Connection Impact Assessment Application Date (dd/mm/yy)	OPA's Notice to Proceed Status (Issued / Not Issued?)	Expected Commercial Operation Date (dd/mm/yy)	Completed Connection Impact Assessment Date (dd/mm/yy)	Connection Cost Agreement Status (Execution Date / Not Executed] (dd/mm/yy)	Environmental Assessments Status [Completed/ Expected Completion Date] *	MNR Status [Complete d/ Expected Completio n Date] *	Other Regulatory Approvals Pending with Expected Completion Dates * (dd/mm/yy)	Debt Financing [Completed / Expected Completion Date] *	Overall capital investment (\$)	CCD as a percentage of the overall capital investment (%)
)				
Webbwood					Not Issued			Executed 10/02/2011	31/01/2012					
					Not issued			Executed	01/10/2011					
Latchford Dam								04/03/2011						
Laterilord Dairi					Not issued			Executed	01/10/2011					
Latchford Dam 2								04/03/2011						
					Issued			Not executed	Completed					
Big Beaver Falls Hydroelectric Project									·					
					Issued			Not executed	Completed					
Camp Three Rapids Hydroelectric Project														
High Falls Hydropower Development					Not Issued			Not Executed						
Charlton Dam GS Expansion					Not issued			Not executed						
Lizard Creek Small Hydro Project					Not Issued			Not Executed						

Project Name	FIT Contract Date (dd/mm/yy	OPA's Impact Assessment Priority Start Date (dd/mm/yy)	OPA's Impact Assessment Priority Stop Date (dd/mm/yy)	Connection Impact Assessment Application Date (dd/mm/yy)	OPA's Notice to Proceed Status (Issued / Not Issued?)	Expected Commercial Operation Date (dd/mm/yy)	Completed Connection Impact Assessment Date (dd/mm/yy)	Connection Cost Agreement Status (Execution Date / Not Executed] (dd/mm/yy)	Environmental Assessments Status [Completed/ Expected Completion Date] * (dd/mm/yy)	MNR Status [Complete d/ Expected Completio n Date] * (dd/mm/yy)	Other Regulatory Approvals Pending with Expected Completion Dates * (dd/mm/yy)	Debt Financing [Completed / Expected Completion Date] * (dd/mm/yy)	Overall capital investment (\$)	CCD as a percentage of the overall capital investment (%)
Old Woman Falls Hydroelectric Project					Issued			Not executed	Completed					
r roject					Issued			Not executed	Completed					
White Otter Falls Hydroelectric Project														
Okikendawt Hydroelectric Project					Not issued			Not executed						
Pecors Power Small Hydro Project					Not Issued			Not Executed						
North Bala Small Hydro Project					Not issued			Executed, but new LOC needs to be reissued	MOE Director's decision reached in March, currently awaiting Minister's decision on appeal June 1, 2011					
Wasdell Falls Waterpower Project					Not Issued			Not Executed	Completion expected May 2011					
Wendigo Waterpower Project					Not Issued			Not Executed						

Project Name	FIT Contract Date (dd/mm/yy	OPA's Impact Assessment Priority Start Date (dd/mm/yy)	OPA's Impact Assessment Priority Stop Date (dd/mm/yy)	Connection Impact Assessment Application Date (dd/mm/yy)	OPA's Notice to Proceed Status (Issued / Not Issued?)	Expected Commercial Operation Date (dd/mm/yy)	Completed Connection Impact Assessment Date (dd/mm/yy)	Connection Cost Agreement Status (Execution Date / Not Executed] (dd/mm/yy)	Environmental Assessments Status [Completed/ Expected Completion Date] *	MNR Status [Complete d/ Expected Completio n Date] *	Other Regulatory Approvals Pending with Expected Completion Dates * (dd/mm/yy)	Debt Financing [Completed / Expected Completion Date] *	Overall capital investment (\$)	CCD as a percentage of the overall capital investment (%)
					No			Pending	Yes	,				
McGraw Falls 2089284					NO			(rec'd April 18, 2011)	165					
At Soo Crossing 2154061					No			Pending (rec'd April 18, 2011)						
2134001					No			Yes						
Cascade Fall 1723378														
MsPherson Fall 2154065					No			Yes						
					No			No						
Wanatango Falls 2124716														
					No			No						
Four Slide Falls Ltd. 1713400														
					No			No						
Wabageshik Rapid at Outlet Lake 1723377														
Allen and Struthers 2130769					No			No						
Ivanhoe River, The Chute 2124750					No			No						

Project Name	FIT Contract Date (dd/mm/yy	OPA's Impact Assessment Priority Start Date (dd/mm/yy)	OPA's Impact Assessment Priority Stop Date (dd/mm/yy)	Connection Impact Assessment Application Date (dd/mm/yy)	OPA's Notice to Proceed Status (Issued / Not Issued?)	Expected Commercial Operation Date (dd/mm/yy)	Completed Connection Impact Assessment Date (dd/mm/yy)	Connection Cost Agreement Status (Execution Date / Not Executed] (dd/mm/yy)	Environmental Assessments Status [Completed/ Expected Completion Date] *	MNR Status [Complete d/ Expected Completio n Date] * (dd/mm/yy)	Other Regulatory Approvals Pending with Expected Completion Dates * (dd/mm/yy)	Debt Financing [Completed / Expected Completion Date] *	Overall capital investment (\$)	CCD as a percentage of the overall capital investment (%)
Marter Twp, Blanche River 2154070					No			No						
McCarthy Chute 1713399 Ltd.					No			No						
Larder Lake & Raven Falls 2118966					No			No						

^{*}Please provide details regarding any implications on the project

9048116.2

Project	Station Name	Bus Name	Feeder Name	Voltage (kV)	Short Circuit Capacity	Thermal Capacity (MW)	Total MW of Capacity requested ⁱ
Webbwood							
Latchford Dam							
Latchford Dam 2							
Big Beaver Falls Hydroelectric Project							
Camp Three Rapids Hydroelectric Project							
High Falls Hydropower Development							
Charlton Dam GS Expansion							

Project	Station	Bus Name	Feeder	Voltage	Short	Thermal	Total MW of
	Name		Name	(kV)	Circuit Capacity	Capacity (MW)	Capacity requested
Lizard Creek							
Small Hydro							
Project							
Old Woman							
Falls							
Hydroelectric							
Project							
White Otter							
Falls							
Hydroelectric							
Project							
Okikendawt							
Hydroelectric							
Project							
Pecors Power							
Small Hydro							
Project							
North Bala							
Small Hydro							
Project							
Wasdell Falls							
Waterpower							
Project							

Project	Station Name	Bus Name	Feeder Name	Voltage (kV)	Short Circuit Capacity	Thermal Capacity (MW)	Total MW of Capacity requested
Wendigo Waterpower Project							
McGraw Falls 2089284							
At Soo Crossing 2154061							
Cascade Fall 1723378							
McPherson Fall 2154065							
Wanatango Falls 2124716							
Four Slide Falls Ltd. 1713400							

Project	Station Name	Bus Name	Feeder Name	Voltage (kV)	Short Circuit Capacity	Thermal Capacity (MW)	Total MW of Capacity requested
Wabageshik Rapid at Outlet Lake 1723377							
Allen and Struthers 2130769							
Ivanhoe River, The Chute 2124750							
Marter Twp, Blanche River 2154070							
McCarthy Chute 1713399 Ltd.							
Larder Lake & Raven Falls 2118966							

9048117.1

ⁱ All figures are inclusive of existing generation facilities

Project	Acceleration Days
Webbwood	
Latchford Dam	
Latchford Dam 2	
Big Beaver Falls Hydroelectric Project	
Camp Three	
Rapids Hydroelectric Project	
High Falls Hydropower Development	
Charlton Dam GS Expansion	
Lizard Creek Small Hydro Project	
Old Woman Falls Hydroelectric Project	
White Otter Falls Hydroelectric Project	
Okikendawt Hydroelectric Project	
Pecors Power Small Hydro Project	
North Bala Small Hydro Project	
Wasdell Falls Waterpower Project	
Wendigo Waterpower Project	
McGraw Falls	
At Soo Crossing	
Cascade Fall	
McPherson Falls	
Wanatango Falls	
Four Slide Falls Ltd	
Wabageshik Rapid at Outlet Lake	
Allen and Struthers	
Ivanhoe River, The Chute	
Marter Twp, Blanche River	
McCarthy Chute	
Larder Lake & Raven Falls	

Note:

An unredacted version of this chart was filed confidentially with the Board, April 25, 2011.

9048118.2

Data as of April 15th, 2011



Data as of April 15th, 2011

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS IN THE FIT PROGRAM

Count of Applications				Contract Executed		
Energy Groups	Applications	Awaiting ECT	Total Contracts Offerred to Date	Under Development	In Commercial Operation	
Bioenergy	101	13	40	36	6	
Solar PV	5,333	208	1,397	1,072	14	
Hydroelectric	98	30	51	48	0	
Wind	261	153	61	53	1	
Total Applications	5,793	404	1,549	1,209	21	

Sum of Applications	Contract Executed				
Energy Groups	Applications	Awaiting ECT	Total Contracts Offerred to Date	Under Development	In Commercial Operation
Bioenergy	287	117	50	48	8
Solar PV	5,656	1,741	1,165	860	2
Hydroelectric	362	143	193	188	0
Wind	10,811	6,533	2,146	1,584	1
Total MWs	17,117	8,534	3,553	2,680	12

Applications	Total applications submitted to the program
Awaiting ECT	Applications that did not successfully pass TAT/DAT and are awaiting the next ECT
Total Contracts Offered to Date	Cumulative number of contracts offered to date of reporting
Contracts Executed	Applications which have executed their Contract Offer
Under Development	Executed Contracts that have not yet reached Commercial Operation
In Commercial Operation	Executed Contracts that have reached Commercial Operation and are considered to be in service



Data as of April 15th, 2011

FIT PROJECT STATUS SUMMARY							Contract Stage				
Count of Applications			Application Stage				Not E	xecuted	Executed		
Energy Groups	Source Type	Submitted	Under Review	Application Complete	Awaiting ECT	Rejected/ Withdrawn	Contract Offered	Contract Terminated	Under Development	In Commercial Operation	Grand Total
Bioenergy	Biogas	4	7	0	4	4	0	1	16	3	39
	Biogas (on Farm)	3	6	0	1	3	0	2	14	2	31
	Biomass	6	2	0	5	5	0	1	3	0	22
	Landfill	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	1	9
Solar PV	PV Groundmount	311	23	0	204	167	28	8	105	0	846
	PV Rooftop	1,601	897	1	4	714	2	287	967	14	4,487
Hydroelectric	Hydroelectric	6	1	0	30	10	0	3	48	0	98
Wind	Wind On-Shore	6	3	0	153	31	3	5	52	1	254
	Wind Off-Shore	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	7
Total Count of Applications		1,938	939	1	404	941	33	307	1,209	21	5,793

								Conti	act Stage		
Sum of Applications	(MW)			Application	Stage		Not Executed		Executed		
Energy Groups	Source Type	Submitted	Under Review	Application Complete	Awaiting ECT	Rejected/ Withdrawn	Contract Offered	Contract Terminated	Under Development	In Commercial Operation	Grand Total
Bioenergy	Biogas	2	3	0	12	6	0	0	19	1	44
	Biogas (on Farm)	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	8
	Biomass	13	0	0	86	74	0	1	18	0	193
	Landfill	10	0	0	17	1	0	0	8	6	42
Solar PV	PV Groundmount	1,361	43	0	1,729	803	222	26	667	0	4,851
	PV Rooftop	243	147	0	12	150	1	56	193	2	805
Hydroelectric	Hydroelectric	8	0	0	143	18	0	5	188	0	362
Wind	Wind On-Shore	102	1	0	6,533	1,967	540	21	1,284	1	10,450
	Wind Off-Shore	0	0	0	0	61	0	0	300	0	361
Total Sum (MW)		1,740	197	0	8,534	3,081	763	110	2,680	12	17,117

Note: Each status is mutually exclusive (i.e. a single application will only be counted in one of the statuses).



Data as of April 15th, 2011

CAPACITY ALLOCATI										
Count of Applications			Applicati	on Stage		Not Execut	ed	Exe	cuted	
Energy Groups	Source Type	Submitted	Under Review	Application Complete	Rejected/ Withdrawn	Contract Offered	Contract Terminated	Under Development	In Commercial Operation	Grand Total
Bioenergy	Biogas	2	4	0	2	0	1	9	1	19
	Biogas (on Farm)	3	6	0	3	0	2	14	1	29
	Biomass	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	7
	Landfill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solar PV	PV Groundmount	156	19	0	39	0	5	27	0	246
	PV Rooftop	1,546	897	1	646	0	287	966	14	4,357
Hydroelectric	Hydroelectric	3	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	9
Wind	Wind On-Shore	0	3	0	1	0	3	7	0	14
	Wind Off-Shore	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total Count of Applications	s	1,713	932	1	693	0	298	1,029	16	4,682

							Contract S	tage		
Sum of Applications	(MW)	Application Stage				Not Execut	ed	Exe		
Energy Groups	Source Type	Submitted	Under Review	Application Complete	Rejected/ Withdrawn	Contract Offered	Contract Terminated	Under Development	In Commercial Operation	Grand Total
Bioenergy	Biogas	1.0	2.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.5	3.5	0	8.2
	Biogas (on Farm)	0.7	1.5	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.4	3.1	0	6.5
	Biomass	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0	1.8
	Landfill	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
Solar PV	PV Groundmount	39.9	5.2	0.0	22.7	0.0	0.8	7.4	0	76.0
	PV Rooftop	223.0	147.2	0.2	109.7	0.0	56.4	192.2	2	731.0
Hydroelectric	Hydroelectric	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	0	1.8
Wind	Wind On-Shore	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.3	1.7	0	4.7
	Wind Off-Shore	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.2
Total Sum (MW)		266.5	157.7	0.2	135.5	0.0	58.4	209	3	830.3

Note: Each status is mutually exclusive (i.e. a single application will only be counted in one of the statuses).



Data as of April 15th, 2011

ABORIGINAL & COMMUNITY PROJECT SUMMARY

	Aborigi	inal	Community		
Current Status	Count of Apps	Sum (MW)	Count of Apps	Sum (MW)	
Submitted	3	16	44	164	
Under Review	1	10	34	16	
Application Complete	0	0	0	0	
Awaiting ECT	28	699	48	570	
Rejected/ Withdrawn	7	486	26	344	
Contract Offered	1	300	1	10	
Contract Executed	16	120	62	305	
Contract Terminated	0	0	2	1	
Grand Total	56	1,631	217	1,410	

Note: Each status is mutually exclusive (i.e. a single application will only be counted in one of the statuses)

microFIT PROJECT SUMMARY

Current Status	Number of Apps	Sum of Apps (MW)
Total Applications	28,007	256
Application Terminated	2,530	24
Conditional Offers	20,534	187
Contracts Executed	4,491	38

Note: 99% of microFIT applications are for solar PV



Data as of April 15th, 2011

LEGEND

Submitted	Applications currently submitted and have not undergone review
Under Review	Applications currently under review for eligibility requirements
Application Complete	Applications that have met all eligibility requirements and are awaiting either a contract offer or the next TAT/DAT cycle
Rejected/Withdrawn	Applications that have been rejected or withdrawn based on eligibility requirements
Not Executed	Applicants that have not executed their FIT contract offer
Contract Offered	Applications that have been offered a FIT contract
Contract Terminated	Contracts that have been terminated by either the OPA or the Supplier OR Contract Offers that were declined
Executed	Applicants that have executed their FIT contract offer
Under Development	Executed contracts that have not yet reached Commercial Operation
In Commercial Operation	Executed contracts which have reached Commercial Operation and are considered to be in service.

