

**Submission of Comment: Project file # EB-2012-0470**

To: Kirsten Walli, Ontario Energy Board, Board Secretary  
Glen Tomkinson, Hamilton Solar Farm Partnership

Re: Notice of Application and Written Hearing  
Hamilton Solar Farm Partnership  
Application for an Electricity Generation Licence  
Dated January 25, 2013 Project File # EB-2012-0470

From: Pamela Hambly

Date: February 22, 2013

By way of comment regarding the application cited above, which states that all “views on the application” must be received by February 15, 2013, or 21 days after the posting of the Notice of Application and Written Hearing, I submit the following:

In order to participate in Board proceedings, The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) guidelines state that “Unless the notice states otherwise, your letter of comment must be received by the Board no later than **30 days** after the publication or service date of the application.” This wording is biased toward the applicant/OEB. If the regulation is meant to allow a **minimum of 30 days** to submit a comment, unless the applicant/OEB chooses to allow more than 30 days, then the deadline for comment submission would be February 24, 2013. This timing discrepancy warrants an explanation for the OEB’s circumvention of its own guidelines.

The approval process for solar projects has little or no opportunity for residents to engage with the relevant government authorities about their concerns. The only two “Public Meetings” (the first, a “meeting” or presentation by the applicant, the second, an “Open House” with various poster displays of the project) only provided the venue in which to question the applicant. I have serious reservations about the 200 acres concerned. A questionable and outdated Soil Classification /Land Survey done circa 1967 qualified this parcel of farmland for a solar installation. In fact, the acres in question are **currently productive, long-time, crop-bearing farmland**. In a world of increasing population and diminishing land resources, converting such valuable acreage into a mere 10MW renewable energy project, producing only when the sun shines, is an egregious trade-off.

I do hope that you will share these comments with the Board in the pending hearing. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Written confirmation of receipt of this letter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Pamela Hambly

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telephone:  
fax:  
email:

