Ontario Energy Board Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario



EB-2014-0027 EB-2014-0033 EB-2014-0054

**IN THE MATTER OF** the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O.1998, c.15, Schedule B;

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** an application by GoodLight LP for an electricity generation licence;

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** an application by Oro-Medonte Solar Farms Inc. for an electricity generation licence;

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** an application by FotoLight LP for an electricity generation licence.

By delegation, before: Viive Sawler

## DECISION AND ORDER May 1, 2014

GoodLight LP, Oro-Medonte Solar Farms Inc. and FotoLight LP each filed a complete application on March 5, 2014, under section 60 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for an electricity generation licence as a Feed-in Tariff ("FIT") Program participant. The Board assigned file numbers EB-2014-0027, EB-2014-0033 and EB-2014-0054 to these applications, respectively. Each of the applicants applied for authorization to own and operate a generation facility.

The Board's combined Notice of Application and Written Hearing (the "Notice") for the three electricity generation licences was issued on March 14, 2014. Two members of the public, Mr. David Birnie and Mr. Brent Hutchinson, responded to the Notice by a letter dated March 30, 2014. The writers objected to the projects and stated that due to

concerns related to ground water contamination, noise pollution and the effects of solar panel reflections on planes at Oro-Medonte Airport, the licences should be denied.

I have reviewed the concerns raised in the letter. The concerns raised in the letter are not within the scope of the matters considered by the Board in deciding the applications for a generation licence as the FIT Program participant. Other agencies have the mandate to oversee areas such as the environmental and regulatory approvals related to the actual generation facilities.

A FIT electricity generation licence permits the licensee to generate electricity or provide an ancillary service for sale under a contract with the Ontario Power Authority (the "OPA"). The licence does not grant approval to build a generation facility itself. It is, therefore, a process for licensing the applicant, not the facility.

In the exercise of its licensing function, the Board's practice is to review the licence application based on the applicant's ability to own and/or operate a generation facility and to participate reliably in the Ontario energy market, i.e. the Board assesses the applicant's financial viability, technical capability and conduct. When the applicant is a FIT Program participant, the OPA undertakes a rigorous assessment of the applicant's financial viability, technical capability and conduct. If the OPA is satisfied with the results of the assessment, the OPA grants the applicant a Notice to Proceed. Because of the rigour of the OPA assessment process, the Board will generally grant the generation licence to the applicant if it has received a Notice to Proceed from the OPA. The information provided by the applicants on this matter is satisfactory. Specifically, the OPA has entered into a FIT contract with each applicant and has provided each applicant with their respective Notice to Proceed.

After considering the applications, it has been found to be in the public interest to issue the electricity generation licences under Part V of the Act.

## IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The applications for electricity generation licences are granted, on such conditions as are contained in the attached licences.

DATED at Toronto May 1, 2014

## **ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Original signed by

Viive Sawler Manager, Licensing & Performance Reporting