

March 30, 2014

Board Secretary

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
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2300 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
BoardSec@ontarioenergyboard.ca

RE: EB-2014-0027, GoodLight LP;
EB-2014-0033, Oro-Medonte Solar Farms Inc.; and
EB-2014-0054, FotoLight LP
Application for an Electricity Generation Licence

Dear Board Secretary,

We wish to file this written submission stating our objections to the application for an electricity generation license by the companies cited above for a solar farm on Line 4, Oro-Medonte Township.

Our objections:

- The approval for the solar panel farm was based on the Agricultural Land Evaluation and Soil Study by Clark Consulting Services on July 5, 2011. The previous Canadian Land Inventory (CLI) map classified most of this farm as Class 3. This report incorrectly changed the classification of the farmland in question from Class 3 to 4. The report justified this by stating that the farm did not have good drainage. In fact, the farm had systematic tile drainage and random tile drainage installed around 1984. This was confirmed to us by Greg Graham of DLG Farm Drainage Ltd. of Wyevale, Ontario. Mr. Graham performed the actual work in question. Furthermore, the fact that the farm does have tile drainage was stated at public meetings in 2011 and 2012. Therefore the land should have been re- classified as Class 2 farmland, which is not eligible for Solar panels according to Energy Board regulations.
- The Clark report also classed part of the farmland as Class 5. This is misleading because this land is toward the back of the farm, as shown in the map of Figure 7 in the Clark report. It is in wetland that is environmentally sensitive. However this Class 5 land is not in the area where the company wants to put solar panels anyway. The part of the farm where they want to put solar panels was all re-labeled as Class 4, when in fact it should be classed as Class 2 because it does have drainage tiles.

- We also question the integrity of the company in living up to commitments made to neighbors. In December 2012, Lynn Anne Hayes received a letter from Patricia Becker of the Sun Edison/Genivar Company. Mrs. Hayes and her husband live directly across the road from the proposed solar farm. They had attended a previous public meeting held by the company, and filled out a comment form expressing concerns about the company's proposal to cut down an existing hedgerow of deciduous trees along Concession 4. In response to Mrs. Hayes, Ms. Becker wrote a promise that the company, "instead of removing all existing trees," would "selectively remove only the highest trees." "Sun Edison plans to leave the vast majority of trees...of the existing trees in place...to maximize the visual buffering offered by the existing trees." In fact the company subsequently did remove all the trees bordering the road across from the Hayes farm. It is disturbing that the company professes to want to be a good neighbor but then does not live up to a commitment it had made in writing.
- As farmers and neighbors of the proposed solar farm ourselves, we have concerns about the potential for groundwater contamination, noise pollution, and the effects of solar panel reflections on the planes at nearby Oro-Medonte Airport. Thank you for considering our objections to this project and the company's application.

Sincerely,

David Birnie

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Brent Hutchinson

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Brent Hutchinson.