

# Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Solar Project

## Community Engagement Plan



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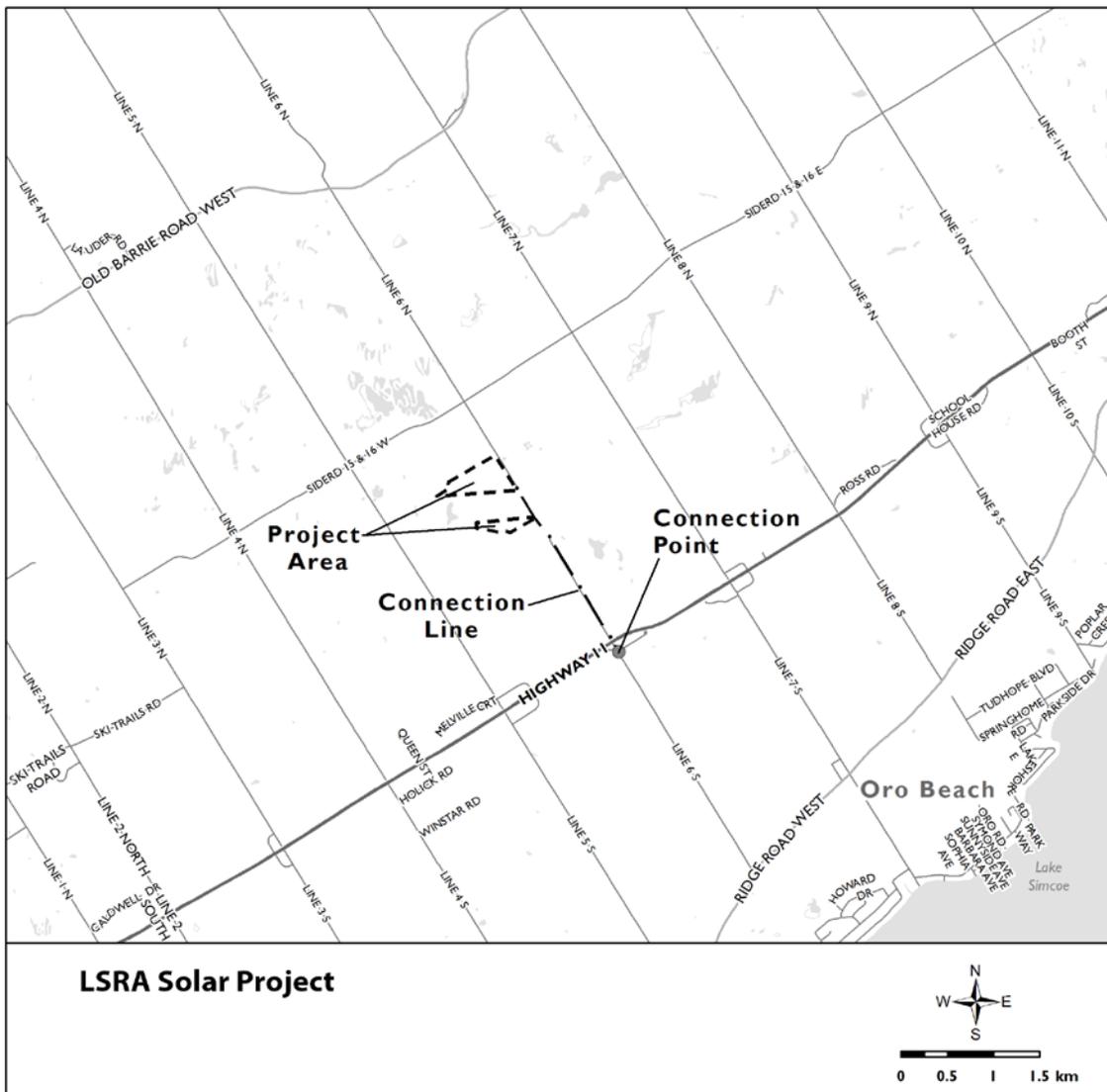
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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background – The Project and Map

Invenery LLC (“Invenery”) proposes to develop, the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Solar Project (“Project”), a Non-Rooftop Solar photovoltaic (PV) facility with an estimated maximum name plate capacity of approximately 8.5 megawatts (MW) alternating current (AC), located in the Township of Oro-Medonte, Ontario. Figure 1 illustrates the Project map.

**Figure 1: Project Map**



Invenergy has qualified to participate in the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Large Renewable Procurement - Request for Proposals (Ontario LRP I RFP) in 2015 and is preparing to submit a proposal for the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Solar Project.

Invenergy is proposing the Project to be located on private land at 224 Line 7 North, and would cover approximately 30 hectares (75 acres) of the 240 hectare (595 acre) property. The proposed Connection Point would be at the existing 44 kilovolt circuit south of Highway 11 at the 6<sup>th</sup> Line.

Given that a solar project will be part of a community for 20 years or more, Invenergy believes in early engagement with host communities. We will endeavor to keep members of the Project Community informed throughout the Project's development process by adhering to the community engagement guidelines set by the IESO.

Once constructed and operational, the Project will bring annual long-term economic benefits to the municipality, while contributing renewable power to the province's energy supply.

## 1.2 Background – Invenergy

Invenergy develops, owns, and operates wind, solar, natural gas-fueled power generation, and energy storage facilities in Canada, the United States, and Europe. As North America's largest independent wind power generation company, Invenergy has developed more than 9,000 MW of utility-scale renewable and natural gas-fueled power generation and energy storage facilities. In Canada, Invenergy is active in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Invenergy has a strong track record in clean energy generation and is committed to building long-lasting relationships with stakeholders in the communities in which its projects are located.

*“Invenergy has been a responsible lessee from the get-go. They are responsive to any issues and can be relied upon to keep their word. I would not hesitate to recommend them as a quality developer and operator.”* Larry Korovesis, Sandringham Solar Energy Centre, Argyle, Ontario.

Invenergy enters each new community with the goal of building relationships to establish a foundation for a long-term presence. Entering a community early, engaging in conversations to inform of potential project details, and listening to community concerns are all part of Invenergy's community engagement practices. This approach builds and strengthens trust over time by establishing and nurturing strong relationships with residents and the community.

*“Invenergy has always been reasonable to deal with and their representatives available when needed. I have no regrets concerning my decision to do business with them.”* Ryan Duff, Woodville Solar Energy Centre, Woodville, Ontario.

## 1.3 Background – Ontario's Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) Program

In recent years, the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Program was the vehicle that enabled renewable energy development in Ontario. In June 2013, the Ontario Minister of Energy directed the IESO (formerly the Ontario Power Authority, or OPA) to cancel the FIT Program for large renewable energy projects and develop a new competitive procurement process. In December 2013, the Minister of Energy released Ontario's new Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP), *Achieving Balance*. The plan highlights the fact that

Ontarians are benefitting from a clean and reliable energy system, and that Ontario was targeting to be coal-free by 2014. The province closed down its last coal powered plant in April 2014 with a plan to continue to procure additional renewable energy. Visit [www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/ltep](http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/ltep) to learn more about this plan.

Consequently, the IESO developed the Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) program in response to this new plan to include a two-phase procurement process:

1. An initial Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to qualify applicants who wish to participate in the LRP; and,
2. A Request for Proposal (RFP) process to evaluate the projects proposed by qualified applicants.

The IESO is procuring 300 MW of wind and 140 MW of solar in this RFP. The proposal submission deadline is September 1, 2015, and the IESO's proposal evaluation process will run until November – December 2015.

## 2. Community Engagement and Consultation Process

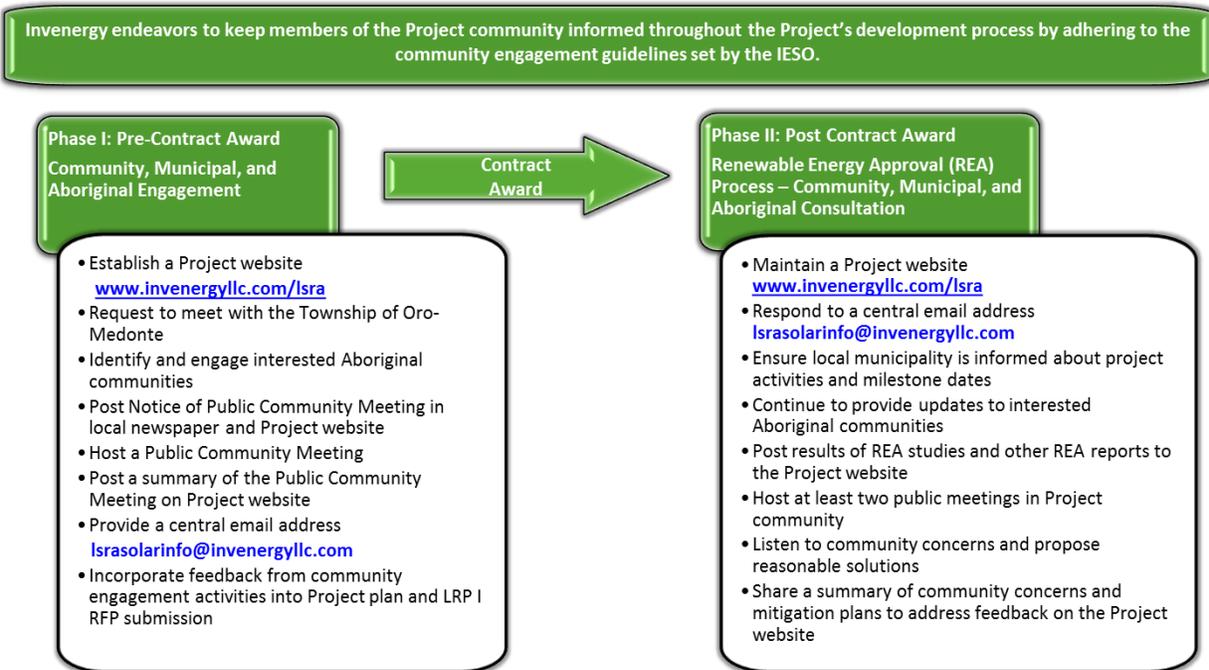
During the RFP phase of the Project, Invenergy will engage and consult with members of the public, Aboriginal communities, the municipality, and other relevant interested parties in the community to inform them of Project details and listen to their concerns and questions. Information about the Project, the Community Engagement Plan, and Site Considerations have been posted to Invenergy's publicly accessible website ([www.inenergyllc.com/ltra](http://www.inenergyllc.com/ltra)), and will be on display at the Public Community Meeting in the Project Community. Invenergy is committed to transparency to foster relationships that will help to build a successful project.

If Invenergy is awarded a contract for the Project, a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) is required before the Project can be built. In support of the REA submission, Invenergy will conduct a variety of environmental, archaeological, engineering and heritage resource studies, and will assess other potential impacts of the Project. Once the findings are complete, Invenergy will share the reports with the community through postings to the Project website and providing hard copies to the municipality.

Community activities include hosting public meetings and posting all relevant Project information to the Project website. As a minimum, Invenergy will follow the Community Engagement and Consultation requirements mandated by the REA process to fully engage and inform the community about the Project.

Figure 2, on the following page, outlines the Community Engagement process for the Project, with more details on each Phase to follow in the Community Engagement Strategic Approach and Method section of this plan (Section 6).

**Figure 2: Community Engagement process**



In order to make this Project a success, Invenergy is committed to open, two-way community engagement through all stages of the development process.

### 3. Purpose of the Community Engagement Plan

Invenergy has prepared this Community Engagement Plan for the Project Community to outline the activities proposed to introduce the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Solar Project to the community at large, and to solicit early feedback.

The purpose of this Community Engagement Plan is to present the process that Invenergy intends to follow to engage, inform, and listen to all interested parties in the Project Community. While the focus of the Plan is for the LRP I RFP stage, it also provides a high-level outline of engagement activities during the REA stage, should Invenergy be awarded a power purchase contract from the province for the Project. Invenergy's intent is to develop and maintain relationships in the community and to promote a two-way exchange of information with interested or potentially affected landowners, Aboriginal communities, members of the public, as well as the municipality. Throughout the process, Invenergy intends to listen very carefully to the issues raised about the Project and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures, where appropriate, into the Project plans.

Invenergy will maintain a copy of the Community Engagement Plan on the Project website, ([www.invenergyllc.com/lsra](http://www.invenergyllc.com/lsra)) at least 15 days prior to the date of the Public Community Meeting until the IESO announces the selected proponents for the LRP I RFP. Copies have been sent to the Clerk at the Township of Oro-Medonte, and other designated officials prescribed by the municipality.

## 4. Interested Parties

The following outlines potentially interested parties of the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Solar Project based on the guidelines provided in the LRP I RFP:

- Assessed landowners in the Project area, specifically:
  - within 120 metres of the boundaries of the Properties that, in whole or in part, constitute the Site for the Project;
  - within 120 metres of the proposed Connection Line;
  - abutting the Properties that, in whole or in part, constitute the Project Site, and on which the proposed Connection Line is to be situated;
- Every Provincial Crown Land Leaseholder with a Provincial Crown Land Lease located within 120 metres of the boundaries of the Properties that, in whole or in part, constitute the Site, and every Provincial Crown Land Leaseholder with a Provincial Crown Land Lease within 120 metres of the proposed Connection Line or that abuts the Project property;
- Aboriginal Communities that may be affected by or otherwise interested in the Project or proposed Connection Line;
- The Township of Oro-Medonte, specifically the Clerk, municipal staff, and members of council;
- Secretary-treasurers of each Local Roads Board of the area in which the Project and Connection Line are proposed to be situated;
- Secretaries of each Local Services Board of the area in which the Project and Connection Line are proposed to be situated;
- Secretary-treasurers of a Planning Board that has jurisdiction in the area which the Project and proposed Connection Line are proposed to be situated;
- The Director, Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change;
- If relevant, the secretary of every company operating an oil or natural gas pipeline, if a pipeline right of way for the pipeline is located within two hundred (200) metres of the Project or proposed Connection Line;
- The Engineering and Development Branch, Environment Canada at [weatherradars@ec.gc.ca](mailto:weatherradars@ec.gc.ca);
- The secretary-treasurer of each conservation authority established by or under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, RSO 1990, c C.27 or a predecessor thereof in whose jurisdiction the Project is proposed;
- Members of the community with a general interest in solar development; and,
- Local media.

## 5. Community Consultation and Engagement Objectives

The objectives of the Community Engagement Plan are to:

- Engage members of the community, interested Aboriginal Communities, and the municipality early to give them the opportunity to provide input into the development of the Project proposed for their community;
- Listen to and address the concerns of community members;
- Educate community members about solar power and the solar development process; and,
- Promote sharing of information and concerns, and generate local support.

## 6. Community Engagement Strategic Approach and Method

An important aspect of solar development is to proactively engage community members in the Project area. Establishing relationships and trust will help Invenergy and the community to build a successful project. It is important for community voices to be heard, and listened to in the planning stage in order to build a project that provides benefits to all. Invenergy believes it is helpful to educate and inform the Project Community early in the process.

The Community Engagement and Consultation process for the Project has two phases.

### Phase I – LRP I RFP Community, Municipal, and Aboriginal Engagement

#### - Spring/Summer 2015

Invenergy will undertake the following activities to engage the full list of interested parties identified in this plan:

#### Project website

- Host a Project website ([www.invenergyllc.com/lra](http://www.invenergyllc.com/lra)) on Invenergy's publicly accessible website. The site is live will remain until the IESO announces the contract awards for the LRP I RFP. If a contract is awarded, the website will remain throughout the REA process as a source of Project information.
- Post a Project description and relevant details, the Community Engagement Plan, and Project contact information.
- Post a copy of the Public Meeting summary report of the Public Community Meeting held in Oro-Medonte.
- Update the website as Project information becomes available, such as Site Considerations, and all RFP required documentation.

#### Municipal Engagement

Invenergy representatives will request to meet with the Township of Oro-Medonte for a preconsultation in July 2015. The purpose of the meeting is to inform staff of Invenergy, the LRP I RFP process, the proposed Project, and to provide details on preliminary Site Considerations and community benefits. The preconsultation process allows staff to provide preliminary comments to Invenergy, and to identify areas where additional information is required to address such matters as

servicing, environmental matters, official plan policies, consistency with provincial policies and conformity with applicable provincial plans. Invenergy will plan to present to staff and council again in August 2015.

Invenergy plans to continue discussions with the municipality on the consultation framework in order to establish a productive working relationship. This will allow Invenergy to continue understanding the community concerns, and incorporate feedback into the Project planning, engineering design, construction and operation phases, as well as come to a consensus on appropriate community benefit arrangements.

After the meeting with Oro-Medonte Council, Invenergy will ask the Municipal Clerk to complete a prescribed form as confirmation that the meeting took place. The completed form will be posted to the Project website for public information, and will be included in the LRP I RFP official documentation.

Appendix I of this plan lists the key municipal and local authorities for the Project.

### **Aboriginal Engagement**

Invenergy believes that consultation with Aboriginal communities is an important piece of the overall Community Engagement Plan. The focus of the plan is to engage with Aboriginal communities that may be affected by or otherwise interested in the Project, and the proposed Connection Line. Although the proposed Project is not located on First Nations reserve lands, there are Aboriginal communities that may have an interest in the Project. Invenergy has requested a list of Aboriginal communities that should be engaged with from the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs as well as completed their own assessment to define potential interests.

Invenergy has reached out to the identified Aboriginal communities to determine if they may have a potential interest in the Project and would like to be engaged. Invenergy also distributed a Notice of a Public Meeting to potentially interested Aboriginal communities in conformance with the LRP I RFP. The Notice contains information about where and when the meeting will take place, and provides a link to the Project website ([www.invenergyllc.com/lra](http://www.invenergyllc.com/lra)) to view information about the Project in advance of the meeting. Contact information is also provided.

Should Invenergy receive a contract for the Project, communications with interested Aboriginal communities will continue through the REA and operational phases. Activities may include face-to-face meetings and presentations.

Invenergy will ask interested Aboriginal communities to complete a form to confirm that a meeting occurred, and post a copy to the Project website. The form will be included as part of the LRP I RFP official documentation.

### **Public Community Meeting**

Invenergy will hold a Public Meeting in Oro-Medonte on August 4, 2015 to present the Project to the public. The Public Meeting will be in the form of an open forum for Invenergy representatives to meet with members of the community, explain the solar development approach proposed for the Project, and inform the public of preliminary Project details. Project information panels will be available and members of the development team will be present to answer questions. The meeting will facilitate a two-way conversation, and provide a good opportunity for members of the community to get answers to their questions, and express any concerns about the Project. The following outlines the activities leading up to, during, and after the meeting to inform the community of the Project details.

- **Notice of Public Community Meeting**
  - Invenergy will post a Notice of Public Community Meeting on July 17 and 18, 2015 in *The Barrie Examiner*, and on the Project website.
  - The purpose of the Notice is to inform members of the community of the Public Meeting scheduled to discuss Invenergy's LRP proposal for the Project.
  - The Notice includes Invenergy contact information and meeting details.
  - A copy of the Notice of Public Community Meeting was given to the parties outlined in Appendix II.
- Invenergy will have panels on display at the Public Community Meeting to describe preliminary Site Considerations, the proposed Connection Line, solar energy in general, the LRP process, Invenergy, and its development experience.
- Copies of this Community Engagement Plan will be on display for members of the public attending the meeting.
- Invenergy representatives will be available during the meeting to respond to questions and listen to concerns.
- Meeting summary reports will be prepared, and copies posted to the Project website and provided to the Clerk of the Township of Oro-Medonte, and other designated officials as prescribed by the municipality.

## Phase II – Renewable Energy Approval (REA) Community Consultation

### - December 2015 and onwards

Invenergy believes that continuous consultation is a critical component of the REA process. If awarded a power contract for the Project, Invenergy will, as a minimum, follow the consultation requirements set forth in the Ontario Ministry of Environment's Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals. The activities can be summarized as follows:

- Maintain the Project website ([www.invenergyllc.com/lra](http://www.invenergyllc.com/lra));
- Respond to a central address ([lrasolarinfo@invenergyllc.com](mailto:lrasolarinfo@invenergyllc.com)) where the community can voice concerns;
- Ensure local municipality is well informed about project activities and milestone dates;
- Continue to provide updates to interested Aboriginal communities;
- Post results of REA studies and other REA reports to the Project website;
- Host two Public Community Meetings to listen to community concerns and share results of REA studies, specific Project details, such as site layout, Connection Line location, Project impacts, and mitigation measures;
- Understand community concerns and propose reasonable solutions; and,
- Share a summary of community concerns and mitigation plans to address feedback on the Project website.

## 7. Media Relations

Invenergy will respond in a timely manner to all media requests for information, provide the media with accurate information, and attempt to correct potential misconceptions about the Project.

All media inquiries can be directed to:

Alissa Krinsky, Director of Communications, Invenergy

Ph: 312-582-1554

Email: [akrinsky@invenergyllc.com](mailto:akrinsky@invenergyllc.com)

## 8. Conclusion

Invenergy's community engagement goal is to engage the public, Aboriginal communities, interested or potentially affected local groups and the municipality, and to establish a two-way exchange of information. Further, Invenergy is committed to sharing relevant and accurate information about the Project with these community groups. It is equally important for Invenergy to have access to local knowledge. Invenergy has put vehicles in place for people to communicate Project concerns in person, by phone or by email. A two-way working relationship described in this Plan provides a process that enables the community to identify concerns pertaining to the proposed Project, and a mechanism for Invenergy to address these concerns.

## Appendix I: List of Key Municipal and Local Authorities

### Project Municipality

Township of Oro-Medonte  
148 Line 7  
South Oro-Medonte, ON L0L 2E0

Title	Local Authorities
Clerk	Township of Oro-Medonte
Clerk	County of Simcoe
Director, Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch	Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Chief Administration Officer/Secretary-Treasurer	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Eastern RAR associate (equivalent of secretary)	TransCanada
Eastern RAR associate (equivalent of secretary)	TransCanada
Assistant Corporate Secretary	Union Gas
Director of Engineering	Union Gas

This list includes only those agencies that were identified for this Project in accordance with the LRP I RFP.

## Appendix II: Distribution List for Notice of Public Community Meeting

Invenergy has published the Notice of Public Community Meeting in *The Barrie Examiner*, posted a copy to the Project website, and distribute copies to the following list (as applicable):

- every assessed owner of Property, specifically:
  - within 120 metres of the boundaries of the Properties that, in whole or in part, constitute the Project Site;
  - within 120 metres of the proposed Connection Line;
  - abutting the Properties that, in whole or in part, constitute the Project Site, and on which the proposed Connection Line is to be situated;
- every Provincial Crown Land Leaseholder with a Provincial Crown Land Lease located on Property on which the Site is located, and within 120 metres of the boundaries of the Properties that, in whole or in part, constitute the Site, and those within 120 metres of the proposed Connection Line or that abuts the Project property;

- every Aboriginal Community that, in the judgement of the Registered Proponent, acting reasonably, may be affected by or otherwise interested in the Project or proposed Connection Line;
- the Clerk of the Township of Oro-Medonte;
- if applicable, the secretary-treasurer of each Local Roads Board of a local roads area in which the Project or proposed Connection Line is proposed to be situated;
- if applicable, the secretary of each Local Services Board of a board area in which the Project or proposed Connection Line is proposed to be situated;
- the secretary-treasurer of any Planning Board that has jurisdiction in an area in which the Project or proposed Connection Line is proposed to be situated;
- if applicable, the chair of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, if the Project or proposed Connection Line is in the area of the Niagara Escarpment Plan;
- the Director, Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change;
- the secretary of every company operating an oil or natural gas pipeline, if a pipeline right of way for the pipeline is located within two hundred (200) metres of the Project or proposed Connection Line; and,
- the secretary-treasurer of each conservation authority established by or under the Conservation Authorities Act, RSO 1990, c C.27 or a predecessor thereof in whose jurisdiction the Project is proposed.