

## PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2023 – Mooretown Sports Complex

Enbridge held its second Public Meeting for the Tecumseh Farm Battery Power Storage, Petrolia Battery Power Storage, and Dow Moore Battery Power Storage projects at 7:30pm-9pm on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. The first public meeting was held virtually and, at the request of community members, this second meeting was held in-person at the Mooretown Sports Complex in St. Clair Township, Ontario.

The meeting was attended by approximately 50 people and opened at 7:30pm. Enbridge opened by covering the slides posted on the project websites (below) and by highlighting that the next public meeting will be in-person in March/April, with more to come:

[www.enbridge.com/tecumsehfarm](http://www.enbridge.com/tecumsehfarm)

[www.enbridge.com/petrolia](http://www.enbridge.com/petrolia)

[www.enbridge.com/dowmoore](http://www.enbridge.com/dowmoore)

Enbridge then opened the floor for questions and comments, a summary is below.

### Questions and comments

Q1. What is your plan to prevent and, if necessary, respond to fires?

Answer

We are incorporating a host of design features to mitigate the risk of fires, which we will discuss in more detail in our next public meeting when we have made final technology decisions. We have also had our first meeting with the Chief and Deputy Chief of St. Clair Township's Fire Department to discuss plans to address potential fires. We had previously committed to providing the training and equipment needed to respond to emergency situations, so this meeting was to get their thoughts on how best to integrate our support for their response into their existing framework. These discussions will cover equipment, training, emergency response and community communication, and will continue in the coming months. We are also prioritizing solutions that will benefit the community at large where possible.

Q2. Are you planning to rely solely on volunteer firefighters?

We do not want to get out ahead of our discussions with the Fire Department but the short answer is that they will be responders but they will not be solely responsible for addressing emergencies at our projects. We will be working closely with them to understand their partnerships with neighbouring Townships and with the County and how we can integrate our own staff into that process, and we will have more detail down the road as those plans come together.

Q3. Why is this additional capacity needed in southwest Ontario?

Answer

Demand overall is increasing in this area due to population growth and increased agricultural activity, such as greenhouses. At the same time, there are increasing high demand peaks, in the summer when everyone is running their air conditioning or in the evenings when electricity consumption is high. At the

same time, some generation capacity is leaving the grid, so there is not enough supply to meet the demand, particularly the spikes in peak demand. This is the urgent need in southwestern Ontario that must be met by summer 2025.

Q4. What is the area that will be served by these projects?

Answer

Definitely these will serve Lambton County because that is where the projects are located. Wherever the “hub” is located, which is where prices are settled, that is the area that will be best served by these projects that connect through that hub. Further along the transmission line, there will be less benefit of these projects – you want the battery to be located near where the demand is located. We know there are some other projects proposed elsewhere in southwestern Ontario. When IESO chooses successful projects under this RFP and those are built, then IESO will identify where gaps remain and where they need additional infrastructure. At this time, IESO has identified the area west of Chatham as the place with the biggest demand need, similar to the area east of Toronto due to Pickering going offline.

Q5. How many sites does IESO want?

Answer

IESO is not looking for a particular number of sites, but a particular number of megawatts. They are looking for at least 1.5 GW of batteries, which is about enough power to serve 750,000 homes, for example. They are looking for developers with experience building and operating projects, but that also propose the best prices. Wind and Solar are obviously the cheapest form of power, but these batteries provide much needed reliability services, which justify higher costs, though IESO still wants to minimize costs as much as possible.

Q6. Have you built a battery before?

Answer

Yes, we have built smaller behind the meter batteries at our industrial operations in Sarnia (roughly 5 MW or smaller). So, we have some experience but we haven’t built as big as these. However, we have also partnered with entities that are building these big projects elsewhere in Ontario and/or have built and operated these projects elsewhere. For example, there are over 8 gigawatts of batteries in the US, including California and Texas where they rely a lot on renewable energy, so it was possible to choose partners who have been operating over multiple years.

Q7. What is the view of residents living near battery projects in California and Texas?

Answer

We have reviewed the technical details and performance results of our partners, which we anticipate providing more detail about in our next public meeting. When we started the process, there were a lot of battery makers saying they could do it. When we started vetting, we excluded those that either hadn’t built projects before, or were too old a generation of technology, and we focused on those with proven performance and safety records. We are a risk adverse company and we would not take a risk with a vendor who could not provide sufficient experience, safety measures, and a detailed emergency response approach.

We will also take the specific question about community responses post-operation away and discuss again at our next public meeting.

Q8. There have been examples of gas leaks and other events at Enbridge Gas and other facilities in the area and communication with residents has been insufficient. We are concerned that the same will be true here.

Answer

We spoke to the Fire Department about this particular issue. We have a 24/7 Remote Operations Centre that not only remotely monitors our sites to catch any faults or unusual circumstances but also remotely operates the sites to turn them off, disconnect from the grid, and take other action in the event of an emergency. This Remote Operations Center will be doing the same thing for our batteries.

We have also received the question about community communication a few times, so when we met with the Fire Department, we asked about what existing notification infrastructure may already exist in this area and how we can take advantage of that, including BASES and CAER. We will continue discussions on integrating with this infrastructure and will have more detail in the coming months.

We understand trust is earned and that we have to provide more detail, which we will be doing as we move along in the process, and we have spoken to the Fire Chief about this as it is a key priority for us. We will provide more info in the coming months, well before any batteries show up in this area.

Q9. Are you open to other locations?

Answer

For these projects, we will proceed with these locations. For future projects, we are absolutely open to suggested locations and preferred areas to build. IESO will be holding future procurements and we want to participate in a way that is consistent with community preferences.

To be clear though, we have to build near transmission lines, which tend to be near the load, e.g., near where people work and live. This is how the infrastructure serves the community and delivers the power needed.

Q10. Are these remote operated sites?

Answer

Yes, these are remotely operated sites. We have our Remote Operations Center that controls assets across North America and even monitors sites in Europe. We will ensure that the data is flowing to our Remote Operations Center properly.

We also chose these locations because we do have personnel in the area who can respond quickly to unlikely emergency situations. They are not hours away, they are available.

Q11. How often will these people be coming by the site?

Answer

At a minimum we will have people come by the site weekly, we will perform monthly fulsome inspections, and we will have cameras so our Remote Operations Centre can view the site regularly. We are also still developing our operations plan, so we will have more detail on this in the coming months.

Q12. What is the setback from the property line?

Answer

We will provide more detailed maps at our March meeting to show the actual distance to property lines.

Q13. What is Hydro One's setback?

Answer

Hydro One has proposed a guideline setback that it has said it will discuss with developers. The suggested setback is 250 meters from a 230 kV line and 150 meters from a single circuit 115 kV line. Our projects will satisfy that requirement.

Q14. I understand you're saying these projects will be safe but the location is surrounded by family farms where people live. Would you raise your family this close to the batteries? I mean it sincerely. We want our children to return to live here, and for them to have a community.

Answer

That is a very fair point, and if you're asking if we would, then yes. We understand that this is an important issue for this community. We are working on measures to mitigate noise and light impacts, we are open to suggestions on how to mitigate aesthetic impacts. We are incorporating in our design the safety features to mitigate risk of fires or spills that will help ensure these are safe, and we are working with the Fire Department to ensure there is a robust emergency response plan in place. We plan to share more about these features and plans in the coming months.

Q15. Can you move these projects?

Answer

For this RFP, IESO will not allow us to move locations. All proponents had to submit projects we might be able to build by May 2025 last summer, so we focused on land we had access to that is near transmission, and where we knew we had staff that could respond to these locations. We understand there are concerns about these locations and we are committed to working with the community to make these project locations work as well as possible. These projects are needed to help ensure there are not power shortages in the summer of 2025. We are working on a very tight timeline to get these projects online and there are limits under the rules on what changes we can make.

We will have more time for future procurements so please let us know now if there are preferred locations you would like us to investigate, but we will not be moving these project locations.

Q16. Do you have any numbers on why IESO is purchasing this power?

Answer

By 2025, they are anticipating a 2.5 GW shortfall in capacity, some of which can be made up by imports, but some of which will be made up from projects like these. There will likely be multiple batteries scattered around southwest Ontario to help meet the needs. This deficit jumps to 4 GW in 2027, and then jumps again as the years progress until there is a 13 GW shortfall without recontracting and new projects, including just to meet baseload needs. This is the gap IESO is trying to close.

Q17. Have you looked into industrial land, e.g., the OPG site?

Answer

We have been looking into potential industrial zoned land and partners who may want to work with us in future procurements. OPG will need to decide what it wants to do with its land before anyone else can make use of that site. However, for this procurement, we will proceed with these sites.

Q18. Does every site have a gas cavern under it and old gas pipelines and infrastructure?

Answer

We are far above the cavern. We are also locating all the old wells and pipelines to daylight them and to get them out of the way. We have to take them out of the way because we have to put in ground rods to ground the system. So we will be building a safe distance from existing gas infrastructure as per independently designed and imposed standards.

Q19. Several landowners have raised the issue of the significant amount of livestock on our land and what happens in a case where we need to evacuate. You said that would be dealt with on a case by case basis but could you provide more information?

Answer

We do plan to provide more detailed responses to these important questions as our emergency response plans are further developed. We also discussed this yesterday with the Fire Chief, as the Township has a lot of industrial activity in the area and is already advanced in its thinking on this topic, we want to understand how any emergency response plans we might develop can make use of the existing systems and/or build on them. We also do not expect to copy and paste the plan in the industrial zoned area to this community, just want to use the existing framework as a foundation.

We understand that this is a major priority for this area, we hear you, and we are reviewing this internally to propose solutions and hope to have more detail in the next public meeting or later this year.

Q20. What role does Council have in approving these projects?

Answer

We have received a letter of support and we will be submitting our draft site plan next week, which will continue the consultation work with the Township, the Fire Department, the Planning Department, the Roads Department, etc. That site plan needs to be approved before we will build the site.

Q21. A question came up in Council on December 19<sup>th</sup> as to what Council's role was in approving these projects. The determination was that the zoning didn't apply and that the Province has authority over the projects. When the GREEN Act was appealed, that changed, correct?

Answer

The analysis delivered at the Council meeting was the Township's analysis of the framework.

The comparison at the Council meeting was to the circumstances for a telecommunications tower, which is an apt comparison in that the Federal government has ultimately constitutional authority over the siting of telecom infrastructure but defers to municipalities in approving siting of the infrastructure. Municipalities are then free to either apply their zoning or not, to require final approval or not, to have robust consultation processes or not; the Municipality is free to set their processes based on guidance from their respective planning departments and it varies by location.

Similarly, the Province has constitutional authority over planning and siting of energy infrastructure but defers to the Municipalities in approving siting of the infrastructure. Municipalities are free to apply their zoning or not, have consultation processes or not, and have various protocols that need to be followed or not. I can't comment on how the decision and analysis as presented in December was arrived at but the comparison was a fair one. Ultimately, the Province has the right to approve siting of energy infrastructure. They have said they will not exercise that right and instead require everyone to receive Municipal approval but it remains their right. Each Municipality has the right to determine how to accommodate energy infrastructure siting within that framework.

Nevertheless, the Township will still have approval over our site plan before we start construction as we work with staff on the various permitting aspects.

#### Map review and comment

At this point, Enbridge shared site map outlines with the attendees to collect feedback on the locations. Attendees identified a few family farms near the project boundary (some of these areas of proximity were to access roads, some were where batteries would be installed). Enbridge also identified that it had decided to bury a transmission line that would have run across the street from a house to mitigate the impact, as a result of earlier consultation discussions and productive landowner negotiations. Enbridge clarified that it would be investigating updates to the site plan in terms of layout, noise and light mitigation, and other options to mitigate the aesthetic impact, and that more detail would be available in the next public meeting.

Images shared are below with nearby farms and residences marked for site plan review purposes as described above.

### Petrolia Battery Power Storage



### Tecumseh Farm Battery Power Storage



Q22. Will you need building permits for this project because if not you won't pay any taxes?

Answer

We are not sure what permits we will need yet as that will be part of our discussions with the Township staff. However, it is not our expectation that we would pay no tax, our expectation is that there will be significant tax benefits to St. Clair Township from these projects.

Q23. What are your three main takeaways from this public meeting?

Answer

Three key takeaways:

- These are not just commercial farms nearby our proposed projects but family farms where people live and work, and represent a community, and we should tailor design and undertake engagement with that at the forefront of our actions.
- We will come with more detail to the next public meeting on safety design features, fire and spill mitigation, noise and aesthetic mitigation measures, and so on. We will engage in regular discussions with the community to incorporate feedback, share information, and to better understand the community and how to be a good community partner.
- We will also provide more detail on safe distancing details to demonstrate that we are removed from existing gas infrastructure on the properties.

Enbridge thanked everyone for coming and the meeting ended.