Compass Energy Consulting

Public Community Meeting for Almonte BESS – Meeting Minutes

December 15th, 2022 / 6:00 PM-8:00 PM / Almonte Civitan Club,

500 Almonte St, Almonte ON K0A 1A0

PRESENTERS

Rishabh Mundhra, James Marzotto

ATTENDEES

Councilor Bev Holmes, Brian Hanna, Keith Lowry, Brad Lowry, Adrian Foster

AGENDA

- About Us
- Ontario's Power Needs and Battery Energy Storage Systems
- Why Almonte?
- Almonte BESS Project Development and Scale Site Map
- Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan
- Questions and Comments

The Public Community Meeting provided attendees with an introduction to the Project and our Companies in the first forty-five (45) minutes, and an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposed project for the next forty-five (45) minutes. The presenting team was available for another thirty (30) minutes afterwards to address any open questions and feedback.

Presentation:

Welcome (Slides 1-4) - Rishabh Mundhra

Compass welcomes everyone to the public engagement meeting for the Almonte BESS Project. Rishabh introduces the team and highlights that this meeting will be a series of public meetings and that timelines are subject to change depending on IESO Timelines. After reviewing the format of the meeting, Rishabh briefly reviews the agenda and purpose of the meeting.

Introductions (Slides 5-6) – Rishabh Mundhra

Rishabh introduces Almonte BESS Limited Partnership, a special purpose entity created by Compass Renewable Energy Consulting which would be the proponent for the IESO's Long-Term Procurement. Compass Renewable Energy Consulting is then introduced, referencing previous successful participation in other large-scale IESO Procurements. It is acknowledged that Almonte BESS Limited Partnership would be the Proponent for submitting the Almonte BESS proposal for IESO's Long-Term procurements.

Ontario's Power Needs (Slide 7) - Rishabh Mundhra

Rishabh discusses the growth forecast of Ontario's energy demand and the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) procurement plan to add 4,000 megawatts (MW) of new capacity through their Expedited Long-Term 1 (E-LT1) and Long-Term 1 (LT1) Procurements. The reasons for increasing provincial energy demand are discussed. This included growth in the residential and commercial sectors, the effects of electrification of transportation, the recent growth of the agriculture sector and the retirement of key generation plants.

What is Battery Energy Storage (Slides 8-9) - Rishabh Mundhra

Rishabh provides an overview of battery energy storage systems (BESS). The essential component that forms these energy storage systems will be lithium-ion battery cells, similar to what is found in an average Smartphone or Laptop. The batteries provide support to the grid by charging during low demand hours and discharging during high demand periods, alleviating grid congestion, improving the stability and quality of grid power, and reducing the price burden on consumers in the long run. BESS projects have been procured by the IESO since 2014.

It was mentioned that the BESS Project be around 0.5-1 acre and will be housed in multiple 30-40ft containers, well equipped with standalone HVAC (to ensure optimal operating conditions for the battery cells) be certified to several internationally accredited safety standards. The projects will be fully fenced, remotely monitored 24/7 and have scheduled site visits to ensure adequate maintenance across the life of the system.

Why Almonte? (Slides 10-12) – James Marzotto

James discusses how the IESO highlighted specific regions in the province that would benefit from additional supply capacity, with Almonte Transformer Station (Almonte TS) receiving 2

points for locational rated criteria. The Almonte TS was also identified as needing near- and medium-term capacity in Hydro One's Greater Ottawa Region Needs Assessment. James then discussed the scaled project site map, zoning, and specifics for the project location, including its proximity to the preferred station and the options for interconnection. ***It was confirmed that the project has been determined deliverable at a nameplate capacity of 4.999MW through the IESO's deliverability test process.***

Benefits of Almonte BESS (Slides 13-14) - Rishabh Mundhra

Rishabh discusses the local benefits of the BESS project. This includes grid stability & flexibility, employment opportunities, financial benefits, industrial growth, diversification, electrical grid support, intelligence, and resilience. Additionally, the project will support the Municipality of Mississippi Mills' Community Official Plan among other climate change policies, aiding further integration of renewable energy into the grid.

Regulatory Compliance (Slide 15) - Rishabh Mundhra

Rishabh informed the audience that the team is engaging the relevant authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) for the project. This included the Municipality of Mississippi Mills, the Mississippi Mills Fire Department, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, local conservation authorities, the applicable utility companies, the Ministry of Energy, the IESO, and the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA).

Development Timeline (Slide 16) - Rishabh Mundhra

Rishabh mentioned that conventional battery projects take between 3-5 years from development to commercial operation. The Almonte BESS is expected to come online around 2025/2026. Rishabh then walks through the development process timeline and identifies the current status of the project, highlighting that annual newsletters will be published to provide status updates on the project. It is mentioned that the project is expected to be decommissioned in 2047.

Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan (Slide 17) - Rishabh Mundhra

Rishabh introduces the Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan developed by Compass and Capstone, which can be found on the project website www.almonteenergystorage.com. *The Plan outlines Compass' public engagement philosophy and provides details on the companies and the project, as well as the future plan for public engagement. Rishabh then reviewed the available public engagement tools for the community members. It was emphasized that all updates and future notices would be made available on the project website. Rishabh invited the attendees to provide any feedback they may have through the project email: info@almonterenergystorage.com*

Closing remarks - (Slide 18) - Rishabh Mundhra

Rishabh thanked the audience, invited them to provide any feedback they have, provided contact information, then opened the floor up for any questions.

Question and Answer session:

Why is the special purpose vehicle a limited partnership? Is it a requirement for the RFP?

> *The presenting team informed the audience that the Limited Partnership structure is conventionally used to structure renewable energy projects. Limited Partnership allow for several benefits such as allowing the project to add multiple partners, such as Indigenous groups, in their ownership structure.*

Will there be a way to access the system?

> *The presenting team informed the audience that they were working with the landlord to provide a 20-feet access road to the proposed project location that would be used to conduct service and maintenance annually.*

Will the nearby transmission line be an advantage or disadvantage for the project?

> *The presenting team informed the audience that the project will connect to the three-phase, Hydro One distribution line that runs along County Road 29 and not the transmission lines running near the property. The project design would account for the appropriate amount of setback from any existing utility infrastructure.*

Would the Project connecting to the Hydro One transformer have any impact on the Mississippi River Power Corporation operations?

> *The presenting team informed the audience that as part of the connection process the IESO and Hydro One would be performing System Impact Assessment (SIA) and Connection Impact Assessments (CIA) studies to determine the connection design and grid impacts of connecting with the project. The team committed to keeping the audience well informed of the results of such studies which may help determine any potential impacts to local generation facilities.*

Will there be any milestone reporting for the project?

> *The presenting team informed that there would be annual newsletters that would keep the public informed of the project progress. This document would be mailed to the members of the public and published on the project website www.almonteenergystorage.com.*
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> *Additionally, while engaging with the Municipality and local authorities, the project will make public several project documents to ensure transparency and accountability.*

There will be noise emission from this facility. What is the current noise limit in this area and will the project required to be follow local noise guidelines?

The presenting team informed the audience that the noise impact associated with such a system stems mainly from the operation of the dedicated HVAC systems for each container. As a part of the environmental permitting process, a noise impact assessment for the Project may be conducted. As a part of this report, the ambient noise survey will identify the 'noise envelop' for the Project location based on zoning, proximity to highways and other factors that may affect sound levels in the area. Once a survey is conducted, any potential risks of the BESS exceeding the 'noise budget' and violating any provincial norms would be mitigated based on suggested noise mitigation efforts that may be required to successfully secure an environmental permit.

Will there be any EMF produced?

The presenting team informed the audience that electric fields are produced whenever a conductor such as a power line is connected to a source of electrical voltage. Magnetic fields are produced whenever an electrical current flows in a conductor. An example of this is the plugging of a lamp into a wall outlet in a home. When the lamp is plugged in, a voltage is induced in the cord to the lamp that causes an electric field to be created around the cord. In this example, if the lamp is turned on allowing electricity to flow to the lamp, a magnetic field is created around the lamp cord in addition to the electric field.

For the BESS system, the magnetic field will vary with the amount of power being charged or discharged, and the time of the day when the charging and discharging would occur. However, the strength of both electric and magnetic fields will decrease rapidly with distance from the source - for each doubling of the distance from the EMF source, the EMF will drop by a factor of eight. Electric fields will also diminish from absorption by any vegetation (including low-growing vegetation) located in its path because the plants effectively ground the electric fields.

The presenting team committed to providing further information related to EMF impacts once project design and equipment has been finalized.

Will there be a fire suppression method for the BESS?

The presenting team informed the audience that the BESS enclosures will have built in fire suppression system (FSS) solutions. The FSS system is composed of smoke detectors, and gas detectors, whose main function is to prevent fire spread in time when any open flame signal or gas signal appears in the battery system and sent out fire signal to Battery Management System (BMS) system. The systems will also be equipped with water- or aerosol-based fire sprinkler systems which would stem the propagation of thermal runaway. Additionally, emergency ventilation would further help mitigate fire risk.

BESS will be certified to UL9540 and UL9540A standards to prevent fire spread and suppression at the cell and the BESS system level. The management of any risks will

start at the cell level, with selection of battery chemistry, and compliance with local authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) and global certifications.

Finally, Compass mentioned that they have engaged the local Fire department along with Antler Group for a screening of our site and to sponsor additional training to equip firefighters with knowledge of the BESS fire protection standards. There would also be a review of the Emergency Response procedure to be followed in the unlikely event of fire.

How many containers would there be within 1 acre?

The presenting team informed the audience that while the exact number of containers depended on the selected equipment, the site is expected to have between four to six containers.

In the unlikely event of fire, what would be the material used to contain the fire?

The presenting team informed the audience that they were looking to implement water- or aerosol-based fire agents within the Fire Suppression System. The system would not be proposing a foam-based fire retardant.

Are the battery containers going to be vacuum sealed?

The presenting team informed the audience that the battery containers will be well ventilated through a dedicated HVAC system which would maintain optimal temperature for the operation of the batteries.

In the event that the IESO Contract is cancelled, what measures are in place to make sure that the land will be remediated and returned to its original state?

The presenting team informed the audience that within the current land lease with the landowner, the obligation to decommission and remediate land falls on the project developer. Compass aims to honor the land lease in word and spirit.

What happens if the project does not pass the E-LT1 procurement?

The presenting team informed the audience that the IESO would also be conducting the LT1 procurement later in 2023 which would provide another chance for projects to be contracted if they were unsuccessful in the E-LT1 procurement.