

MULTI-MUNICIPAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP
TOM ALLWOOD, COUNCILLOR, GREY HIGHLANDS, CHAIR
JIM HANNA, DEPUTY MAYOR, HURON-KINLOSS, VICE-CHAIR
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November 23, 2023

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

As many of you are aware, the Independent Energy System Operator (IESO) has issued a Long-Term Request for Proposal to procure 2,518 MW of year-round effective capacity from dispatchable new build resources.

The process has seen a number of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) proposed throughout the Province. These systems are relatively new and Municipalities are being asked to provide the required approvals in advance of important regulations being put in place.

A major concern with BESS is the fire hazard risk and the emitting of potentially toxic gases. The emergency response to these types of fires may be beyond the capacity of local fire departments and the Office of the Fire Marshal has not yet been able to develop guidelines to assist in effective fire suppression measures.

The MMEWG has been closely monitoring the proposals in an effort to better understand the impacts these sites could have on communities. The Municipality of Grey Highlands, a member of the working group, passed a resolution indicating that no project will be given support until the Office of the Fire Marshal and appropriate ministries issue public safety and technical guidelines and we are sharing that resolution with you for consideration.

Warm Regards,

p.p. 

Tom Allwood,
Chair, Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group
Councillor, Municipality of Grey Highlands

2023-501

Tom Allwood - Dan Wickens

Whereas the Province and the Independent Electricity System Operator, IESO, are moving ahead with an expedited program on Battery Energy Storage Systems, BESS, without the appropriate regulations in place; and Whereas Municipal approval is required for siting these types of installations in Grey Highlands; and

Whereas Battery Energy Storage Systems have increased fire safety risks that may require an emergency response that is beyond the capability of our Fire Department. These risks include but are not limited to Explosions and venting life-threatening toxic gases; and

Whereas the Office of The Fire Marshal under The Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) 1997 provides Public Safety Guidelines and Technical Guidelines to Municipalities and Ministries; and "At present the OFM has not established any guidelines with respect to Battery Energy Storage Systems"; and

Whereas under FPPA 1997 every Municipality that establishes a fire department is required to provide fire protection services and shall determine their capability and capacity to attend an emergency; and

Whereas the Municipality of Grey Highlands currently does not permit Battery Energy Storage Systems as of right and in order to permit one of these systems an applicant would need to apply for a Zoning By-law Amendment from the Municipality; now

Therefore be it resolved that Council does not support the establishment of Battery Energy Storage Systems in Grey Highlands until the Office of the Fire Marshal and the appropriate Ministries issue Public Safety and Technical Guidelines; and

That staff be directed to advise potential applicants of this resolution.

CARRIED.

- 15.4 Deputy Mayor Nielsen - Staff Appreciation Day - notice presented on June 7, 2023.

2023-502

Dane Nielsen - Nadia Dubyk

That Council host and run the staff BBQ July 20th from 1 - 3 pm with a \$1000 budget limit.

CARRIED.

- 15.5 Mayor McQueen - Connecting links project in Flesherton - Notice was provided at the June 7, 2023 Meeting

Deputy Mayor Nielsen assumed the Chair.

Main Motion: