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To:

From: Shawn Merriman, Building Department

Date: July 28, 2011

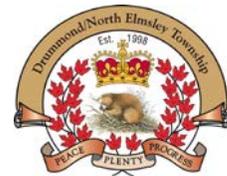
Subject: Proposed Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Array

This is the second letter that the Township is sending out regarding solar projects proposed for the North Elmsley ward and where each project is in the Ministry of the Environment's Renewable Energy Approval Process. The first letter, from the Township was sent out on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and was mailed to all persons with a land interest within 2 km of the Recurrent Energy projects on Buttermilk Hill road referred to as SmithsFalls 2 and the project at the corner of Armstrong Road and Station Road referred to as SmithsFalls 5. This letter will actually being received by more residents, landowners, and interested parties, as all four projects, will be addressed in this communication. For reference, the letter of March 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 has been included with this communication

This letter, will lay out the four projects, starting with the one farthest along in the Ministry's Renewable Energy process.

At this point, that project is Recurrent Energy SmithsFalls 5 project, which is located on land that is at the intersection of Armstrong and Station Roads. The second public meeting was held in early April at the Civitan Club and the Municipal Consultation form was completed with feedback from the public and staff and returned to Recurrent Energy and the Ministry of the Environment around the middle of May. In this Consultation Form, the Township acknowledged the reports received to date regarding the project and the concern that many details were still not concrete as it related to the projects. Especially of interest was the lack of detail in emergency planning and ground water protection. The Township was clear in our desire to work on these issues but to date very little has been presented or discussed with staff. One conference call was conducted between Recurrent Energy, Hatch Energy and Township Staff on May 19, 2011. The only conclusive agreement was all parties expressed the desire to work together. There was some interesting proposals suggested but more information was still to be considered. Since then the Township has sent at least three follow up emails requesting time lines or firm commitments to policy but to date there is nothing to report.

Regardless, the Ministry of the Environment did determine that this project, Recurrent Energy SmithsFalls 5, was adequate to post on the Electronic Bulletin Board. The project was posted on June 13, 2011. The registry number on the Ministry website is 011-3822 and comments were to be submitted by July 13, 2011 as there is only a 30 day posting period. The Township was not informed of this until an email was **sent by the Township on July 27, 2011 to the Ministry of Environment** asking for an update regarding the projects. The Township has been told that no decision has been



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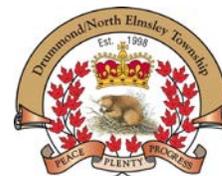
made to date and that there was still time for the Township to submit comments. Therefore I would ask all persons who wish to comment, to send correspondence to the Township's Building Department with a subject line of Recurrent Energy SmithsFalls 5. These comments need to be received no later than **August 15, 2011 at 4:30 pm**. These concerns will then be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment by the Township.

It is important to note that the Developer did advertise this development in the EMC on June 23, 2011 but forgot to advise the Township. The following points are the Township's first two main concerns, which the Township believes need to be satisfied. The first is for a proper HIRA (hazardous incident risk assessment) to be completed involving all parties so proper emergency planning can be prepared and implemented. The next is an adequate monitoring system of the ground water. The ground water is deemed by the Province to be highly vulnerable, due to the lack soil depth over the fractured bedrock base. The Township feels the monitoring needs to be over an adequate area around all projects. This testing needs to be completed; before, during and after the construction project and the same around the decommissioning in thirty years. Next, the testing should include mineral composition and bacteria counts. More important, the information should be owned by the well owners with the information being shared by and with the Township and the Developer.

The next project, farthest along in the process, is known as Recurrent Energy SmithsFalls 2. This project is to be located at the civic address of 514 Buttermilk Hill Road. This project also had the second meeting in early April of 2011 at the Perth Civitan Club and the Municipal Consultation form was submitted in the middle of May 2011 with many if not all the same concerns as listed for SmithsFalls 5. This project has not been posted to date on the Ministry's website but is expected to be posted shortly. The good news is there has been a change in policy by the Ministry of the Environment. The new policy will require that the posting be advertised in local papers. More important the Developer Recurrent Energy has assured the Township of notifying the Township directly. The Township is hopeful that more details regarding this project especially as it relates to Emergency Planning and Ground Water Protection will be agreed upon with Recurrent Energy before it is posted on the Ministry's website.

The third project is known as Recurrent Energy SmithsFalls 3. The project will be located on the second property west of Burns Road and fronts on Armstrong Road. This project is proceeding to the second public meeting, which is being organized by the Developer Recurrent Energy. These meetings will occur on **August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in the evening, at the Civitan Club** just outside of Perth on County Road 43. All interested parties should attend. The Municipal Consultation Form has been requested regarding this property and all comments are welcome. The goal is to have this Consultation Form submitted to the Developer and the Ministry before the end of August, 2011.

The last project is known as Recurrent Energy SmithsFalls 4. This property is located on the lands identified with the civic address of 319 Drummond Concession 1. The public meetings being



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organized by the Developer Recurrent Energy are to be held on **September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the North Elmsley School** in the evening. The school is located at 209 Port Elmsley Road. The Municipal Consultation Form has not been requested as of July 28, 2011 regarding this property but it anticipated shortly. The Municipality is hoping to have this form completed between the first and middle of October 2011. As always, all comments are welcome by the Municipality.

In conclusion, this bring all interested parties up to date, regarding the Township's understanding of the projects and the position each project is at in the process of the Renewable Energy Act. The Township would like to remind all parties that this process is relatively new and there are bound to be some unique situations that could not be anticipated or for seen by the parties involved. The Township can **only act in good faith** regarding these projects as the final approval rest with the Provincial Government's Ministry of Environment. The Developer has assured the Township that all concerns have been noted and the answers and details will be forthcoming as details are confirmed. The numerous parties involved in this project can communicate at any time with the Township and the Township will make sure that information is provided to all who request. Please share this information with all and let everyone know that if they wish to be on the mailing list to make a request with this department at the Township.

Respectfully Yours,

Shawn Merriman  
Chief Building Official BCIN 34599  
Township of Drummond/North Elmsley