

# Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan

*Long-Term 1 Procurement (LT1 RFP)*

*Almonte BESS Limited Partnership*

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**Revision History**

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## 1. Introduction

Almonte BESS Limited Partnership has developed this Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan (the “CIEP”) for Almonte BESS 2 (the “Project”), a proposed up to 10 megawatt (MW) lithium-ion battery energy storage system project located in the Municipality of Mississippi Mills.

The Project is being developed by Almonte BESS Limited Partnership and is supported by Wahgoshig Solar FIT5 LP (“Wahgoshig Solar”), approved by the Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”) through the Request for Qualification (“RFQ”) stage of the procurement and among the fifty-five (55) Qualified Applicants with the experience and capabilities to successfully develop, construct, and operate facilities acquired through this procurement<sup>1</sup>.

Almonte BESS Limited Partnership will submit the Project into the IESO’s Request for Proposals under the Long-Term 1 procurement (“LT1 RFP”) on or before the Submission Deadline.

This Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan’s objectives are to:

- Provide details about the Project
- Describe the IESO’s LT1 RFP process
- Describe the level of Community and Indigenous engagement that has been carried out thus far
- Provide engagement opportunities for Community and Indigenous stakeholders to provide feedback
- Describe our plans for future Community and Indigenous engagement
- Address and respond to Community and Indigenous feedback

It is of utmost importance that the local community, Indigenous Communities, and other stakeholders are contacted and meaningfully communicated with regarding details of the proposed Project. If the Project is successful in the RFP and awarded a contract, it will be in operation for 20 plus years. To ensure the successful development and implementation of the Project, we will strive to effectively incorporate the views and insights from Community and Indigenous members and other stakeholders during the planning, building, operating, and decommissioning phases.

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<sup>1</sup> More information about the IESO’s Long Term Capacity Procurement and the list of Qualified Applicants is available here: <https://www.ieso.ca/en/Sector-Participants/Resource-Acquisition-and-Contracts/Long-Term-RFP-and-Expedited-Process>

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## 2. Purpose of the Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan

The CIEP identifies a strategy for establishing and maintaining a transparent and productive engagement with Community stakeholders and Indigenous Communities. The CIEP is a “living” document and will be updated during the project life cycle to better suit the goals and objectives of the community engagement process.

The CIEP will:

- Identify, expand on, and consult with the list of Community stakeholders and Indigenous Communities that are interested in the development of the Project;
- Publish reader-friendly and publicly accessible Project information to help Community stakeholders and Indigenous Communities understand the proposed Project and offer feedback;
- Create engagement opportunities for Community stakeholders and Indigenous Communities to be involved throughout the development process, including the planning and development of Project design;
- Design a communication plan to inform Community stakeholders and Indigenous Communities of on-going Community Engagement and Project development activities;
- Engage with public and collect feedback through the Project website or Project Email, and during Public Community Meetings;
- Determine and address any issues or concerns that the public or other stakeholders have with regards to the Project; and
- Promote active public engagement through effective and targeted outreach.

### 3. Key Project Information

Almonte BESS Limited Partnership is a special purpose entity created for Almonte BESS 2 (the “Project”) by Compass Renewable Energy Consulting, supported by Wahgoshig Solar.

Almonte BESS Limited Partnership is proposing to develop, construct, and operate the Project, with a maximum 10 megawatt (MW) lithium-ion battery energy storage system (“BESS”), located on private land within the Municipality of Mississippi Mills at 6299 County Rd 29, Town of Mississippi Mills, ON K0A 1A0. This infrastructure project will bring significant investment and local benefits including employment, lease payments, and capital spending in the local economy.

The Developer is among the fifty-five (55) Qualified Applicants approved by the IESO through the RFQ stage of the procurement, with the experience and capabilities to successfully develop, construct, and operate facilities acquired through this procurement.

On or before the Submission Deadline, Almonte BESS Limited Partnership will apply to the IESO’s Request for Proposals under the Long-Term 1 procurement (“LT1 RFP”) to obtain a capacity contract for this site.

The competitive procurement process will assess and evaluate the Project against other energy storage and non-energy storage capacity proposals. Proposals offering the most competitive capacity prices may be awarded a 20 plus year agreement with the IESO. For additional Rated Criteria points, the IESO will look for Projects that have evidence of Municipal support and Indigenous ownership, described in Section 5 “Capacity Procurement Information”.



**Figure 1: Almonte BESS 2 Scale Site Map**

Since the Project is in the early development stage, the location of equipment, such as BESS containers and/or transformers, and access roads have not yet been finalized. However, the above site map provides a proposed Project boundary, outside of which development is not likely to occur.

The final site map will take into account outputs from environmental and other field studies and feedback from the local Community and other stakeholders, as applicable. Environmental and technical studies aid in the understanding of any impacts on the local community, natural and cultural heritage, archaeology, and other important local factors.

As with any development activity, there will likely be some sort of impact on the local environment, however we want to ensure that our proposed Project minimizes the potential for negative impacts through extensive due diligence prior to construction.

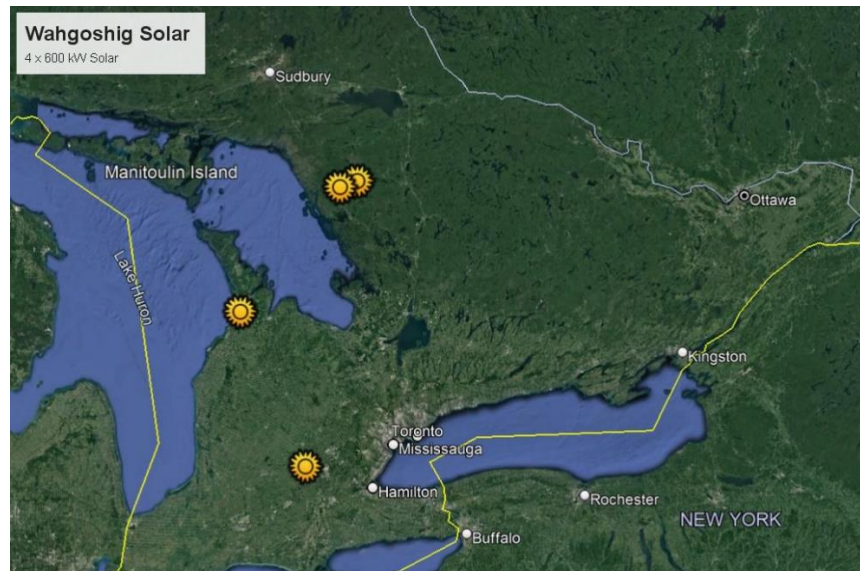
## 4. Company Backgrounds

Almonte BESS Limited Partnership is a special purpose entity created for Almonte BESS 2 (the “Project”) by Compass Renewable Energy Consulting, supported by Wahgoshig Solar.

The Developer is among the fifty-five (55) Qualified Applicants approved by the IESO through the RFQ stage of the procurement, with the experience and capabilities to successfully develop, construct, and operate facilities acquired through this procurement.

### Wahgoshig Solar FIT5 LP

Wahgoshig Solar FIT 5 LP (“Wahgoshig Solar”) is a partnership formed between the Apitipi Anicinapek Nation and Compass Renewable Energy Consulting Inc. (“Compass”). Wahgoshig Solar developed, constructed, and operates four 500 kWac/600 kWdc (2.4 MWdc total) ground mounted Feed-in Tariff (“FIT”) projects under the former FIT program in Ontario. Wahgoshig Solar engaged Compass to manage the development, permitting and construction of these facilities.



**Figure 2: Wahgoshig Solar’s Project Portfolio**

### Compass Renewable Energy Consulting Inc.

Compass Renewable Energy Consulting Inc. (“Compass”) has been consulting and developing renewable and clean energy projects in Ontario for over a decade, with experience across the development lifecycle from pre-screening, contracting, construction, commissioning, and operations. Compass has developed over 100 renewable energy projects in Canada representing over 100 megawatts (MW) in the last 6 years and supported the development of over 2,000 MWs for our clients. Most recently, Compass supported the development of four (4) BESS Projects that were successful in receiving and executing contracts with the IESO through the Expedited Long-Term 1 Request for Proposals (E-LT1 RFP) that concluded on June 27, 2023.



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## 5. Capacity Procurement Information

After more than a decade of strong supply, Ontario is entering a period of emerging electricity system needs, driven by increasing demand, the retirement of the Pickering nuclear plant, the refurbishment of other nuclear generating units, as well as expiring contracts for existing facilities.

To address these needs, the IESO is competitively securing 4,000 MW of capacity through the first Long-Term Request for Proposals (“LT1 RFP”), complimentary Expedited procurement process (“E-LT1 RFP”), and the Same Technology Upgrade Solicitation. The LT1 RFP, together with the recently concluded Expedited RFP, is expected to competitively procure year-round effective capacity from dispatchable new build resources, including new build hybrid electricity generation and storage facilities, registered or able to become registered in the IESO administered markets, larger than 1 MW and which can deliver a continuous amount of electricity to a connection point on a distribution system or transmission system for at least four consecutive hours.

The LT1 process requires renewable energy project developers to move through two pre-contract stages before a capacity contract is awarded: a Request for Qualification (RFQ) stage, and a Request for Proposals (RFP) stage. Details on these stages are outlined below.

### Request for Qualification (RFQ) Stage

In advance of the E-LT1 and LT1 RFPs, the IESO issued the Long-Term Request for Qualifications (“LT1 RFQ”) to establish a list of applicants with the experience and capability to successfully develop, construct and operate facilities acquired through these procurements.

Wahgoshig Solar FIT5 LP was approved by the IESO among the fifty-five (55) Qualified Applicants with the experience and capabilities to successfully develop, construct, and operate facilities acquired through these procurements.<sup>2</sup>

### Request for Proposal (RFP) Stage

The LT1 RFP requirements were developed by the IESO following a thorough stakeholder engagement process. The main goal of the LT1 RFP is to create a competitive process aimed at achieving the lowest cost power for Ontarians. In addition to focusing on price, the IESO favours projects with higher duration, evidence of support from the host Municipality, and economic ownership from Indigenous Communities.

As part of LT1 RFP’s “Eligibility Requirements”, projects are required to:

- Receive a favourable result from IESO’s Deliverability Test
- Conduct at least one Public Community Meeting informing adjacent Property Owners, host Municipality, and Indigenous Communities of the Project details and the proposed Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan (the “CIEP”)

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<sup>2</sup> The LT1 RFQ is now complete, and the list of qualified applicants is available here: <https://www.ieso.ca/en/Sector-Participants/Resource-Acquisition-and-Contracts/Long-Term-RFP-and-Expedited-Process>

Several “Rated criteria” points are awarded to projects which:

- Secure a Municipal Council Support Resolution
- Sign a partnership agreement with an Indigenous Community

The IESO will then review and assess submitted proposals. Selected Projects are expected to be announced in the first half of 2024.

### Post-Contract Award Stage

If the Project is awarded a capacity contract by the IESO, we would begin to advance the permitting processes from the various authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) identified in the Stakeholders List. Additionally, the Project would apply for grid connection from the relevant transmission and distribution companies. Upon successful permitting, the Project is anticipated to begin construction in 2025/2026.

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## 6. Stakeholders List

Identifying the list of stakeholders that are interested in the development of the Project is key to a successful Community Engagement Plan. We intend to keep this stakeholder list updated across all stages of Project development, construction, operation, and decommissioning.

Since the Community Engagement Plan is a public document, the privacy of the individuals must be respected, as such the stakeholders list will not contain any sensitive information regarding private individuals or individual landowners.

### a. Landowners and users

- Assessed owners of Properties located adjacent to the boundary of the Project Site

### b. Indigenous Stakeholders

- Indigenous Communities who may have an interest in the Project

### c. Municipal Stakeholders

- Chief Administrative Officer or equivalent for the Municipality of Mississippi Mills in which the proposed Project is located
- Mayor and council members

### d. Government and Regional Authorities

- Ontario Ministry of Energy
- Independent Electricity System Operator
- Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
- Local Conservation Authorities
- Electrical Safety Authority
- Local Utility
- Local Fire and Rescue Department

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## 7. Community Engagement Process

We will engage the community stakeholders and Indigenous Communities in two distinct ways, described in greater detail below.

### Information Sharing

The Community Engagement Plan seeks to inform the stakeholders about the Project and its progress through the following informational tools:

- **Project Website**, hosting details about the Project and status of development activities;
- **Notice of Public Community Meeting**, posted to the Project Website, and delivered by electronic mail, registered mail or courier to the mandatory stakeholders (as defined by the IESO);
- **Public Community Meetings**, an early-development stage meeting planned before Submission Deadline, and a proposed meeting following successful contract award through the IESO's procurement process;
- **Public Community Meeting Minutes**, posted to the Project Website; and
- **Annual Project Newsletters**, posted to the Project Website and mailed to the mandatory stakeholders (as defined by the IESO).

### Consultation

In addition to informing the community, our engagement process seeks to create opportunities to consult with identified community stakeholders and Indigenous Communities to gather feedback on the Project through the following feedback tools:

- Electronic correspondence through the Project Email;
- One-on-one meetings, as requested;
- Public Community Meetings;
- Public meetings with Municipal Councils; and
- Feedback and FAQ via the Project Website.

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## 8. Community Engagement Staged Approach

Project timelines can be divided into five (5) distinct stages that have differing goals and objectives. The Project's community engagement activities would be tailored for each of the following project stages. As of the date of this Community Engagement Plan, the Project is in Stage 1.

- ❖ **Stage 1:** Pre-Contract through Contract Award
- ❖ **Stage 2:** Development
- ❖ **Stage 3:** Construction
- ❖ **Stage 4:** Operation
- ❖ **Stage 5:** Decommissioning

### Stage 1: Pre-Contract through Contract Award

During Stage 1, the community engagement process will:

- Inform community stakeholders, municipal government, and Indigenous Communities about the Project;
- Engage with public and collect feedback through the Project Website or Project Email, and during the Public Community Meeting; and
- Promote active project engagement through Promote active public engagement through effective and inclusive outreach.

The Pre-Contract Stage is currently ongoing and concludes when the Project is awarded an LT1 contract (expected in early to mid 2024). The following engagement tasks, at a minimum, will be part of the Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan for the Pre-Contract Stage and will be completed before the Submission Deadline.

- Inform Municipalities of the proposed Project by engaging with staff and participating in a delegation at one or more Municipal Council meetings;
- Create and manage a Project Website, keeping content current with all relevant Project and Public Community Meeting information;
- Create and manage a unique Project Email address to collect feedback;
- Create and manage a Project-specific distribution list;
- Share a copy of the CIEP on the Project Website at least fifteen (15) days before the Public Community Meeting;
- Share a copy of the Notice of Public Community Meeting on the Project Website at least fifteen (15) days before the Public Community Meeting;
- Deliver, via electronic mail, registered mail or courier, a copy of the Notice of Public Community Meeting to the assessed owners of Properties located adjacent to the boundaries of the Project Site, the Local Municipality, and Indigenous Communities, at least fifteen (15) days before the Public Community Meeting;
- Host one (1) Public Community Meeting. The meeting will include:
  - Legal name and contact information for the LT1 RFP Proponent;
  - Project Name, Nameplate Capacity, and storage technology of the proposed Project;
  - A scale map showing the boundaries of the of the Project site, location of the Connection Point and the Connection Line within relevant Municipalities;

- Information pertaining to battery energy storage systems, the Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan, and updates on the status and progress of development activities, such as the environmental assessment will be made available; and
- A question-and-answer opportunity where members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions to the Proponent in a manner accessible to all other members of the public attending the meeting.
- Post a summary and meeting minutes of the Public Community Meeting to the Project Website;
- Upon request, host meetings with Indigenous Communities; and
- Where appropriate, respond to questions and concerns raised during our engagement process.

Given the changing public health situation due to COVID-19, our meetings may be virtual. However, we are committed to hosting an in-person Public Community Meeting wherever feasible. The time, date, and details on how to participate of the Public Community Meeting will be posted on the Project Website and provided on the Notice of Public Community Meeting.

If members of the community are not able to attend the meeting, we encourage all interested persons to visit our Project Website where the Public Community Meeting documents will be posted, or to contact us directly through the Project Email provided on the website.

## Stage 2: Development (up to 2 years) & Stage 3: Construction (1 year)

If the Project is awarded a capacity contract by the IESO, we are committed to continuing its engagement with all interested stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the Project.

During the Development and Construction phases, engagement will focus on continuing to inform Community stakeholders and Indigenous Communities of the Project progress, monitoring, and managing Community and Indigenous feedback through annual project newsletters, as well as ensuring the Project meets all permitting obligations as set out by the various authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs).

Stage 2 will begin upon execution of a capacity contract, expected in mid 2024, and will last until the start of construction (expected in 2025/2026). Once construction is underway, Stage 3 of the engagement plan will take effect.

During Stages 2 and 3, we will perform the following engagement tasks:

- In-person Public Community Meeting will be held prior to the start of construction to communicate how the development team has incorporated stakeholder feedback in Project design;
- Inform interested stakeholders on the results of technical studies;
- Meet with Municipal Officials, as requested, to keep them updated on the Project progress;
- Meet with Indigenous Communities, as requested, to keep them updated of Project progress;
- Develop an Emergency Response and Public Safety Plan with local public safety authorities;
- Provide Emergency Response training to all members of the local Fire Department;

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- Develop and engage the community on the Decommissioning Plan;
  - Update the Project Website regularly with relevant Project information and updates;
  - Record and engage with stakeholder feedback through the Project Website; and
  - Issue an annual newsletter with Project information and updates for interested stakeholders.

#### Stage 4: Operation (20 to 22 years)

The Project Operation Stage is anticipated to last 20 plus years from the time the Project achieves Commercial Operation (i.e. is fully operational), until the decommissioning. The goals and objectives for this stage will be focused on ensuring the Project operates efficiently and safely.

During Stage 4, we will perform the following engagement tasks:

- Manage the safe operation of the Project;
- Effectively develop, communicate, and run a public safety protocol; and
- Issue an annual newsletter with Project information and updates for interested stakeholders.

#### Stage 5: Decommissioning (up to 1 year)

At this stage of the Project's lifecycle, we will implement the Decommissioning Plan compliant with all prescribed Municipal and Provincial regulations and requirements. Property landowners, neighbors, and the host Municipality will again be consulted to ensure the community is aware of the proposed Decommissioning Plan.

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## 9. Indigenous Consultation and Engagement

The Project is not located on Indigenous Lands, as defined in the LT1 RFP, however we acknowledge that it is our responsibility to interact with the local Indigenous Communities as part of the CIEP. We will put together a list of Indigenous Communities that have lands, areas, or regions<sup>3</sup> within proximity of the property we seek to develop.

We encourage these and any other Indigenous Communities, who wish to make their interests known, to please contact us directly through the Project Email provided on our Project Website.

A Notice of Public Community Meeting will be delivered to identified Indigenous Communities in advance of the Public Community Meeting held during Phase 1 – Pre-Contract Phase. Information about accessing the meetings, as well as where the Indigenous Community can view project documents prior to the meeting will be on the Project Website.

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<sup>3</sup> As illustrated by the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System (ATRIS), available online: [https://sidait-atris.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/ATRIS\\_ONLINE/home-accueil.aspx](https://sidait-atris.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/ATRIS_ONLINE/home-accueil.aspx)



## 10. FAQ

Through the CIEP, we are committed to reviewing and responding to feedback and comments received through the Public Community Meetings and/or Project Email.

We will collect and record all public feedback internally and may group some similar questions together and/or may post our responses to a topic rather than to a specific question submitted.

Active engagement with the community stakeholders and Indigenous Communities is extremely important to us as it will enhance our understanding of potential environmental, social, economic, or heritage impacts and inform Project development, design, construction, operation, and decommissioning.