

ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION REPORT

Twp. of St. Clair – Sombra Solar Farm

Date: May 14, 2010

Update 1: July 19, 2010

Update 2: October 29, 2010

Update 3: May 20, 2011



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Project

Class 3 solar farm as defined by Section 4 of O. Reg. 359/09.

Proponent

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “First Solar”).

About The Proponent

The proponent, First Solar, develops and constructs solar farms and is a solar module manufacturer producing low cost thin film photovoltaic modules. First Solar manufactures and uses low profile (less than 2m high), stationary thin film photovoltaic arrays which minimize wind loading and visual impacts. First Solar’s modules consume no fuel and create no atmospheric emissions, ground vibrations or water pollution in the generation of electricity. The proponent has proposed and established a number of solar farms in North America, Europe and Asia, including projects developed by First Solar and its affiliates, and by project partners that use First Solar-manufactured modules in their projects. Projects include a planned solar farm in San Luis Obispo County, California which will generate 550 MW of electricity when complete. In Ontario, First Solar has completed constructing an 80 MW solar farm in the City of Sarnia which is now the largest photovoltaic solar facility in the world.

Project Description

A solar farm is proposed which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. The proposed solar farm will be capable of producing 20 MW of electricity and will be developed within the boundaries of the subject site. The solar farm is designated as a “class 3” solar facility as defined by Section 4 of O. Reg. 359/09 regarding Renewable Energy Approvals. A class 3 solar facility is a renewable energy facility with a name plate power capacity greater than 10kW situated at any location other than being mounted on the roof or wall of a building.

Aboriginal Consultation List

On October 30, 2009, First Solar provided the Director with a description of the project and requested a list of aboriginal communities who:

- i) have or may have constitutionally protected aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely impacted by the project; or
- ii) otherwise may be interested in any negative environmental effects of the project.

Pursuant to Section 14 of the Regulation, the Ministry provided the Aboriginal Consultation List

which included Aamjiwnaang First Nation (formerly Chippewas of Sarnia) and Bkejwanong Territory (formerly Walpole Island First Nation) on January 25, 2010 (exhibit 1).

On May 11, 2011 the Ministry of Environment provided First Solar with a letter which advised that aboriginal consultation list provided on January 25, 2010 did not include the most proximate 1701 Treaty / Albany Deed Community (exhibit 1). As such, the Ministry of Environment requested that First Solar also consult with the Oneida Nation of the Thames.

Distribution of Required Notices

Prior to receiving the Aboriginal Consultation List from the Ministry under Sec. 14 of the Regulation, First Solar took initiative to issue the Notice of the Proposal to engage in a renewable energy project and Notice of Public Meeting to each Aboriginal Community on the aboriginal consultation list under Sec. 14 of the Regulation in accordance with Sec. 15 of the Regulation. In addition, notice of the public meeting and notice of the proposal to engage in a renewable energy project were published in the Sarnia Observer newspaper on Saturday December 12, 2009 and again on Monday December 14th, 2009 (exhibit 2). The aforementioned notices were distributed greater than 30 days before the first public meeting.

On March 22, 2010, a subsequent letter was mailed to each aboriginal community on the aboriginal consultation list under Sec. 14 of the Regulation with Notice of the Final Public Meeting (exhibit 2). Pursuant to the Sec. 15 (6) (1) of the Regulation, the notice of public meeting was also published in the Sarnia Observer newspaper on Thursday March 18th, 2010 and again on Friday March 19th, 2010. The notice was also posted on the First Solar website as required by the Regulation. The aforementioned notice of public meeting was distributed greater than 30 days before the final public meeting.

Distribution of Project Description Report and Summary of Draft Reports

Prior to receiving the Aboriginal Consultation List under Sec. 14, First Solar provided a hard copy of the Project Description Report to Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Bkejwanong Territory on December 14th, 2009. Hard copies of the Project Description Report were made available to the public at the January 14, 2010 public meeting and posted to the First Solar project website. In accordance with Sec. 17(1), the Project Description Report summarized the draft documents required under Part IV of the Regulation.

Written Request Regarding Constitutionally Protected Aboriginal or Treaty Rights

Pursuant to Sec. 17 (1)(2) of the Regulation, before drafts of documents were distributed to the public under Sec. 16 (5), First Solar did not have reason to believe that the project would impact constitutionally protected aboriginal or treaty rights because: (a) the project is proposed to be

located on private lands which have been farmed for over a century; and (b) in First Solar's view, the project will be a more benign use of the lands than the current use (i.e., there will be negligible, if any, impact). However, in accordance with Sec. 17 (1) (4) of the Regulation, each Aboriginal Community on the aboriginal consultation list under Sec. 14 of the Regulation was asked on December 14, 2009 to provide, in writing, input on the project with respect to constitutionally protected rights and any related mitigation measures (exhibit 3). There was no response received to this request.

No members or representatives of any of the Aboriginal Communities on the list obtained from the Director were present at the first public meeting held on January 14, 2010. First Solar then sent out a subsequent letter to the Aboriginal Communities on the aboriginal consultation list under Sec. 14 of the Regulation on February 26th, 2010 seeking input on the project with respect to constitutionally protected aboriginal rights and any related mitigation measures. On March 12, 2010 Dean Jacobs, Bkejwanong Territory, responded to this February 26, 2010 letter with a request for a meeting with First Solar to discuss compliance with the Walpole Island First Nation Consultation and Accommodation Protocol. He attached a copy of this protocol to his response. Aamjiwnaang First Nation did not provide any response to First Solar's February 26, 2010 letter.

As outlined in the Status of Aboriginal Consultation section of this report, consultation with aboriginal communities is ongoing regarding any constitutionally protected aboriginal or treaty rights that the community has identified as being adversely impacted by the renewable energy project; and, measures for mitigating any adverse impacts, including any measures identified by the community.

Drafts of Reports and Studies made Available

In accordance with Sec. 16 (1)(5) of the Regulation, drafts of the reports and studies were made available on December 14, 2009 when First Solar provided each aboriginal community on the Aboriginal Consultation List with the project website address which had soft copies of project reports available to download. Neither Aamjiwnaang First Nation nor Bkejwanong Territory appear to have made hard copies of the draft reports available in each community 60 days before the final public meeting pursuant to Sec. 15 (1)(5) of the Regulation. First Solar then sent a second letter to both Communities on February 26th, 2010 with a soft copy of draft reports and studies to engage the communities in the consultation process. In addition, a private individual meeting with each aboriginal community was offered by First Solar (exhibit 4).

Hard copies of the draft reports were provided to the communities at First Solar's initiative, in order to provide them with a complete set of project documentation for their review. For Aamjiwnaang, the documents were provided during the first meeting in person held on April 29, 2010. For Bkejwanong Territory, a full set of project reports and drawings was sent to Dean Jacobs via courier on May 19, 2010. Bkejwanong Territory has asked that future hard copies of materials be provided directly to Dean Jacobs, Consultation Manager, and Lee White, Economic Development.

On May 17, 2011 First Solar met with representatives of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, including Chief Al Day of Oneida Nation of the Thames. As requested by Chief Day, consultation with Oneida Nation of the Thames will be undertaken through the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

At the meeting, First Solar presented an overview of the Sombra Solar Farm project (along with several other projects under development including Moore, Belmont, and Amherstburg). An additional summary report was presented, outlining the history and status of archaeological investigation and findings at the various project locations. Since project documents have already been downloaded (from First Solar's website at <http://canada.firstsolar.com>), First Solar did not provide additional hard copies of the project reports.

Consultants

First Solar engaged McLeod Wood Associates Inc., who are independent aboriginal relations consultants, to provide advice and recommendations for consultation with First Nations and Métis communities identified by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and through independent research and assessment. First Solar also engaged the Lakeshore Group, who are land use planning consultants, to assist in the Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") process.

Status of Aboriginal Consultations

This report sets out the status of First Solar's Aboriginal Consultation process as of May 2011. First Solar will issue updated reports during the course of ongoing consultation. First Solar recognizes that First Nations and Métis communities in Ontario have rights that are constitutionally protected, and that renewable energy developments may impact these rights. Through consultation with First Nations and Métis community leaders, staff, and community members, First Solar is working to determine whether its Sombra Solar Farm and other proposed projects would have any expected or potential impacts on these rights and whether there are strategies to mitigate any impacts.

While the "duty to consult and accommodate" rests with the Crown, certain procedural aspects may be delegated to proponents. First Solar understands that through the Renewable Energy Approval process, the Crown has delegated certain aspects of the consultation process. These include consultation with potentially impacted aboriginal communities and the identification of any expected or potential impact on constitutionally-protected treaty or aboriginal rights. First Solar is engaging with communities in order to understand any assertions of impact on these rights.

First Solar works to investigate any existing or asserted claims or rights by First Nations or Métis communities at any of First Solar's proposed project sites using the formal consultation contact list provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, as well as through meetings and discussions with First Nations and Métis communities. First Solar is prepared to assess any assertions of impacts and to work with aboriginal communities to identify strategies to mitigate or avoid potential impacts.

Resource constraints for First Nations and Métis communities require additional efforts on behalf of First Solar to ensure that communities are able to provide input that can be integrated into project planning. Consequently, consultation with these communities will remain an ongoing effort throughout the project development process, not just during the environmental approval process. As well, in order to more fully consult with the potentially impacted

communities, First Solar has adopted a proactive consultation approach. This approach includes active attempts to meet with First Nations or Métis communities to discuss the proposed project. Also included are attempts to contact the relevant community leaders or staff by email, letter, or phone, and an effort to meet in person a representative from each community.

First Solar has met with representatives from Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Bkejwanong Territory. A meeting with Sharilyn Johnston, Environment Officer and Wilson Plain, Health and Environment Committee member, was held at the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Health and Environment Office on April 29, 2010. A meeting with representatives of Bkejwanong Territory, Dean Jacobs, Consultation Manager, Jared MacBeth, Project Review Coordinator, and Lee White, Director of Economic Development was held on June 8, 2010, at the Walpole Island Heritage Centre.

Both communities have expressed an interest in economic opportunities associated with the project. The communities have also expressed an interest in the archaeological work that has been undertaken, and the discovery of any artifacts of aboriginal origin.

Regarding potential for employment and contracting opportunities during construction and operation of the project, First Solar is working with communities to identify the skills and capacities required during the construction and operation phases of the project, and will work with its contractors to encourage Aboriginal employment, and/or contracting with Aboriginal businesses. To that end, First Solar has prepared an aboriginal policy that gives preference to qualified subcontractors that are majority-owned by local First Nations and other aboriginal peoples (“Aboriginal Subcontractors”), and also gives preference to qualified subcontractors who in turn give preference to Aboriginal Subcontractors. First Solar’s aboriginal policy also promotes the contribution of time and money to foundations and charitable organizations that support and enhance the cultural, educational and business opportunities for local First Nations and other aboriginal peoples. First Solar is in the process of contacting appropriate individuals at each community in order to provide potential contractors with the opportunity to bid on upcoming work, as well as to establish a process for facilitating employment of community members with other, non-First Nations, contractors who may work on the site.

With respect to archaeological work, First Solar arranged a meeting between Bkejwanong Territory and the archaeological consultant to discuss the findings and work undertaken at the Sombra Solar Farm project site on August 30, 2010. A meeting to discuss additional consultation items and to present a draft of the consultation workplan was also completed on August 30, 2010 at Bkejwanong.

The budget and workplan proposed by Bkejwanong have been accepted and First Solar is working with Bkejwanong to complete the items indicated in the workplan.

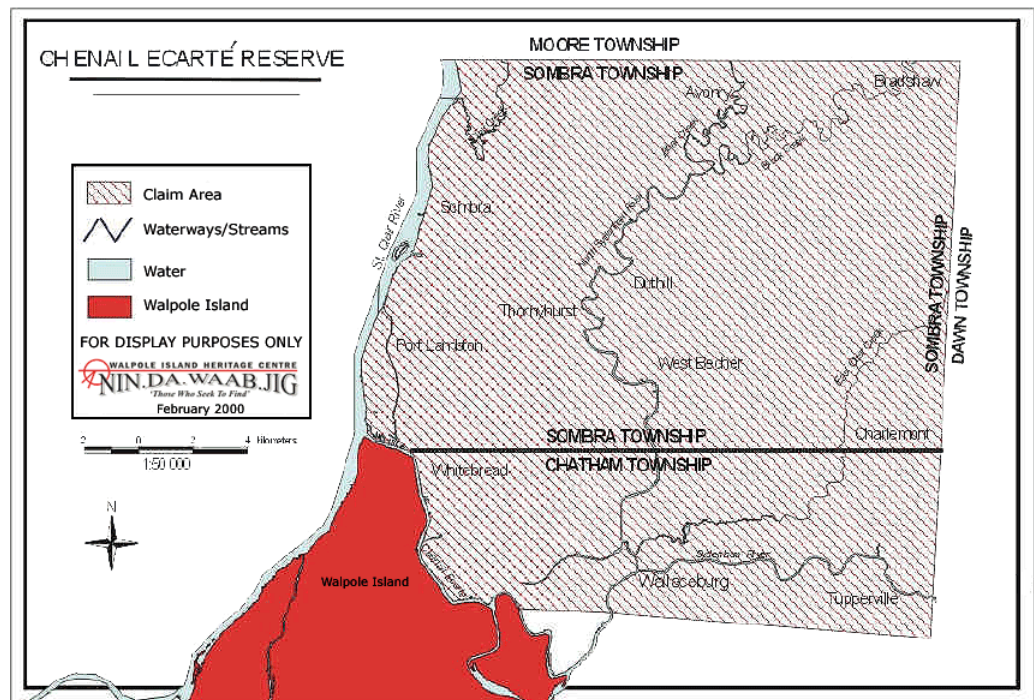
Aamjiwnaang First Nation: To date, no specific issues have been raised by Aamjiwnaang First Nation that indicate any expected or potential impact on an identified or asserted aboriginal or treaty right. First Solar and its consultants do not anticipate any expected or potential impact on any aboriginal or treaty right at this time. First Solar will continue to consult regarding any potential impacts which may be identified in future.

In addition to the First Nation, First Solar has met with representatives from the Chippewas Industrial Developments Ltd. (“CIDL”), a Band-owned company, to talk about opportunities to

contract with First Solar. CIDL appears to be supportive of renewable energy projects.

Bkejwanong (Walpole Island) First Nation: Bkejwanong Territory expressed interest in First Solar's use of 'buffer' lands that will not be utilized for project infrastructure, including the potential to develop habitat for species of interest to Bkejwanong or native species in this area. First Solar is committed to working with the community to identify the best use for these lands, and will work with Bkejwanong to determine if there are opportunities to improve or increase the habitat in the project area.

With respect to Bkejwanong, through independent research and dialogue between David Miller of McLeod Wood Associates and Dean Jacobs of Bkejwanong Territory, a specific claim (Chenail Ecarté) by Bkejwanong to the Sombra Project site has been identified. The specific claim is for a much broader area, encompassing all of Sombra Township and surrounding area (see map below). In essence, the Chenail Ecarté claim is based on the assertion by Bkejwanong that the Reserve lands to be set aside by the Treaty of 1796 (between Bkejwanong's forefathers and the British Crown) encompassed an area much larger than Bkejwanong's current Reserve lands and that these additional lands were given away or sold by the Crown without any surrender or release by Bkejwanong (or any compensation paid to Bkejwanong).



We were advised by Bkejwanong that the federal Department of Justice's legal opinion recommended rejection of this claim but that (at Bkejwanong's request) this recommendation was being reconsidered over the course of this summer. On June 14, 2010, First Solar's consultant (McLeod Wood) was informed by Bkejwanong that it intends to file additional future claims naming individual landowners in the Claim area should the Commission find that the Claim is invalid. First Solar believes that the Chenail Ecarté Claim can only be resolved on a 'government-to-government' basis. This has been recognized by Canadian Courts, which have held in that the only remedy for circumstances where the Crown has unlawfully sold First Nation lands to private landowners is the payment of damages (i.e., compensation) by the Crown.

Where good faith private purchasers have bought land, any successful claim by a First Nation cannot operate to revert the land to the First Nation (*Chippewas of Sarnia Band v. Canada (Attorney General) et al.* (2000), 51 O.R. (3d) 641, leave to SCC denied). Because the Sombra Solar Farm is located entirely on private land, should the Chenail Ecarté claim be proven, the sole remedy lies against the Crown and not any private landowner in the specific claim area. Further, because the Sombra Solar Farm will not have any impacts beyond the private lands on which the project is situated, the project will not impact the Chenail Ecarté claim.

In addition to the Chenail Ecarté specific claim, Bkejwanong has 20 other claims registered with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in its specific claims registry. First Solar has reviewed all of these claims, and the project lands only fall within the Chenail Ecarté claim.

Bkejwanong has also filed a comprehensive land claim to the Three Fires Confederacy Unceded Traditional Lands, claiming that Bkejwanong has aboriginal title to certain lands in southwestern Ontario, but this claim excludes “any land which is owned by private parties in fee simple.” As part of this claim, Bkejwanong also claims that it has certain unextinguished aboriginal rights within the Three Fires Confederacy Traditional Lands (which encompasses virtually all of southwestern Ontario, including the project lands) (see Ontario Superior Court of Justice File No. 00-CV-189329). These rights include the right to hunt, fish, trap, gather or collect animals, plants, minerals and oil, and the right to have access to, preserve and conserve sacred sites for traditional, social and ceremonial purposes. An examination of the Court file indicates that the claim in Court has not advanced since 2005. As noted above, First Solar’s proposed use of the lands will have no incremental impact on this claim or asserted rights, and indeed, First Solar’s view is that the proposed use of the land for a solar farm is a more benign use than the past 100 years of agricultural use. As noted by the Federal Court of Canada (*Brokenhead Ojibway Nation v. Canada (Attorney General)*, [2009] 3 C.N.L.R. 36), proposed projects on previously exploited land under private ownership, with minimal impact on the surrounding environment will have a negligible (if any) impact on any unresolved aboriginal claim.

Oneida Nation of the Thames: As requested by Chief Day, consultation with Oneida Nation of the Thames will be undertaken through the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

Future Consultation: In the ongoing consultation process, First Solar is planning to meet with the representatives of Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Bkejwanong Territory. It is anticipated that meetings will be held primarily with staff, although community meetings or a community open house regarding the project may also be required. Both Aamjiwnaang and Bkejwanong have expressed some interest in an open house in the community, although no dates have yet been set.

Further discussions with the communities are also planned to discuss the capacity of community members with respect to the anticipated construction and operational labour requirements. On March 31, 2011, First Solar provided an “employment contact sheet” to the Aamjiwnaang, Bkejwanong, and Oneida communities. The documents are intended to provide input to a database of individuals and businesses which are interested in potential employment and contracting opportunities associated with the project. This information is, in turn, provided to project sub-contractors to help increase Aboriginal employment participation in the projects.

The following chart summarizes the communications First Solar has had with each First Nation and Métis communities including the information required to be distributed under Sec. 17 (1) of

the Regulation.

Date	Contact By	Contact With	Purpose	Issue Raised	Follow Up
15-Dec-09	First Solar	Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Bkejwanong Territory	Distribution of notice of proposal to engage in the project, notice of public meeting, and copy of Project Description Report also provided.	Each Aboriginal Community was asked to provide, in writing, input on the project with respect to any potential adverse impacts the project may have on constitutionally protected rights and any related mitigation measures.	N/A
26-Feb-10	First Solar	Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Bkejwanong Territory	Request input on project with respect to any adverse impact the project may have on constitutionally protected aboriginal rights and any related mitigation measures. Copy of project reports and studies also distributed.	N/A	N/A
12-Mar-10	Dean Jacobs, Walpole Island First Nation	Peter Carrie	Called on behalf of Chief Gilbert regarding letter from First Solar, February 25 and 26.	Submitted Walpole Island Consultation and Accommodation protocol to First Solar.	Email was misfiled and was not read until late April.
12-Mar-10	David Miller, MWA	William Big Bull, consultant to Walpole Island First Nation	Requested an initial meeting to discuss projects.	N/A	N/A
22-Mar-10	First Solar	Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Bkejwanong Territory	Distribution of notice of public meeting.	N/A	N/A
24-Mar-10	David Miller, MWA	Carole Delion (CIDL), Sharilyn Johnston	Response to question about consultation	N/A	N/A
5-Apr-10	David Miller, MWA	Carole Delion (CIDL), Sharilyn Johnston	Response to question about domestic content	Interest by Aamjiwnaang businesses in opportunities	Invite to meeting to discuss opportunities
15-Apr-10	David Miller, MWA	Sharilyn Johnston,	Arrange initial meeting	Left message	N/A

Date	Contact By	Contact With	Purpose	Issue Raised	Follow Up
		Aamjiwnaang Health and Environment			
27-Apr-10	Sharilyn Johnstone, Aamjiwnaang	David Miller, MWA	Arrange initial meeting	N/A	Meeting set for April 29
27-Apr-10	David Miller, MWA	William Big Bull, consultant to Walpole Island First Nation	Requested an initial meeting to discuss projects.	N/A	N/A
28-Apr-10	David Miller, MWA	Carole Delion (CIDL)	Arrange meeting	N/A	Meeting set for April 29
29-Apr-10	David Miller, MWA, Peter Carrie, Ed Chilton	Carole Delion (CIDL), Tom Maness	Discussed contracting and employment related to solar projects	Several on-reserve businesses may produce products useful in project. Warehousing may also be available.	Peter to investigate opportunities for contracting with Procurement, also to consider warehousing facilities on reserve.
29-Apr-10	David Miller, MWA, Peter Carrie, Ed Chilton	Sharilyn Johnston and Wilson Plain, Aamjiwnaang Health and Environment	Initial meeting to deliver project documents, discuss proposed project	No specific issues, interest in follow-up meetings.	Follow up meeting with the Health and Environment Committee to be scheduled. A potential community information meeting to also be held.
1-May-10	David Miller, MWA	William Big Bull, Dean Jacobs	Following up on misfiled email and attempt to set up meeting.	William indicated he was no longer working with Walpole Island and further contact should be with Dean Jacobs.	Meeting date to be determined.
6-May-10	Peter Carrie	London District Chiefs' Council; Chief Chris Plain	Presented an overview of typical project construction activity and related	N/A	N/A

Date	Contact By	Contact With	Purpose	Issue Raised	Follow Up
		of Aamjiwnaang First Nation	opportunities for F.N. participation		
8-June-10	Peter Carrie, David Miller	Dr Dean Jacobs, Lee White, Jared MacBeth	Discuss the proposed projects and any interest of Bkejwanong Territory.	<p>Bkejwanong Territory expressed an interest in economic opportunities associated with the project. There was also an interest expressed in conservation and restoration of the environment and any habitat.</p> <p>A meeting with the archaeologist who undertook the work was also requested.</p>	<p>Bkejwanong Territory to submit a consultation work plan and budget.</p> <p>A list of companies and skill sets will be provided by Walpole Island to First Solar for potential work on the project.</p> <p>A meeting between Dean Jacobs and the archaeologists is being scheduled by First Solar.</p>
24-Jun-10	David Miller	Dr Dean Jacobs	Discuss the Chenail Ecarte Specific Claim.	Dr Jacobs explained the current status of the claim, and provided more details about the claim.	Dr Jacobs will send an email with more details. (Note. Received email, June 24)
29-Jul-10	David Miller	Jared MacBeth	Identify potential dates for archaeology meeting, discuss items on workplan.	Jared explained in more detail the items in the workplan, and how First Solar may respond to these items.	Jared to submit draft budget.
6-Aug-10	Peter Carrie	Sharilyn Johnston	Update letter on the current stage of the REA process	The letter indicated that consultation will continue throughout the REA process, and the First Solar is committed to working with the community to successfully complete the consultation process.	

Date	Contact By	Contact With	Purpose	Issue Raised	Follow Up
6-Aug-10	Peter Carrie	Dr Dean Jacobs	Update letter on the current stage of the REA process	The letter indicated that consultation will continue throughout the REA process, and the First Solar is committed to working with the community to successfully complete the consultation process.	
30-Aug-10	David Miller, Eric Hyatt (First Solar), Arthur Figura and Holly Martelle (Timmins-Martelle Heritage Consulting)	Dr. Dean Jacobs, Jared MacBeth	Meeting to present findings from archaeology reports.	Holly and Arthur presented the results of the archaeology work and answered questions from Dr Jacobs. Jared MacBeth asked for more details about potential employment and training opportunities.	David to provide more details about employment opportunities and investigate training opportunities for Walpole Island members. David to investigate opportunity for First Solar to participate in the Walpole Island Land Trust.
30-Aug-10	David Miller	Sharilyn Johnston	Discuss follow-up meeting regarding proposed projects	Sharilyn indicated that following the election a new Health and Environment committee will be formed and a meeting will have to wait.	David to contact Sharilyn after Oct. 11 to determine date for meeting.
20-Oct-10	David Miller	Jared MacBeth	Discussed contracting and employment related to solar projects and the proposed Consultation Budget.	David asked Jared for clarification on who to contact at Walpole Island to discuss contracting and employment.	Jared to provide contact for Pam Fulton and Ed Gilbert. David to obtain approval or comments on Draft Budget.
20-Oct-10	David Miller	Sharilyn Johnston	Called to arrange meeting with Health and Environment	Left message	

Date	Contact By	Contact With	Purpose	Issue Raised	Follow Up
			Committee		
28-Oct-10	David Miller	Jared MacBeth	Follow up discussion on Budget.	David indicated that the budget was approved, and requested details on the proposed invoicing.	Jared to determine the invoicing schedule.
28-Oct-10	David Miller	Ed Gilbert	Discussed contracting and employment related to solar projects	Ed requested that materials related to contracting be submitted directly to him, and he will pass on to contractors within the community.	David to provide Ed's contact information to First Solar (completed).
28-Oct-10	David Miller	Sharilyn Johnston	Discussed meeting with new Health and Environment Committee	A new Health and Environment Committee was established following recent Band elections, First Solar will make a presentation at the next meeting.	First Solar to present at meeting on Nov. 16, 2010.
28-Oct-10	David Miller, MWA	Carole Delion, Chippewas Industrial Developments (CIDL)	Discuss employment and contracting for projects	Discussed employment opportunities, contracting opportunities,	David to provide job descriptions and information about contracting. David to investigate a "minimum Aboriginal content" requirement with First Solar.
16-Nov-10	Peter Carrie, David Miller	Aamjiwnaang Health and Environment Committee	Discuss proposed project	The committee raised concerns about the potential impact on soil quality under and around the panels. Also raised concerns about creation of "hot spot" and impact on local radiation or UV impacts.	First Solar will provide more information and details regarding soil quality and impacts. David will work with Sharilyn Johnston to share more details on work and

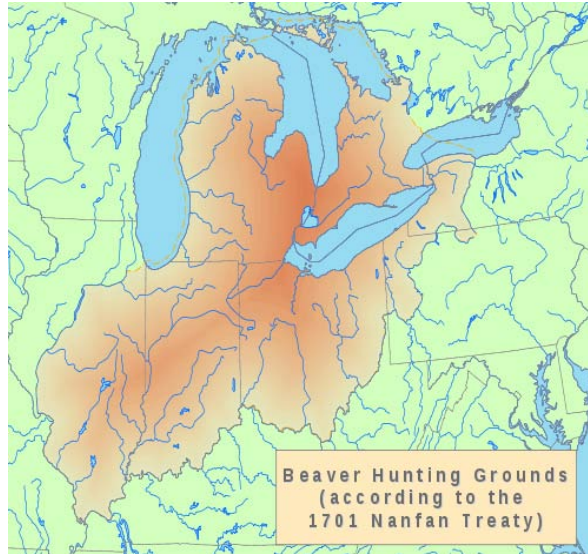
Date	Contact By	Contact With	Purpose	Issue Raised	Follow Up
					<p>employment. First Solar will investigate opportunities to plant sage on sites. First Solar will host a tour of the Sarnia solar farm for committee members.</p>
25-Jan-11	David Miller	Jared MacBeth	New project information	Provided Jared, as requested, with news releases about the sale of First Solar's Ontario projects to long term owners	None
15-Feb-11	David Miller	Jared MacBeth, WIFN	Request details	Requested additional details from Jared after site tour.	Jared to provide information on Native Plant Nursery Project, possible contractors from WIFN
17-Mar-11	David Miller	Jared MacBeth, WIFN	Contracting opportunities	Called Jared to discuss the potential for Walpole contractors to work on projects (planting and hibernacula)	N/A
31-Mar-11	Cynthia Williams, Doy Nahdee, Jared MacBeth, Walpole Island First Nation	David Miller	Employment Opportunities	Provided Walpole Island with a form and information on collecting names of potential individuals to work on First Solar projects	Walpole Island First Nation to provide list of potential employees
31-Mar-11	Carole Delion, Sharilyn Johnston, Aamjiwnaang	David Miller	Employment Opportunities	Provided Aamjiwnaang with a form and information on collecting names of potential individuals to work on First Solar projects	Aamjiwnaang to provide list of potential employees

Date	Contact By	Contact With	Purpose	Issue Raised	Follow Up
13-Apr-11	Jared MacBeth	David Miller	Employment and Contracting	Discussed opportunities for assisting WIFN in participating in work.	David to determine if First Solar or contractors could hold on-reserve job fair. Follow up complete, April 15: On-reserve job fair not possible due to capacity and time constraints.
4-May-11	David Miller	Sharilyn Johnston, Aamjiwnaang Health and Environment	Discuss response to MOE request letter	David requested additional details on the status of the consultation process, and next steps.	Sharilyn indicated that Chief and Council will make a decision on the scope and focus of future consultation, if required
17-May-11	Peter Carrie & David Miller	Chief Al Day & Haudenosaunee	Provide information on Sombra, Moore, Belmont & Amherstburg solar farm projects.	No specific issues were raised. An approach to ongoing consultation will be proposed.	N/A

Assertions of Rights or Interests by Other Parties

First Solar is in the process of consulting with a number of aboriginal groups as part of its REA-related consultations for several projects in addition to the project referenced in this document. Through the process of these discussions and through independent research, First Solar has become aware of assertions of project interest by other groups, as outlined below.

1. Nanfan Treaty of 1701



Several Ontario First Nations and related organizations are party to this treaty, including Six Nations, Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and Oneida of the Thames First Nation. All three of these groups have made First Solar aware of the Treaty and potential rights that may derive from it. First Solar has carried out research to determine the geographical scope and treaty rights set out in the Nanfan Treaty. The treaty description of the geographical coverage of Treaty area is not exactly precise, but does appear to cover most of south-western Ontario. The treaty also states that the Iroquois

Nations are to have free hunting, free of all disturbances and protected by the Crown of England. Ontario Courts have recognized the Nanfan Treaty (usually in the context of the treaty being asserted by aboriginal hunters as a defence to unlawful hunting charges under provincial law – see, for example, *R. v. Barberstock* (2003 Carswell Ont 6542) and *R. v. Ireland*, [1991] 2 CNLR 120). The *R. v. Ireland* case in particular recognized that neither the treaty right to hunt (in particular on private property) nor the Crown's ability to frustrate the treaty right (by granting Crown land to private parties) can be absolute. First Solar's response to this is three-fold: First, the sheer geographic scope (all of south-western Ontario) and reconciliation of the rights and interests in the Nanfan Treaty are so significant that they can only be dealt with by government. In other words, reconciliation and accommodation have to be the government's responsibility. Second, there is no incremental impact on the Nanfan Treaty rights of the Iroquois by the Sombra Solar farm (i.e., these are previously disturbed, private lands). Third, as noted earlier, First Solar has an aboriginal policy that provides preferential employment and other economic opportunities for aboriginal businesses in the course of developing First Solar's projects.

2. Métis Assertions of Interests

The Métis Nation of Ontario was not listed on the Director's Aboriginal Consultation List. However, First Solar has consulted with the Métis Nation of Ontario in respect of all of First Solar's Ontario projects. On July 5, 2010, several representatives from the Métis Nation of Ontario (and representatives from Métis Community Councils with an interest

in First Solar's projects (including the Windsor-Essex Métis Council)) were given a tour of First Solar's Sarnia Solar Farm (20 MW operational; 60 MW expansion currently ongoing). The purpose of the site visit was to provide the Métis representatives with information about the impacts of solar farms, and an opportunity to view first-hand an operating solar farm, as well as one under construction. The Sarnia Solar Farm, like the Sombra Solar Farm (and First Solar's other projects in Ontario), is located on former agricultural land. Based on feedback received from the Métis representatives, the only concern raised in the initial meeting focused on the use of chemicals to control weeds during the early years of the solar farm operation while the planted ground cover becomes established. The representatives were informed that an agronomist would be providing advice, and that industry best practices would be followed during the use of these chemicals. The Métis Nation of Ontario is currently preparing a response to the proposed solar farms based on the site visit and discussion. This letter will be appended to future consultation reports once it is received, and a copy will be sent to the Ministry of the Environment.

Conclusions

It is recognized that the consultation process with First Nations communities is a work in progress and will be ongoing following the REA application. However, based on discussions and issues raised to date, First Solar believes that the project has negligible (if any) impact on constitutionally-protected aboriginal and treaty rights. There is certainly no incremental impact on such rights (as compared to current land uses). However, First Solar will continue to liaise and communicate with First Nations and the appropriate Crown authorities throughout the project development process. The intent of the process will continue to focus on identifying any concerns resulting from the proposed development, and if concerns are raised, on methods of mitigating or avoiding any impacts.

Exhibits

1. Aboriginal Consultation List

Paul Barrette

From: Guido, Sandra (ENE) [Sandra.Guido@ontario.ca]
Sent: January-25-10 5:27 PM
To: Paul Barrette
Cc: Dumais, Doris (ENE); Mahmood, Mansoor (ENE)
Subject: Rokeby Line and Baseline Road Solar Farms - Aboriginal Communities List

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Paul,

With respect to the Rokeby Line and Baseline Road Solar Farms, in accordance with section 14 of the Renewable Energy Approval Regulation (O.Reg. 359), on behalf of the Director, please find below the list of Aboriginal Communities that:

- i) have or may have constitutionally protected aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely impacted by the project; or
- ii) otherwise may be interested in any negative environmental effects of the project.

Aboriginal Community
Common Name: Reserve Name: Contact Information:
Aamjiwnaang First Nation formerly Chippewas of Sarnia Sarnia 45 978 Tashmoo Ave Sarnia, ON N7T 7H5 Phone (519)336-8410 Fax (519)336-0382
Bkejwanong Territory (Walpole Island First Nation) Walpole Island 46 RR 3 Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4K9 Phone (519) 627-1481 Fax (519) 627-0440

Best regards,
Sandra

Sandra Guido
Senior Program Support Coordinator
Renewable Energy Team
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
Ministry of the Environment
2 St. Clair Ave West, Floor 12A, Toronto ON M4V 1L5
Tel: 416.314.6802 Fax: 416.314.8452
sandra.guido@ontario.ca

Ministry of the Environment

Environmental Assessment and
Approvals Branch

2 St. Clair Avenue West
Floor 12A
Toronto ON M4V 1L5
Tel.: 416 314-8001
Fax: 416 314-8452

Ministère de l'Environnement

Direction des évaluations et des
autorisations environnementales

2, avenue St. Clair Ouest
Étage 12A
Toronto ON M4V 1L5
Tél. : 416 314-8001
Télééc. : 416 314-8452



May 11, 2011

Mr. Peter Carrie, Vice President
First Solar Development (Canada) Ltd.,
5115 Blackwell Sideroad
Sarnia, ON N7T 7H3

Dear Mr. Carrie:

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is currently reviewing and screening First Solar's St. Clair Moore and Sombra Renewable Energy Approval (REA) applications for two Class 3 solar facilities in the Township of St. Clair. MOE expects to receive from you further REA applications this year including the Amherstburg Class 3 solar facility.

Through the REA process, First Solar requested a section 14 list of Aboriginal communities as required by Ontario Regulation 359/09 (O. Reg 359/09). MOE provided such a list for each of First Solar's proposed projects early in 2010.

It has recently come to the MOE's attention that the lists for three of First Solar's projects did not include the most proximate 1701 Treaty / Albany Deed community. The St. Clair Moore, St. Clair Sombra and Amherstburg projects are located within lands covered by the 1701 Treaty and the most proximate 1701 Treaty community is the Oneida Nation of the Thames (the Oneida).

Given that the Oneida have or may have constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely impacted by these three projects or otherwise may be interested in any negative environmental effects of these projects, the MOE is requiring First Solar to undertake consultation with the Oneida. The contact information for the Oneida is provided below:

Oneida Nation of the Thames Oneida 41 RR 2, SOUTHWOLD, ON Postal code N0L 2G0 Phone (519) 652-3244 Fax (519) 652-9287
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Mr. Peter Carrie
Page 2

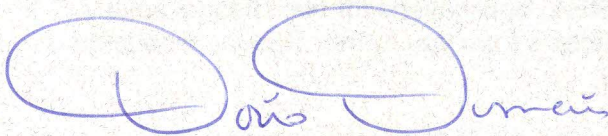
In order to meaningfully consult with the Oneida, please provide all notices and appropriate project documentation for the St. Clair Moore, St. Clair Sombra and Amherstburg projects to the Oneida for review. After undertaking this consultation, please provide the MOE with a summary of the consultation that took place. We also recommend that First Solar continue to consult with all First Nation that MOE has identified on an ongoing basis.

Please note that both the St. Clair Moore and St. Clair Sombra REA applications are currently before the MOE. These REA applications will continue to be reviewed as this additional consultation is being undertaken.

The MOE recognizes your sincere efforts to consult with Aboriginal communities to date and appreciates your patience moving forward. Should you wish to have support from the Province with this consultation, such as establishing contact with the Oneida and/or having the Province be available at an engagement session, staff from the appropriate Ministry will be happy to provide that support.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact Mansoor Mahmood, Manager, Renewable Energy Approvals, at 416-314-8573 or Mansoor.Mahmood@ontario.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Doris Dumais
Director – Approvals Program
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch

- c. Paul Barrette, The Lakeshore Group
Pearl Ing, MEI
Kaili Sermat-Harding, MEI
Mary Hennessy, MOE
Heather Levecque, MAA

2. Notice of Public Meeting

NOTICE OF A PROPOSAL

By First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm

Project Location: Township of St. Clair: south of Bentpath Line and east of Baseline Road

Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The distribution of this notice of a proposal to engage in this renewable energy project and the project itself are subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act (ACT)* Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Project Description:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is considered to be a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is described in the map below.

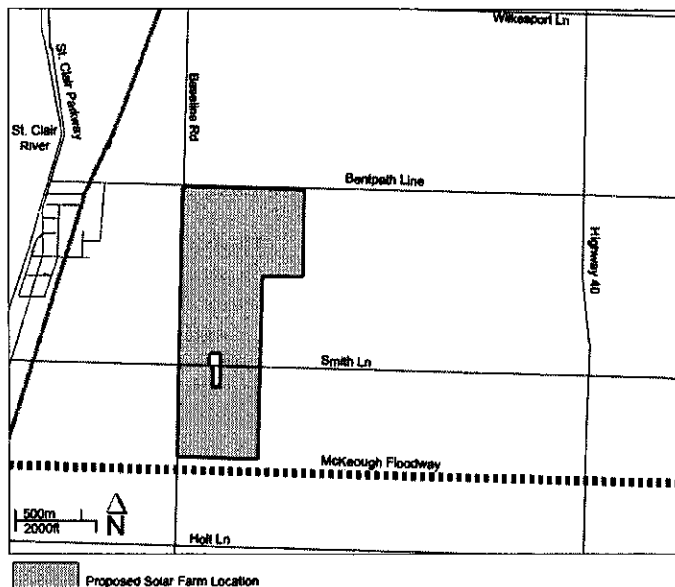
This project is being proposed in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Regulation. The Draft Project Description Report titled Twp. of St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm Project Description Report describes the facility as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report is being made available for public inspection at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project proposal or to communicate concerns please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM SITE
TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR - SOMBRA SOLAR FARM



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm

Project Location: Township of St. Clair: south of Bentpath Line and east of Baseline Road

Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The proposal to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act (ACT)* Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Meeting Location:

DATE: January 14, 2010

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Royal Canadian Legion Leslie Sutherland Branch 447, Albert St. and Beckwith St., Township of St.Clair

Project Description:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is described in the map below.

Documents for Public Inspection:

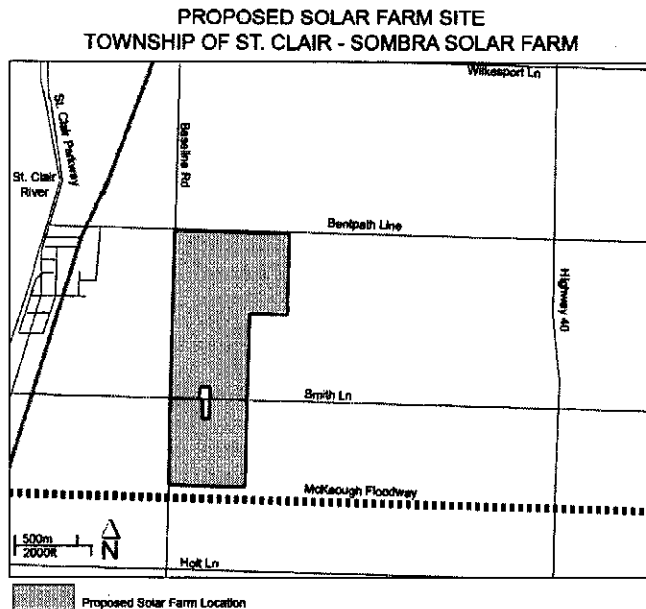
The Draft Project Description Report titled Twp. of St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm Project Description Report describes the project as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report was made available for public inspection on December 2, 2009 at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Further, the applicant will prepare supporting documents in order to comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulation. Written copies of the draft supporting documents will be made available for public inspection at least 60 days before the final public meeting at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project proposal, public meetings, or to communicate concerns please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm

Project Location: Township of St. Clair: south of Bentpath Line and east of Baseline Road

Dated at the City of Toronto this 25th day of February, 2010

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The proposal to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act (ACT)* Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Meeting Location:

DATE: April 22, 2010

TIME: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Mooretown Sports Complex – 1166 Emily St., Mooretown ON N0N 1M0

Project Description:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility will have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is shown on the map below.

Documents for Public Inspection:

The Draft Project Description Report titled "Twp. of St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm Project Description Report" describes the project as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report has been available for public inspection since December 2, 2009 at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Further, the applicant has obtained or prepared, as the case may be, the following supporting documents in order to comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulation: Project Description Report, Noise Impact Assessment; Environmental Impact Study; Access & Traffic Operation Effect Assessment; Archaeology Reports; Protected Property Report & Heritage Assessment; Construction Plan Report; Reflection Study; Design & Operations Report; and, Decommissioning Report.

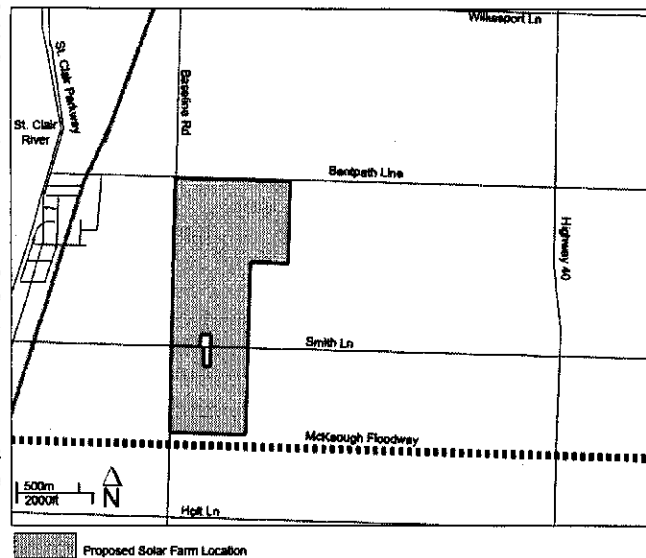
Written copies of the draft supporting documents have been made available for public inspection at the Lambton County Library – Corunna & Sombra branches and are available on <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project proposal, public meetings, or to communicate concerns please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM SITE
TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR - SOMBRA SOLAR FARM



localnews

■ YOUR BUSINESS

World traveller brings her skills home

Gayle Armstrong's 35-year career as an executive assistant has taken her as far away as Ethiopia and Hong Kong. Such a colorful and challenging career - including 10 years in the Foreign Service - has been great preparation to starting her own business, she says.

Indeed, Armstrong says her professional background has given her insight into the corporate needs of the future and provided her with valuable experiences.

Born and raised in Petrolia, her early working life was spent in London with several larger businesses. By the time she was in her mid-20s, Armstrong's sense of adventure and a strong desire to travel lead her to apply for work with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Within a year, she was offered a post in Hong Kong and jumped at the opportunity. There she worked as the administrative assistant to the political officer. Sometimes, she was recruited to assist the Canadian ambassador.

Two years later, it was off to Jamaica where she did similar work. When a job was posted for Ethiopia, Armstrong didn't hesitate to apply and go.

"It was during the big famine of the 90s," she said. "We were in the capital, Addis Ababa, and didn't really see any of it there but everyone wanted to do their part to help out."

Armstrong was promoted as the ambassador's secretary and looked after the schedules of a number of dignitaries for three years.

In her final year, she adopted an Ethiopian orphan who was only a few weeks old at the time. Once the adoption was approved, she quit the Foreign Service and returned to Canada to raise her daughter.

She spent nearly 15 years working for Union Gas in Chatham, then at an engineering



Cathy Dobson
YOUR BUSINESS

Basic cottage watch service consists of a visit every two weeks although Klassen will tailor service to suit individual needs.

Some clients find that their insurance company requires that someone be at their cottage every 24-72 hours, he said.

"Our main job is to meet our clients' needs and if that means more frequent visits or being an alarm contact, then that is what we do."

Shoreline Property Care also provides snow removal, spring and fall clean-up, cottage winterizing, lawn maintenance, general maintenance and repairs, general contracting, cottage cleaning and more.

To contact the Klassen, call 519-466-7569 or 1-877-456-3305.

Arminiks Solutions* offers administrative assistance of all types but she is particularly interested in promoting Virtual Assistant (VA) services.

"Most people in Sarnia don't know yet what a VA is, so I'm introducing myself," she said. "I'm a professional executive assistant who provides administrative assistance from my home. The employer doesn't even have to insert me."

Hiring Armstrong means not paying benefits and not having to provide a desk or computer, she said. "This is the way of the future," because they can't afford full-time employees.

The fall was spent knocking on doors and selling her services. Armstrong now has several clients including a retirement home, a bed and breakfast and Mary Kay Cosmetics.

She charges \$30 an hour for her services.

To contact Arminiks Solutions, call 519-462-2912 or visit www.arminiksolutions.ca.

THREE SARNIANS PASS CA EXAM

Laura Enslin, Natasha Taylor and Laura Tumbak have passed this year's Canada-wide Uniformed Fire Officers' Association (UFOA) recognized exam, designating professional entry exams.

Once they complete a 30-month experience requirement, they will be full fledged chartered accountants.

The UFOA is a national three-day evaluation. In total, Ontario had a record 1,963 successful UFB writers. Congratulations to Sarnia's CA's-to-be.

John Gibney of First Sarnia Place condominiums, says he's seeing signs of economic recovery based on the sales pace at his new development.

In a six week period, six luxury suites sold at the downtown high rise.

"We saw an increase in the number of visitors to our sales

DOWNTOWN CONDOS SELLING

Place condominiums, says he's seeing signs of economic recovery based on the sales pace at his new development.

In a six week period, six luxury suites sold at the downtown high rise.

"We saw an increase in the number of visitors to our sales

NEW COTTAGE WATCH BUSINESS

With the snow flying in parts of Lambton County, business has makes a lot of sense.

They operate Shoreline Property Care, a service that regularly checks cottages in the Lambton Shores and Grand Bend area to watch for break ins, weather or animal damage, and snow load.

"Some of our clients live in the United States and it is impos-



Gayle Armstrong has started Arminiks Solutions, offering administrative assistance of all types and specializing in virtual assistance including co-ordination of webinars and teleseminars. Virtual assistance and sick leave or even office furniture.

And in only 37 years in real estate, we never seen anything like this. They are involved in First Service's new period in medical suites about 26 million.

John said that 29 members have moved in now and only eight others to be available. They are priced at \$229,000.

The next two buyers will either get a \$20,000 discount or have their condo fees and taxes waived for the first year.

First Service Place is located at 281 Front Street North.

and is free to Chamber of Commerce members, \$10 for non-members.

Note that the Chamber has reached its target of 1,000 members and will be celebrating at Business After 5 by awarding \$2,000 in contest prizes.

NOW SERVING TAI DINNER

Selma Ip, owner of the South East Cafe, on East Street has finished some renovations at the restaurant and introduced a dinner menu featuring Tai food.

South East Cafe continues to be open for breakfast and lunch.

CHITWEGESON obstetrician/gynecologist, receiving \$315,000 to build a detached park in an unused portion of an existing parcel.

Watford Rotary Club, receiving \$4,000 from Laura's Watford, Arizona and Scrabble branches for their teaching the Reluctant Reader program, which provides additional books and tutoring to students.

Hope Atkinson Church, receiving \$7,925 from the Watford branch to purchase canoes, tents and safety equipment for their youth summer camp.

detailed work," she said. Starting her own business came from a desire to be her own boss and establish her own clientele, based on her belief that corporations increasingly want fewer full-time workers and more casual or contract people. Armstrong's company,

vides the service to give them the confidence that their cottage is safe. The couple began exploring the potential of such a service after some people they knew had a mishap with too much snow on their carport. It collapsed on a stored vehicle at their summer home.

is hosted by Landmark Village on Wednesday and co-sponsored by Dr. Murari Pasotia of the Sarnia Eye and Esthetics Clinic. Chief Michael Mansfield will prepare appetizers for the event, assisted by Lambton College culinary and tourism students. After 5 runs from 5 p.m. - 7

LIBRO AWARDS COMMUNITY BUILDERS Three support programs for youth in Sarnia-Lambton are receiving community builder grants from the Libro Financial Group this year. They are:

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NOTICE OF A PROPOSAL

By First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Moore Solar Farm
Project Location: Township of St. Clair, north of Robey Line and west of Highway 40
Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The distribution of this notice of a proposal to engage in this renewable energy project and the project itself are subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act (ACT) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Project Description:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is considered to be a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is described in the map below.

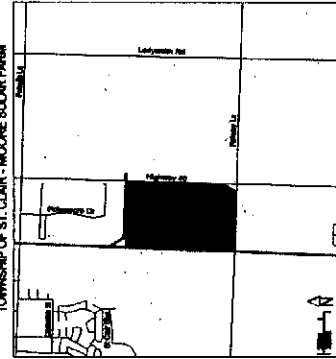
This project is being proposed in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Regulation. The Draft Project Description Report filed with St. Clair - Moore Solar Farm Project Description Report describes the facility as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report is being made available for public inspection at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project proposal or to communicate concerns please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2167

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM SITE



Project Site Plan Location

DEL0000

NOTICE OF A PROPOSAL

By First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm
Project Location: Township of St. Clair, south of Benpath Line and east of Baseline Road
Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The distribution of this notice of a proposal to engage in this renewable energy project and the project itself are subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act (ACT) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

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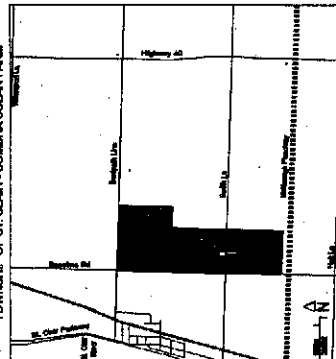
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5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2167

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM SITE



Project Site Plan Location

DEL0000

nationalnews

■ TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Industry minister clears way for Globalive to operate in Canada

New player joins cell game

SHARON SINGLETON
CMI Agency

Canadians will get more choice in their cellphone providers after the government overturned a ruling yesterday by the broadcast regulator and allowed Egypt-backed Globalive to enter the market.

Industry Minister Tony Clement said Globalive, owned by Orascom, meets Canadian ownership regulations and can begin operations immediately.

The Canadian Radio-television Commission had earlier blocked Globalive's entrance, saying its foreign shareholder meant it didn't qualify.

"Our goal has always been greater competition in the telecommunications industry which leads to lower prices, better service and more choice for consumers and business," Clement said.

For consumers, the move may mean lower prices. According to a recent OECD report, Canada has amongst the highest charges in the world for mobile phone services.

"We've had a lot of feedback from consumers, and one of the frustrations is the bottlenecks you see in Canada," Ken Campbell, chief executive of Wind Mobile said in an interview. "A lot of

these are pain points and a lot of consumers feel like their being nickle and dimed."

Globalive provides voice, text and data services on a new generation wireless network through its WIND brand. The company is hoping to begin operating in time to get the first phones under CMI's name this year.

WIND won't be charging fees for system access or 911 calls. Apple's iPhone won't be available, but the company plans to offer other popular models such as RIM's BlackBerry.

The entrance of Globalive intensifies competition in the already cutthroat telecoms market.

The dominant players, Rogers Communications, Bell and Telus, control more than 90% of the market and had been seeking to block the new entrant.

They claimed that Canada with its population of 33.8 million couldn't sustain a fourth national player.

Bell and Telus expressed concern at the ruling. They said the fact Orascom owns most of Globalive, even though it claims not to control voting shares or the board, means it is foreign owned.

"The cabinet has made a decision that may have a major impact on some of Canada's

most important industries," said Telus Vice-President of Regulatory and Government Affairs, Michael Henessy. "This sets a precedent not just for telecommunications, but potentially for broadcast, airlines and banks."

A Bell spokesman said the company will be taking a closer look at the reasoning behind this decision.

Rogers, however, said it is ready for new competition. "We believe competition is good for Canadian consumers," it said in a statement.

"We've always thrived in a competitive environment and we're ready to meet the competition head on."

The companies have been cutting costs and trimming staff to better compete. Several smaller players are also set to enter the market next year, including DAVE, wireless and Videotron, though Globalive was seen as the most serious threat to the incumbents.

Rogers recently cut 900 jobs, while Telus last week cut 125 positions.

The companies are also in a legal tussle over ad claims over which has the fastest and most reliable networks.

"This is good news for the consumer," said telecoms analyst Carmi Levy of AR

does not meet the requirements for Canadian control. We'll be taking a close look at the reasoning behind this decision," said Jacqueline Michiels, Bell spokeswoman.

Michael Geist, Canada research chair in Internet and e-

Keep learning on your own Terms!

Learn on your own terms. The Part-time training you are looking for.

Learn on your own terms. The Part-time training you are looking for. Learn on your own terms. The Part-time training you are looking for. Learn on your own terms. The Part-time training you are looking for.

Courses start in January.

For the most current information

MARK BLOCH FEWES
Anthony Lacavera, chairman of Globalive and WIND Mobile, smiles with employees in Toronto yesterday following a government decision to overturn a CRTC ruling blocking the company from entering the Canadian cellphone market. WIND Mobile can start operating immediately.

Communications. "It will accelerate the value for money equation. But longer-term growth prospects for the market should mean plenty of opportunity to increase revenue."

In the short term the dominant players will feel the heat from new competitors, Levy said. "We are nowhere near over-

saturation. There's lots of room for growth for innovative players."



Canadian because some of its voting shareholders and board of directors members are Canadian.

"When you control 52% of the money it's kind of silly to say that someone else controls the company," Hennessy said.

Bell echoed Telus' concerns. "It's disappointing as we think Globalive quite clearly

Canadian because some of its voting shareholders and board of directors members are Canadian.

"When you control 52% of the money it's kind of silly to say that someone else controls the company," Hennessy said.

Bell echoed Telus' concerns. "It's disappointing as we think Globalive quite clearly

Part-Time Studies Link.
-or contact us directly-



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project.

Project Name: St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm
Project Location: Township of St. Clair, south of Benpauhin Line and east of Baseline Road
Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The project is to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act (ACT) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 559/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Meeting Location:
DATE: January 14, 2010
TIME: 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Royal Canadian Legion Leslie Sutherland Branch 447, Albert St. and Bechtwith St., Township of St. Clair.

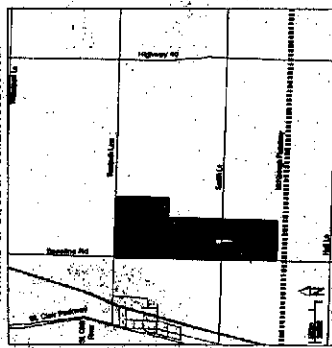
Project Description:
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Documents for Public Inspection:
 The Draft Project Description Report titled, *Twp. of St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm Project Description Report* describes the project as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report was made available for public inspection on December 2, 2009 at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Further, the applicant will prepare supporting documents in order to comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulation. Written copies of the draft supporting documents will be made available for public inspection at least 60 days before the final public meeting at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:
 To learn more about the project proposal, public meetings, or to communicate concerns please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
 515 Blackwell St. Sherwood,
 Similia ON N7T 7H3
 Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
 Telephone: 519-344-2187



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project.

Project Name: St. Clair - Moore Solar Farm
Project Location: Township of St. Clair, north of Rokaby Line and west of Highway 40
Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The project is to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act (ACT) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 559/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Meeting Location:
DATE: January 14, 2010
TIME: 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Royal Canadian Legion Leslie Sutherland Branch 447, Albert St. and Bechtwith St., Township of St. Clair.

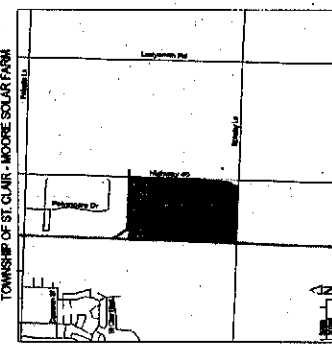
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nationalnews

■ **WEATHER:** Temperature of -46.1 C coldest in North America

Edmonton in deep chill

CLARAHO
QMI Agency

EDMONTON — Edmonton was the coldest place in North America yesterday morning and, according to The Weather Channel, at one point the frostiest in the world with the wind-chill.

The Edmonton International Airport saw a record low of -46.1 C with the mercury dropping to -58.4 C with the windchill, out-freezing even the Arctic.

"The cold high pressure has been moving down from the Arctic over the prairies," said Environment Canada meteorologist John McIntyre, adding British Columbia and Saskatchewan also experienced plummeting temperatures. "We are right now in the centre of the heaviest, coldest air."

But the coldest day ever recorded in Edmonton remains unbeaten at -48.3 C with a wind-chill of -61 C on Jan. 26, 1972.

Yesterday's frigid temperatures broke the previous record for Dec. 13, which was -36.1 C set in 2008, as well as the record for the coldest day in December, a low of -44.5 C set on Dec. 9, 1977. Cold Lake, Grande Prairie and Whitecourt also had record lows yesterday.

Only Dzalinda, Siberia, appeared to be colder, with a

weather station there recording temperatures of -48 C.

The extreme weather was enough to stall some planes at the Edmonton International Airport, said spokeswoman Traci Bednard.

"A couple flights had to be diverted to Calgary (Saturday night) where it was warmer," Bednard said, adding there were a few cancellations and a few delays early yesterday morning.

By 8 a.m., when the temperature improved to -40 C, most planes were able to start operating again, she added.

"We are still asking people to check our website, www.thy.ca, before heading out to the airport," Bednard said, adding they can check up-to-date flight statuses on the site.

Meanwhile, within city limits, some Edmonton Transit buses experienced mechanical issues from the cold and had to be replaced. Others were running on average 10 to 15 minutes late, said transit spokeswoman Patricia Dickson.

The LRT system had weather-related problems with the truck and had to run on single track between the McKernan-Belgrove and South Campus stations for several hours. But otherwise, bus and train schedules remained unchanged, she said.



DAVID BLOOM/QUI Agency
A frosty Charles Lelebert jogs along as Edmonton entered a deep freeze Saturday morning. Temperatures dropped to -46.1 C, but are expected to climb back up to the -1 C mark by the end of the week.

NOTICE OF A PROPOSAL

By First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm
Project Location: Township of St. Clair, south of Benspath Line and east of Baseline Road
Dealed at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

City of Toronto Development (Canada) Inc. is soliciting responses to a renewable energy project in respect of

NOTICE OF A PROPOSAL

By First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Moon Solar Farm
Project Location: Township of St. Clair, north of Rokley Line and west of Highway 40
Dealed at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

City of Toronto Development (Canada) Inc. is soliciting responses to a renewable energy project in respect of

Project Description:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is considered to be a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is described in the map below.

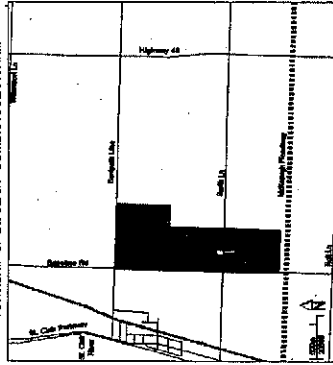
This project is being proposed in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Regulation. The Draft Project Description Report, titled, *Twp. of St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm*, Project Description Report describes the facility as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report is being made available for public inspection at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project, proposal or to communicate concerns please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell St. Road,
Sombra ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM SITE
TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR - SOMBRA SOLAR FARM



Proposed Solar Farm Location

11030203

Project Description:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is considered to be a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is described in the map below.

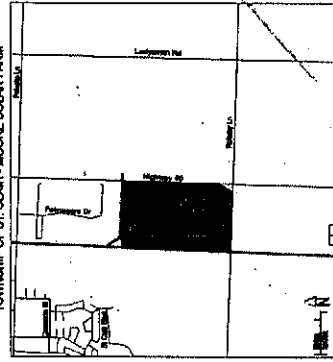
This project is being proposed in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Regulation. The Draft Project Description Report, titled, *Twp. of St. Clair - Moore Solar Farm*, Project Description Report describes the facility as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report is being made available for public inspection at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project, proposal or to communicate concerns please contact:

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Sombra ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM SITE
TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR - MOORE SOLAR FARM



Proposed Solar Farm Location

03/29/10

*On the 5th Day of Christmas
my true love gave to me...*

OUR GAME HEADQUARTERS

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- Pool
- Pool Table
- Poker Table
- Table Tennis
- Basketball

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nationalnews

■ **AFGHAN PRISONER ABUSE:** Emergency committee meeting slated for tomorrow

Detainee probe set to resume

ALTHARAJ
Parliamentary Bureau

OTTAWA — MPs probing the transfers of Afghan detainees will be lashed back to work tomorrow for an emergency committee meeting.

Opposition MPs want to hear from National Defence Minister Peter Mackay before Christmas. Liberal defence critic Ujjal Dosanjh said MPs need answers to key questions raised by Canada's top soldier, Gen. Walt Natynczyk, in a surprise news conference last week.

Natynczyk, the chief of the defence staff, confirmed Canadian forces had transferred at least one Afghan detainee who was later mistreated by Afghan authorities.

That revelation goes against the Conservative government's insistence that no "credible evidence" exists that Canadian detainees were handed over to torture.

Natynczyk read from a June 2006 military police report that had come to light Thursday. The report noted the Afghan national police had assaulted detainees in the past.

Dosanjh said Canadians need to know how many detainees were transferred between 2006 and 2007 and what happened to them.

throw up a wall." Liberals charged yesterday that the government is blanketing out documents for political reasons rather than national security.

"They are not hiding to protect our soldiers, they are hiding to protect themselves," Dosanjh said.

Speaking on CTV's *Question Period*, Laurie Hawton, Mackay's parliamentary secretary, said:

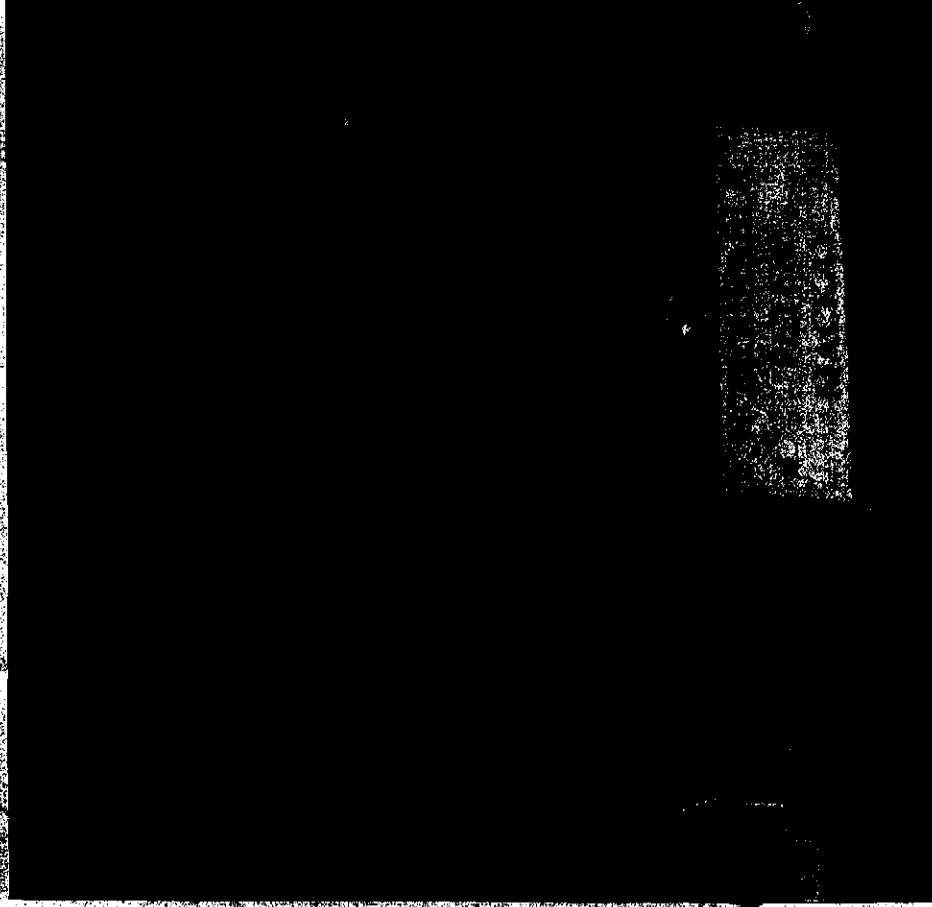
"We are talking about an event that happened three and a half years ago, on a back lot in a field in Afghanistan. It's time to put this bit of a reality check and to bring it into that perspective — it's absolutely ridiculous," Hawton said.

NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar said Mackay needs to clear up confusion created by Natynczyk's comments.

"Ignorance is no defence. If he knew, why didn't he tell us?" Dewar said.

Dewar also wants the committee to hear from former Canadian ambassador Gar Pardy.

Pardy is circulating a letter, signed by 125 retired diplomats, concerned by the unfair "personal attacks" levied against fellow diplomat Richard Colvin. Colvin is the public servant who testified he started warning Ottawa in May 2006 that Afghan



ALTHARAJ/CTV NEWS FILES
Opposition MPs want to hear from National Defence Minister Peter Mackay before Christmas about the Afghan detainee controversy. Mackay's parliamentary secretary Laurie Hawton said yesterday folks need to "get real." "We are talking about an event that happened three and a half years ago on a backlot in Afghanistan. It's time to have a bit of a reality check and put this into that perspective — it's absolutely ridiculous." The battle lines are drawn. Tinsley of the Military Police — their mandates would not be affected — said "All of them are being processed." Both were taken to court.

Museum strikers hold march to boost morale

OTTAWA — Striking workers took to the streets and marched from the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum to the Bronson Centre for a rally and concert. They're fighting to have staff hired as full-time employees with benefits and pensions, rather than on contracts. The final offer from the museum was rejected by the striking workers by a margin of 96%, but negotiations resume today. About half the 420 men and women on strike since Sept. 21

with benefits and pensions, — Doug Hempstead, QMI Agency

Accused makes first court appearance

OTTAWA — On the same day husband of two years — faces second-degree murder charges after his wife was found dead on Dec. 6. There was no mention of a bail hearing and Hunt's lawyer John Hale says it's too soon to say if he'll be making an application for it. "Mark himself is very distraught and I haven't been able to really talk to him. He's running on virtually no sleep," said Hale. — Doug Hempstead, QMI Agency

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm
Project Location: Township of St. Clair, south of Benbow Line and east of Basseline Road
Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The proposal to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act (ECA) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

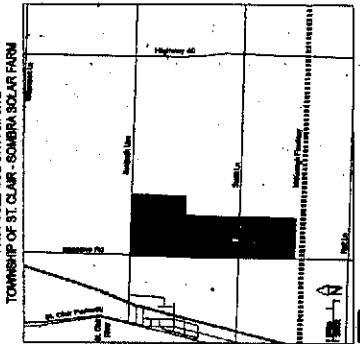
Meeting Location:
DATE: January 14, 2010
TIME: 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Royal Canadian Legion Leslie Sutherland Branch 447, Albert St. and Beckwith St., Township of St. Clair

Project Description:
Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is described in the map below.

Documents for Public Inspection:
The Draft Project Description Report titled 'Twp. of St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm Project Description Report' describes the project as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report was made available for public inspection on December 2, 2009 at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

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Telephone: 519-344-2187



ENCLOSURE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Moore Solar Farm
Project Location: Township of St. Clair, north of Rokeby Line and west of Highway 40
Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The proposal to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act (ECA) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

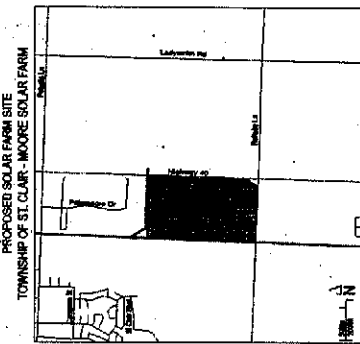
Meeting Location:
DATE: January 14, 2010
TIME: 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Royal Canadian Legion Leslie Sutherland Branch 447, Albert St. and Beckwith St., Township of St. Clair

Project Description:
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Sarnia ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187



ENCLOSURE

money

DOLLAR	BRITISH L	EURO	S&P/TSX	NASDAQ	DOW	NIKKEI	GOLD	OIL	AECO	PRIME
UP 0.364 98.98¢ US	UP 0.234 \$1.5486 CDN	DOWN 0.254 \$1.3886 CDN	UP 12.66 12,100.84	DOWN 11.08 2,388.09	UP 47.69 10,783.67	UP 125.27 10,846.88	UP \$1.80 \$1,124 US	UP \$1.23 \$82.93 US	DOWN \$0.15 \$3.75	2.25% UNCHANGED

CURRENCIES

Day-over-day statistics

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
US DOLLAR	\$1.003	\$1.040	\$1.040
YEN	\$0.01083	\$0.01123	\$0.01123
EURO IN US	\$1.3744	\$1.3769	\$1.3769

STOCKS

Biggest % gains in stocks over 52 weeks

1. **CHRYSLER FINANCIAL CORPORATION**
\$20.79 +9.66
2. **ACCORD FINANCIAL**
\$5.94 +8.99
3. **PETROBRAS LTO.**
\$34.04 +8.27

DUPS

Biggest % losses in stocks over 52 weeks

1. **HYDRO-QUEBEC**
\$5.20 -10.14
2. **IMPERIAL OIL**
\$5.01 -6.06
3. **AND ENERGY EXPLOR.**
\$14.10 -5.94

GO FIGURE

\$13.8B
REVENUE LOST
Negotiating cost
Europeans 10 billion euros (roughly \$13.8 billion) in lost revenue in 2008, a report by TERA Consultants for the International Chamber of Commerce says.

\$75M US

ART ESTIMATE
The high-end of the estimated price set by Christie's for Picasso's *Portrait of Angel Fernandez de Soto*. It is the highest pre-auction estimate for any work of art offered in Europe.

■ CURRENCY: Loonie hits 99 cents US in trading as climb toward parity continues

Canadian dollar closes in

STEFANIA MORETTI
QMI Agency

The loonie continued its fight toward parity Wednesday hitting 99 cents US at one point — pushed forward by solid commodity prices, a renewed low rate pledge south of the border and better-than-expected Canadian wholesale trade numbers.

The tipping point could come as early as Friday when the next round of consumer prices are slated for release. National Bank's director of foreign exchange Jack Spitz told QMI Agency.

"There's little in the way of market events that can stop it," Spitz said, adding only a major global economic setback could derail the commodity-reliant dollar.

The currency's third 20-month high in as many days had Industry Minister Tony Clement calming fears the lofty loonie would hurt Canadian competitiveness.

Clement said domestic firms are adjusting "very well" to the higher dollar thanks to lower taxes and improving productivity.

"All of these things have a cumulative effect that we expect will more than overcome the impact of the high dollar," he told reporters Wednesday.

Canadian manufacturers traditionally struggle with a high dollar because it makes their export goods more expensive for buyers in the U.S.

"In the past, it's been a challenge for companies in Canada because of the fact that they relied historically on the lower dollar to



ANDRE FORGET QMI Agency



Source: Google Finance

be their productivity and competitiveness edge," Clement said.

Clement's views echo a report released by the Conference Board of Canada earlier this

week that said manufacturers in this country are increasingly flexible when it comes to currency fluctuations because there are more international hedging options available to them than ever before.

Canada's service industry, which has not internationalized to the same extent, is most vulnerable, the think-tank said.

For many industry watchers, the recession highlighted the need for diversified firms with higher productivity rates and access to cutting-edge technology.

"The new normal is that you don't just rely on a low Canadian dollar as your productivity edge and I think most businesses have

gotten that point now," Clement said.

Improved economic figures gave the Canadian dollar another boost Wednesday.

January saw the biggest jump in sales at the Canadian wholesale level in three years, Statistics Canada said. Sales were up across all sectors and by an average of 0.9% to \$44.4 billion during the month.

Canadian bond prices fell Wednesday as investors see a strengthened economic recovery spurring interest rate hikes in the near future. Two-year government bond prices fell 6 cents while 10-year issues dropped 19 cents.

stefania.moretti@camco.ca

businessbriefs

TRANSCON BACK TO PROFIT

Transcontinental Inc., Canada's largest commercial printer, said Wednesday it returned to profit in its first quarter, benefitting from efforts made last year to cut costs, reorganize and divest certain operations.

The company also said it is increasing its quarterly dividend by 12.5 percent from the previous quarter to 9 Canadian cents a share.

Last February, the company said it would chop close to 1,500 jobs, or 10 percent of its staff, as customers scaled back spending in a rapidly underperforming economy.

It also reduced capital spending and introduced a hiring freeze, unpaid leaves and reduced work weeks. All told, the measures were seen reducing costs by about \$75 million annually.

In its first quarter, operating costs were 15 percent lower, while sales, general and administrative costs were down 19 percent.

The company reported net income of \$26.2 million, or 32 cents a share, in the three months to Jan. 31, compared with a loss of \$6.4 million, or 8 cents a share, a year earlier.

FIRMS FACING \$75B IN DEBT

Canadian non-financial firms have nearly \$75 billion in debt coming due over the next five years, but refinancing risks are lower than in the United States, Moody's Investors Service said on Wednesday.

The ratings agency said it expects \$57 billion of bonds and \$18 billion in bank credit facilities to come due for Canadian companies over the next half decade.

It sees low near-term refinancing risk for Canadian listed corporate issuers because liquidity is improving, the economy is heating and there is a decrease in the rate of expected defaults.

— QMI Agency wire services

■ COMMERCE: Companies catering to handheld crowd with custom apps

Mobile money-moving mastered through smartphone technology

STEFANIA MORETTI
QMI Agency

Canadians are increasingly using their smartphones for mobile commerce — shopping online, transferring money to a friend instead of using cash and checking their account balances — all using downloadable applications.

Consumers worldwide are expected to spend \$119 billion by 2015 through their mobile phones, ABI Research found.

Approximately 9% of Canadians already have mobile banking accounts and other 30% plan to start paying their bills from their devices in the next year, according to Boston-based NetScout LLC.

And internet payment company PayPal expects the number of Canadians who have a mobile banking account to double in the next year.

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce was the first of Canada's big six banks to truly embrace the technology with the launch of their free mobile banking application for the iPhone last month.

The CIBC app allows users to check account balances, transfer funds, pay bills and send instant e-mail money transfers.

The competition isn't far behind either, with Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank and TD Canada Trust already offering text alerts and apps to find the nearest branch.



ALEX TAYLOR QMI Agency illustration

This month, PayPal will push the limits of e-commerce further still with the launch of its Send Money iPhone app.

The program will allow two iPhones to be "bumped" together to transfer money from one user to another.

But is this next generation of mobile commerce safe?

PayPal says so. After all, it's not a huge leap from other types of online shopping or banking.

A PayPal account is used every 1.2 seconds to make a purchase and 1,000 times every 23 minutes a Canadian transfers a payment through the system, the company says.

stefania.moretti@camco.ca

With PayPal's "bump" app, personal and financial information is never stored on the device so it can't be easily stolen like cash or a card.

IDC, Canada senior analyst Rob Burbach says banks today guarantee their mobile apps the same way they do their online accounts, but it could become more challenging as technology progresses.

It's been a constant cat-and-mouse game between engineers and hackers when it comes to cyber security, he said. But for the time being, banks seem to be winning.

"Canadians continue to use online banking in spite of viruses and threats of cyber attacks," Burbach said.

March is fraud prevention month and many banks have been promoting ways to better protect financial information, like changing PIN codes every few months.

"The digital wallets of the future — which will effortlessly connect Canadians with retailers, payment processors and numerous financial institutions simultaneously — are at least three to five years down the line, Burbach estimates.

That's because completely integrated payment systems change the security equation.

"Everyone has to be working together to ensure Canadians are protected," he said.

stefania.moretti@camco.ca

■ JUSTICE: Country under pressure to relax prized bank secrecy

Swiss to share information on tax evasion

ZURICH — The Swiss parliament's upper house on Wednesday approved deals with the United States and four other countries to share data on potential tax dodgers, bringing the Alpine state closer in line with international standards.

Under the deals Switzerland will have banking data shar-

ing arrangements with France, Britain, the U.S., Denmark and Mexico in cases of tax fraud and tax evasion, in accordance with OECD standards, except when those requests are based on stolen data.

Under pressure from the G20, Switzerland, the world's biggest offshore banking centre, agreed

a year ago to relax its prized bank secrecy.

Swiss relations with both France and Germany have been strained in recent months after both countries obtained stolen information on possible tax dodgers with Swiss bank accounts.

— Reuters

LOCAL NEWS EVERY DAY • FOR HOME DELIVERY CALL 519-344-3641

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm
Project Location: Township of St. Clair, south of Barabath Line and east of Baseline Road
Sited at the City of Toronto lots 26th day of February, 2010

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The proposal to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act (EPA)* Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 360/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Meeting Location:
DATE: April 22, 2010
TIME: 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Moonstown Sports Complex - 1166 Emily St., Moonstown ON N0N 1M0

Project Description:
Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility will have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is shown on the map below.

Documents for Public Inspection:
The Draft Project Description Report (itled "Typ. of St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm Project Description Report") describes the project as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electrical distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report has been available for public inspection since December 2, 2009 at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Further, the applicant has obtained or prepared, as the case may be, the following supporting documents in order to comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulation: Project Description Report, Noise Impact Assessment, Environmental Impact Study, Access & Traffic Operation Effect Assessment, Archaeology Report, Protected Property Report & Heritage Assessment, Construction Plan Report, Reflection Study, Design & Operations Report, and Decommissioning Report.

Written copies of the draft supporting documents have been made available for public inspection at the Lambton County Library - Courville & Sombra branches and are available on <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:
To learn more about the project proposal, public meetings, or to communicate concerns please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
6116 Blewett Sideroad,
Sombra ON N7T 7E3
Email: online@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187

localnews

■ BUSINESS: Forest family's maple syrup business going strong

How sweet it is . . .

PAUL MORDEN
The Observer

FORST — Mary Vandenberg wasn't sure what to think when her then future husband said he had a maple syrup business.

"I grew up on Aunt Lemia," said the self-described "city girl" from Oshawa.

Ryan Vandenberg, on the other hand, has been making maple syrup every year since he was in Grade 3, building the Forest area business known as Ryan's Sweet Maple.

That first meeting was about eight years ago, a time when Vandenberg had just bought the stainless steel evaporator operating now in the sugar shack on this parent's farm on Rawlings Road.

It was just another upgrade of the business he officially launched while in Grade 7, four years after tapping his first tree.

A school trip to the sugar bush at the A. W. Campbell Conservation Area, was his appetite for syrup making.

The first year, he tapped a couple of trees on the family farm, collected sap in ice cream pails and boiled it down on the kitchen stove.

"I've been going ever since," Vandenberg said.

This year, the family business set 2,500 taps beginning Feb. 28. The sap they collect flows directly from the trees through a pipeline system, ending up at the sugar shack, which unlike its name suggests, is actually a clean modern facility where the sap is processed into syrup.

"When I came here," Mary said, "I was just amazed."

The shack also serves as a store where they sell syrup, and have a small museum displaying antique syrup-making tools and artifacts collected over the years.

"My mom is a big collector," Vandenberg said. "She goes on eBay."



It's a busy time of year for Mary and Ryan Vandenberg of Ryan's Sweet Maple, a family maple syrup business near Forest.

But, he and Mary also found a couple of the pieces when they honeymooned in Vermont several years ago.

"Everywhere we go, we find something syrupy," he said.

Vandenberg ran his business all through school, including university.

These days, he teaches math at North Lambton Secondary School. Mary is an elementary school teacher, currently on maternity leave.

Their son is now 10 months old, "and he loves maple syrup" Vandenberg said.

The couple's teaching jobs leave only evenings, weekends and school holidays for the maple syrup business each late winter and spring.

Vandenberg gives a lot of credit to his parents who fill in during the days to help keep things going during the syrup-making season.

He calls the business "a pas-

sion" that allows him to work with this family, making a product that he loves.

"This year, quality of the syrup coming out of evaporator has been high but the mild weather has slowed the sap in recent days. It flows when the days are warm but the nights dip below freezing.

But, Vandenberg said they've already bottled about 30% of their annual production and he's hopeful cooler nights, and the

flow of sap, will return before the season ends.

"As they say in farming," he added, "you can't change the weather so there's no need to stress about it."

As well as selling syrup at the farm, it's available at the grocery store in nearby Forest, and in Strath at the farmer's market, St. S. Greenhouses and Degroot's Nurseries.

pmorden@theobserver.ca

■ FUNDRAISER

Box Lunch Social returns

TYLER KULA
The Observer

Keep a spot open on April 15th for lunch.

St. Clair Child and Youth Services is once again taking orders for its 19th annual Box Lunch Social.

About 2,000 lunches are made every year complete with either a ham and cheese or egg salad sandwich on a Kaiser, a drink, fruit, cookies, a small prize and the famous Lunch Box Tackle.

Deliveries are made across the county, said Cheryl Cassin, a community relations coordinator. Lunches cost \$8 each and deliveries are made with orders of five or more. Offices or homes with less than five people can team up with neighbours.

About 200 volunteers are needed to assemble the lunches, Cassin said. They include individuals, and groups like the 23rd Strath Scouts group from St. Bartholomew church.

The fundraiser is still going after 19 years, Cassin said.

"I think (people) like the fact that it's a reasonable price and the bulk of the orders actually get delivered to the businesses," St. Clair supports children's mental health in local communities and the social is a major fundraiser for the organization.

Orders are accepted up until April 6. They can be faxed to 519-337-7750 or by calling 519-337-3701 ext. 243. Volunteers can call or e-mail bdodine@stclairchild.ca.

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VILLAGE OF POINT EDWARD OFFICIAL OPENING POINT EDWARD ARENA

Please join us in Celebrating the Official Opening of the newly renovated Point Edward Arena

When: Sunday, March 21, 2010
Where: Point Edward Memorial Arena, 210 Monk Street
Time: 1:15pm - 1:45pm Official Program and Ribbon Cutting
1:45pm - 3:00pm Refreshments and Public Skating

We hope to see you there, Village of Point Edward Council

FOR MORE BREAKING NEWS go to theobserver.ca

A.S.A. AUTO PARTS

It's Spring Car Care Time

- Tune up kits
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- Batteries
- Alternators
- Starters

519-337-1618
777 Campbell St. SARNIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Somber Solar Farm
Project Location: Township of St. Clair, south of Bentpath Line and east of Baseline Road
Dated at the City of Toronto this 25th day of February, 2010

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The proposal to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act (ECA), Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/03 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 18 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Meeting Location:
DATE: April 22, 2010
TIME: 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Moonstown Sports Complex - 1160 Emely St., Moonstown ON N0N 1A0

Project Description:
Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility will have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is shown on the map below.

Documents for Public Inspection:
The Draft Project Description Report, titled "Two of St. Clair - Somber Solar Farm Project Description Report" describes the project as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report has been available for public inspection since December 2, 2009 at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Further, the applicant has obtained or prepared as the case may be, the following supporting documents in order to comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulation: Project Description Report, Noise Impact Assessment, Environmental Impact Study, Access & Traffic Operation Effect Assessment, Archeology Report, Protected Property Report & Heritage Assessment, Construction Plan Report, Reflection Study, Design & Operations Report, and, Decommissioning Report.

Written copies of the draft supporting documents have been made available for public inspection at the Lambton County Library - Coruna & Somber branches and are available on <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:
To learn more about the project proposal, public meetings, or to communicate concerns please contact:
First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5116 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7G3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187

3. December 14, 2009 Notification Packages



December 14, 2009

VIA REGULAR MAIL

Chief Joseph Gilbert
Bkejwanong Territory (Walpole Island)
R.R. #3
Wallaceburg, ON
N8A 4K9

Dear Chief Gilbert,

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project (solar farm) for which the issuance of a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") is required from the Province of Ontario. The distribution of the enclosed Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and notice of public meeting is provided to you according to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act* ("Act") Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 ("Regulation"). In accordance with the Regulation, and as part of the REA process for proposed renewable energy project, First Solar is contacting you to provide you with initial information to commence the process of consulting with your community. The Regulation states that Aboriginal Communities must be consulted with who:

- (i) have or may have constitutionally protected aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely impacted by the project, or
- (ii) otherwise may be interested in any negative environmental effects of the project.

The subject sites are located in the Township of St. Clair and are shown and described more particularly in the enclosed Project Description Report. As drafts of the documents that are required by the Regulation to be submitted as part of this application become available, First Solar will send a summary of each document to you. Full versions of the draft of each document when prepared will be posted to First Solar's website at <http://canada.firstsolar.com>.

We request that you provide in writing any information that you feel should be considered by First Solar in preparing the studies required by the Regulation.

We would be happy to arrange to meet with you and your band council individually, and/or to have you attend the first general public consultation meeting indicated on the enclosed notice. To learn more about the project proposal, public meetings, or provide comments or questions please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187
<http://canada.firstsolar.com/>



December 14, 2009

VIA REGULAR MAIL

Chief Chris Plain
Aamjiwnaang First Nation
978 Tashmoo Avenue
Sarnia, ON
N7T 7H5

Dear Chief Plain,

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project (solar farm) for which the issuance of a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") is required from the Province of Ontario. The distribution of the enclosed Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and notice of public meeting is provided to you according to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act* ("Act") Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 ("Regulation"). In accordance with the Regulation, and as part of the REA process for proposed renewable energy project, First Solar is contacting you to provide you with initial information to commence the process of consulting with your community. The Regulation states that Aboriginal Communities must be consulted with who:

- (i) have or may have constitutionally protected aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely impacted by the project, or
- (ii) otherwise may be interested in any negative environmental effects of the project.

The subject sites are located in the Township of St.Clair and are shown and described more particularly in the enclosed Project Description Report. As drafts of the documents that are required by the Regulation to be submitted as part of this application become available, First Solar will send a summary of each document to you. Full versions of the draft of each document when prepared will be posted to First Solar's website at <http://canada.firstsolar.com>.

We request that you provide in writing any information that you feel should be considered by First Solar in preparing the studies required by the Regulation.

We would be happy to arrange to meet with you and your band council individually, and/or to have you attend the first general public consultation meeting indicated on the enclosed notice. To learn more about the project proposal, public meetings, or provide comments or questions please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187
<http://canada.firstsolar.com/>

NOTICE OF A PROPOSAL

By First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm

Project Location: Township of St. Clair: south of Bentpath Line and east of Baseline Road

Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The distribution of this notice of a proposal to engage in this renewable energy project and the project itself are subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act (ACT)* Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Project Description:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is considered to be a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is described in the map below.

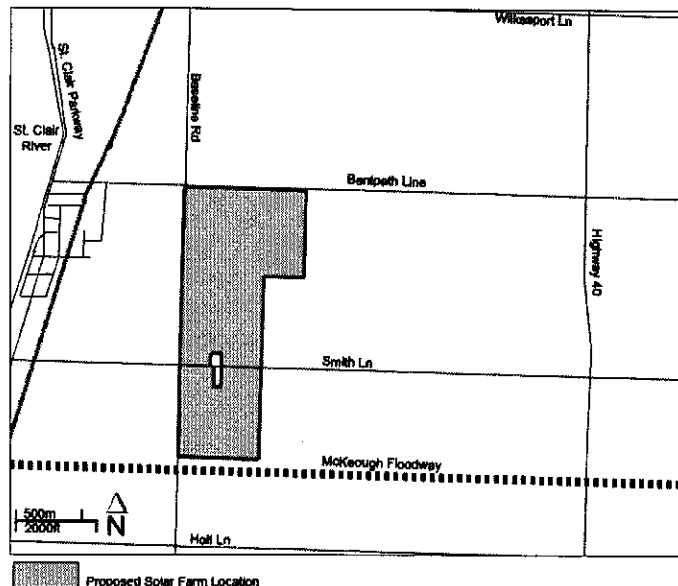
This project is being proposed in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Regulation. The Draft Project Description Report titled Twp. of St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm Project Description Report describes the facility as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report is being made available for public inspection at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project proposal or to communicate concerns please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Samia ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM SITE
TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR - SOMBRA SOLAR FARM



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm

Project Location: Township of St. Clair: south of Bentpath Line and east of Baseline Road

Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The proposal to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act (ACT)* Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Meeting Location:

DATE: January 14, 2010

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Royal Canadian Legion Leslie Sutherland Branch 447, Albert St. and Beckwith St., Township of St. Clair

Project Description:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is described in the map below.

Documents for Public Inspection:

The Draft Project Description Report titled Twp. of St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm Project Description Report describes the project as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report was made available for public inspection on December 2, 2009 at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Further, the applicant will prepare supporting documents in order to comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulation. Written copies of the draft supporting documents will be made available for public inspection at least 60 days before the final public meeting at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project proposal, public meetings, or to communicate concerns please contact:

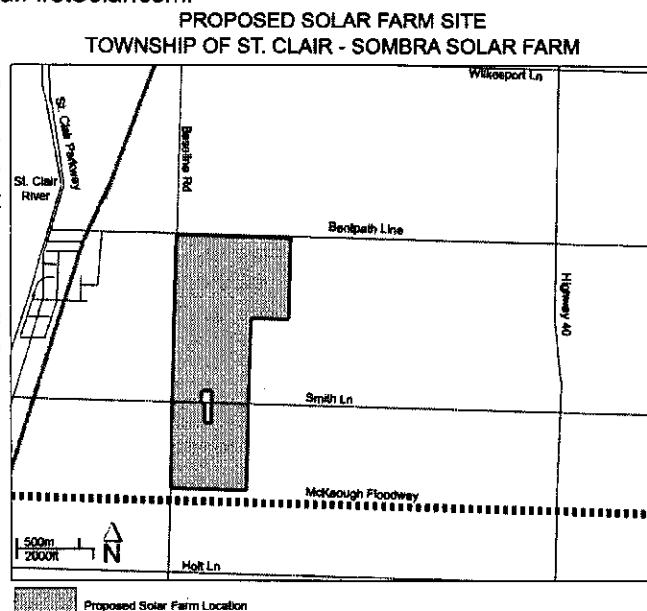
First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.

5115 Blackwell Sideroad,

Sarnia ON N7T 7H3

Email: ontario@firstsolar.com

Telephone: 519-344-2187



NOTICE OF A PROPOSAL

By First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair – Moore Solar Farm

Project Location: Township of St. Clair: north of Rokeby Line and west of Highway 40

Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The distribution of this notice of a proposal to engage in this renewable energy project and the project itself are subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act (ACT)* Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Project Description:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is considered to be a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is described in the map below.

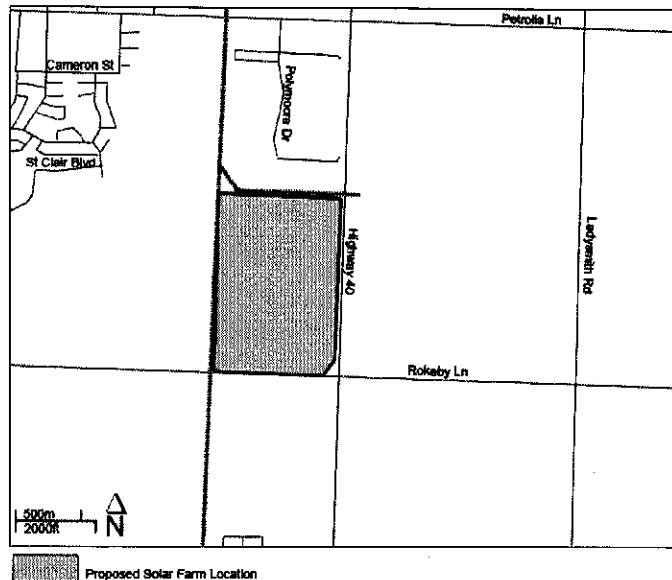
This project is being proposed in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Regulation. The Draft Project Description Report titled Twp. of St. Clair - Moore Solar Farm Project Description Report describes the facility as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report is being made available for public inspection at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project proposal or to communicate concerns please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM SITE
TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR - MOORE SOLAR FARM



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: St. Clair - Moore Solar Farm

Project Location: Township of St. Clair: north of Rokeby Line and west of Highway 40

Dated at the City of Toronto this 2nd day of December, 2009

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. is planning to engage in a renewable energy project in respect of which the issuance of a renewable energy approval is required. The proposal to engage in the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act (ACT)* Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 15 of the Regulation prior to an application being submitted and assessed for completeness by the Ministry of the Environment.

Meeting Location:

DATE: January 14, 2010

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Royal Canadian Legion Leslie Sutherland Branch 447, Albert St. and Beckwith St., Township of St. Clair

Project Description:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which this project is to be engaged in, is a Class 3 Solar Facility. If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 20 MW. The project location is described in the map below.

Documents for Public Inspection:

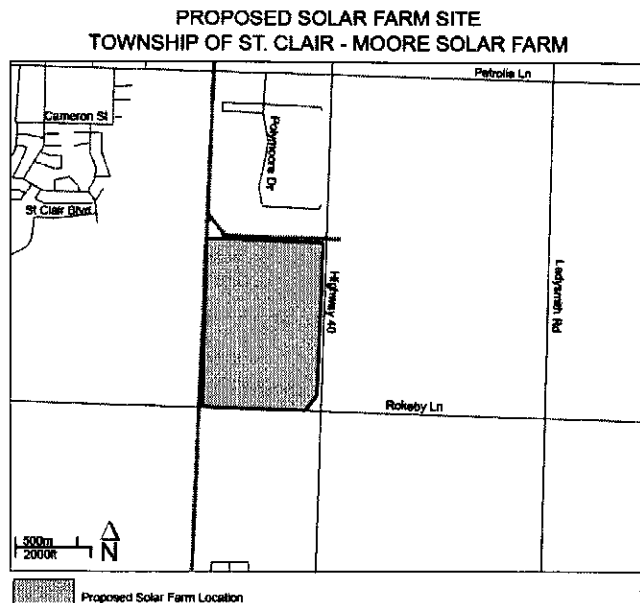
The Draft Project Description Report titled Twp. of St. Clair – Moore Solar Farm Project Description Report describes the project as a photovoltaic solar farm which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. A written copy of the Draft Project Description Report was made available for public inspection on December 2, 2009 at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>

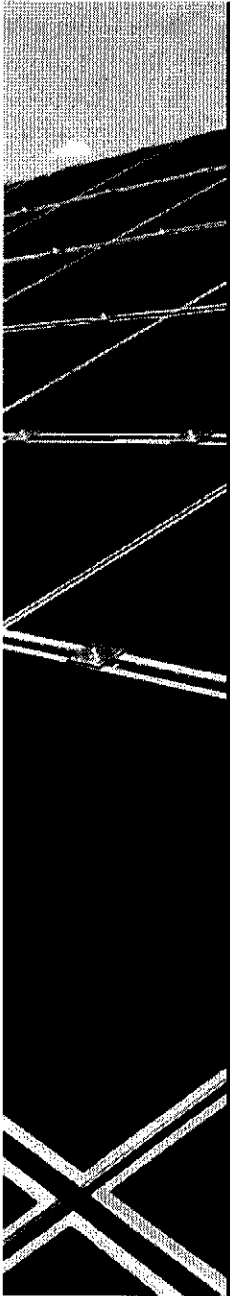
Further, the applicant will prepare supporting documents in order to comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulation. Written copies of the draft supporting documents will be made available for public inspection at least 60 days before the final public meeting at <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project proposal, public meetings, or to communicate concerns please contact:

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187





PROJECT DESCRIPTION REPORT

Twp. Of St. Clair – St. Clair-Moore Solar Farm

Date: November 24, 2009



Contact Information:

Web Page: <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>

Mailing: First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7H3

Email: ontario@firstsolar.com

Telephone: 519-344-2187

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Proponent

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "First Solar").

Project Description

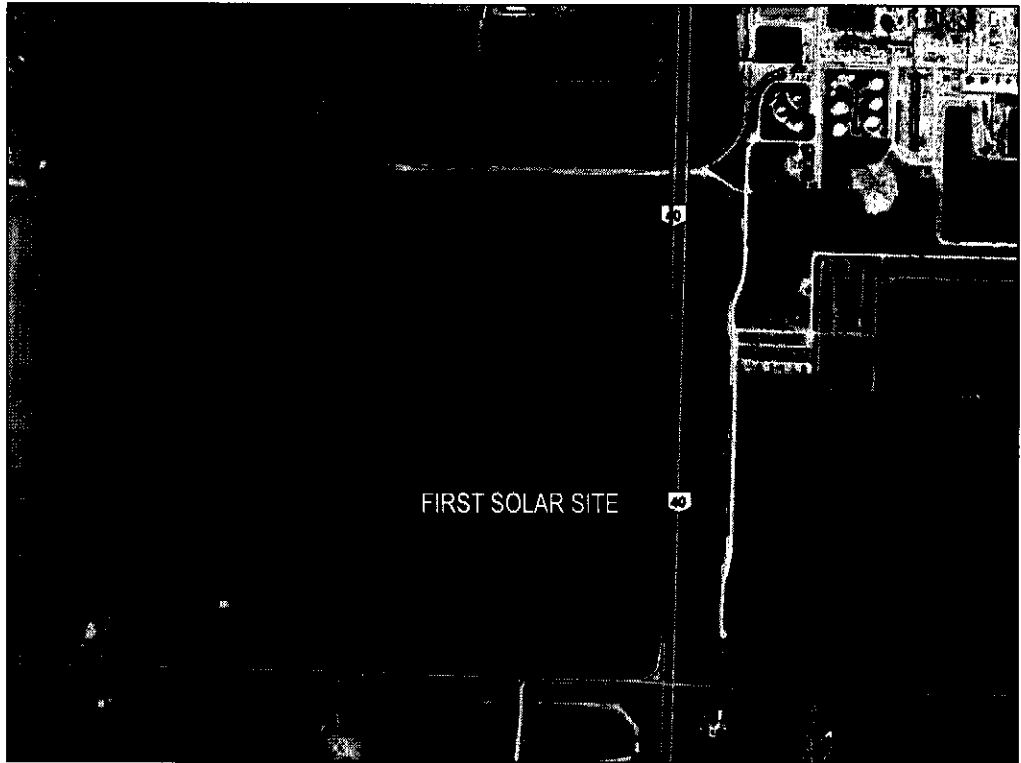
A solar farm is proposed which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. The proposed solar farm will be capable of producing 20 MW of electricity and will be developed on a 297 acre (120 ha) parcel of land located east of Mooretown in the Township of St. Clair (north of Rokeby Line, west of Highway 40). The solar farm is designated as a "class 3" solar facility as defined by Section 4 of O. Reg. 359/09 regarding Renewable Energy Approvals. A class 3 solar facility is a renewable energy facility with a name plate power capacity greater than 10kW situated at any location other than being mounted on the roof or wall of a building.

About The Proponent

The proponent, First Solar, develops and constructs solar farms and is a solar module manufacturer producing low cost thin film photovoltaic modules. First Solar manufactures and uses low profile (up to 3.5m high), stationary thin film photovoltaic arrays which minimize wind loading and visual impacts. First Solar's modules consume no fuel and create no atmospheric emissions, ground vibrations or water pollution in the generation of electricity. The proponent has proposed and established a number of solar farms in North America, Europe and Asia, including projects developed by First Solar and its affiliates, and by project partners that use First Solar-manufactured modules in their projects. Projects include a planned solar farm in San Luis Obispo County, California which will generate 550 MW of electricity when complete. First Solar is also currently constructing an 80 MW solar farm in Sarnia, Ontario. The first phase of that project was completed in late 2009.

General Location and Site Details of the Proposed St. Clair - Moore Solar Farm

The site of the proposed solar farm is located north of Rokeby Line, west of Highway 40 as shown below:



©2009 Google – Imagery ©2009 DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA Farm Service Agency, Map Data ©2009 Google

The subject site is approximately 297 acres (120 ha) in size and is currently used for traditional agricultural purposes. The land uses surrounding the site are industrial to the north, east and south; and, agriculture uses separated by a hydro corridor and railway tracks to the west.

The property is currently owned by local landowners under contract with First Solar.

Photovoltaic Technology Overview

The proposed solar farm will use thin film photovoltaic modules manufactured by First Solar. The modules utilize a thin film semi-conductor layer encapsulated between two sheets of glass that produce electricity when exposed to the sun's rays. Each module produces a total of approximately 70 to 75 watts of direct current ("DC") electricity. Solar modules are connected and mounted together to form solar arrays, each containing many rows of solar modules. Depending on its size, a solar farm may contain many arrays, as shown in the image below:

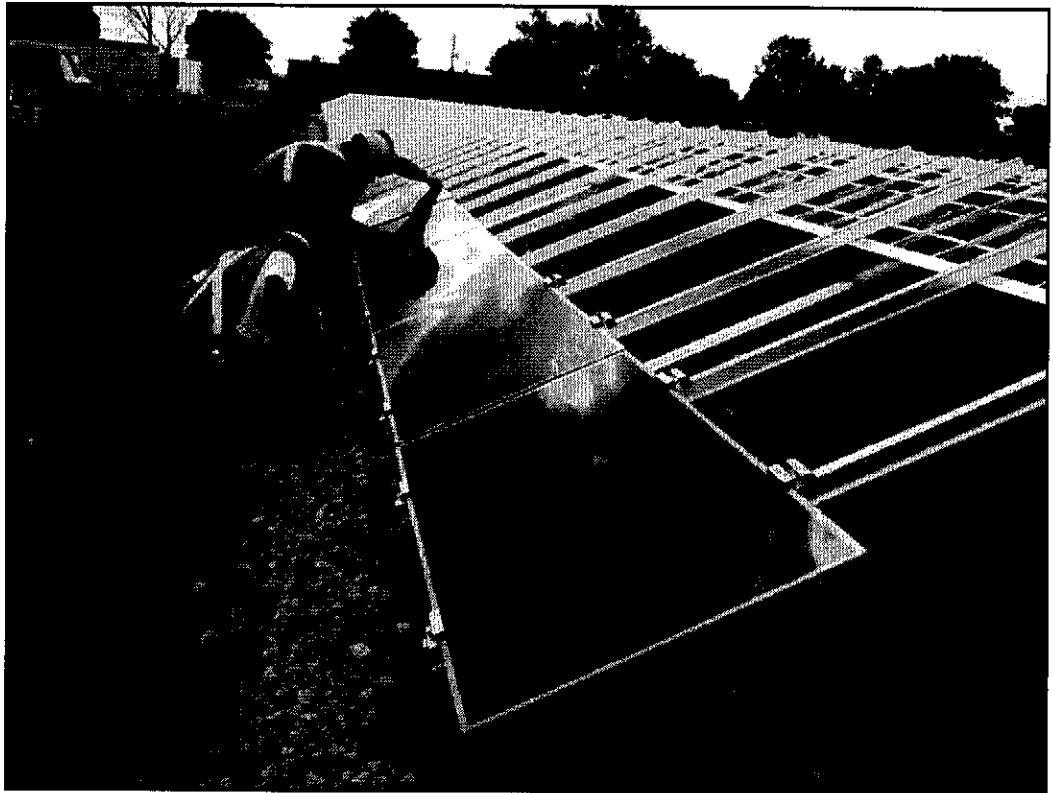


Image Source: First Solar

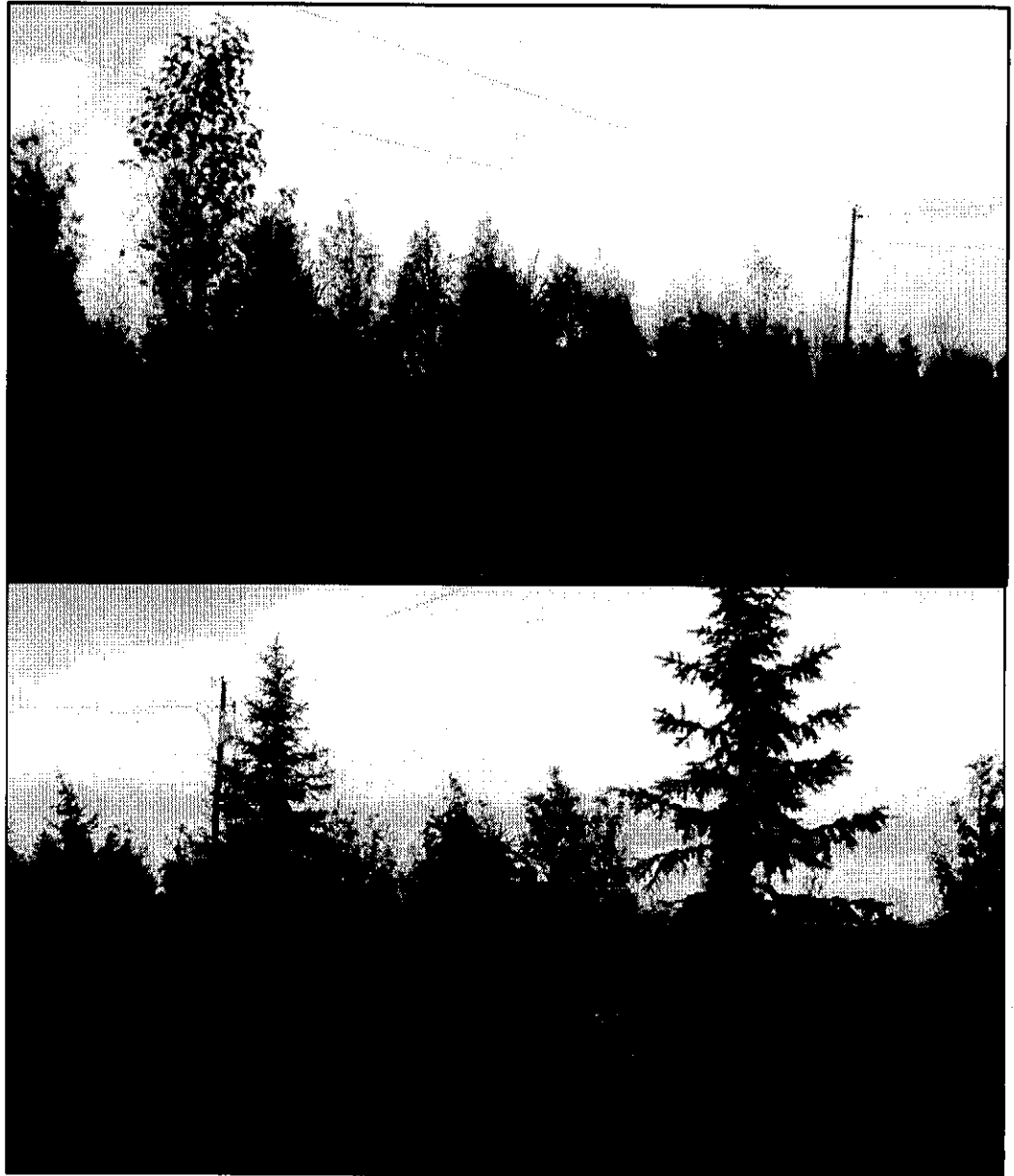
The DC electricity produced by the solar arrays is collected and is converted into Alternating Current (AC) by inverters and then sent to a transformer to increase the voltage of the electricity to the same level as the local electricity distribution system. The inverters, located at various points throughout the site, are enclosed within a concrete housing for noise reduction and weather protection purposes. Metering, safety disconnect and remote trip equipment is located at the utility connection point where the solar farm is connected to the local electricity distribution system. The local utility or Hydro One can control the solar farm grid connection during power outages or grid disruptions to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the electricity system.

Visibility

Given the low profile of the solar arrays used by First Solar, the solar farm will create a visual horizon similar to, or lower than, many other agricultural structures such as a ginseng farm or commercial greenhouses.

The solar arrays have a height of up to 3.5m high and slope toward the ground at an angle suitable for maximum sun exposure.

Where appropriate, tree screens are used, alone or in conjunction with other visual barriers along various segments of the project's boundary to provide a visual screen and enhance aesthetics as shown below.



First Solar tree screen at Sarnia Solar Farm (Image Source: First Solar)

Solar Farm Construction and the Natural Environment

Ensuring the protection and sustainability of the natural environment is a key consideration in any development. As part of its construction program, First Solar employs a variety of native grasses and other plants as groundcover between and under the solar arrays. This ground cover not only benefits soil quality, it improves stormwater runoff quality and the potential for erosion. Typical short grass plantings are shown in the image below at a solar farm in Dimbach Germany for which First Solar provided the modules:

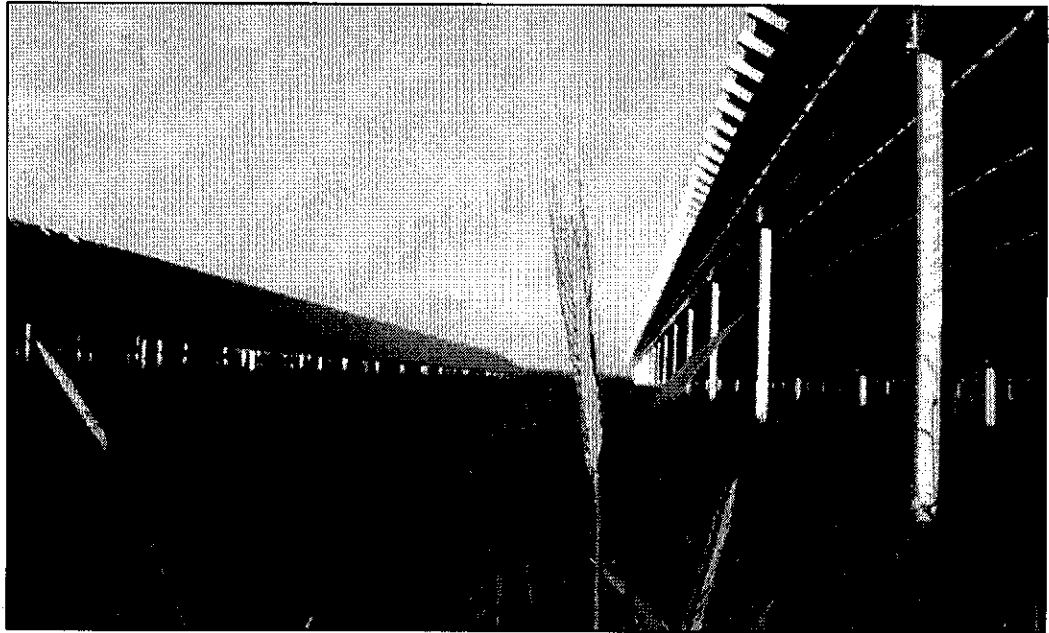


Image Source: First Solar

Because of its passive nature and limited land disturbance, the proposed solar farm will have minimal impacts on the natural environment. However, as part of the Renewable Energy Approval process, First Solar will be preparing a Natural Heritage Assessment and a Water Feature Assessment to identify, document, and investigate natural heritage features on and in the vicinity of the subject site. Should the project be located within a Provincial setback to a natural heritage feature (120 m in most cases), an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) must be prepared which will identify any negative environmental effects that may result from engaging in the project and note appropriate mitigation measures. If an EIS is necessary, First Solar will make this document available to the public at least 60 days prior to the final public meeting. As part of the Renewable Energy Approval process these environmental reports will also be reviewed by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Any needed mitigation will be implemented.

Related to the foregoing, First Solar has commissioned and will submit for public and government agency review, additional technical reports to ensure that all aspects of the project will minimize potential environmental impacts.

Traffic Generation

During construction of the solar farm, as with any construction project, there will be short term, intermittent traffic generated from the delivery of materials and arrival/departure of construction personnel. Due to the short duration of this phase of development and the small number of on-site employees required for regular operation (1-2), limited impact on the local road network and community traffic patterns will occur. Traffic studies have been prepared identifying the amount and types of traffic to be expected during the construction and operation phases of the development. Mitigation measures, where required, will be implemented.

Air & Noise

The solar arrays and related equipment do not generate any air emissions other than a limited amount of noise that comes from the inverters, transformers and associated cooling fans located throughout the solar farm. All noise emissions must meet Ministry of the Environment (MOE) standards for noise levels at adjacent residences. These standards require that noise levels from the solar farm are literally “quieter than a library”, at 40 decibels maximum at the point of reception. A detailed Acoustic Assessment Report will be prepared and made available to the public and government agencies at least 60 days prior to the final public meeting which quantifies noise generated from the solar farm.

Local Socio-Economic Benefits

Solar farm construction will create significant employment opportunities during the construction phase. There will be demand for construction and other skilled trades. Each 10 MW solar farm has hundreds of thousands of solar modules that must be put in place and connected to each other. Electricians are required for above-ground wiring and installation of the inverters, transformers and meters required to connect to the local electricity distribution system. Typically, a 10 MW solar farm will create the equivalent of about 50 jobs during the year of construction, or over 100,000 hours of skilled labour requirement.

In addition to direct construction employment, First Solar works with numerous local engineering and environmental consultants to help design the solar farm, and with many Ontario suppliers to provide equipment.

Local economic benefits will extend beyond the purchase of equipment to be used in the generation of solar electricity. For example, the local hospitality industry is expected to benefit from an increase in visitors and contractors associated with the construction and ongoing operation of the solar farm.

Decommissioning

First Solar was the first solar manufacturer to develop a pre-funded recycling program for its solar modules that enables substantially all components, including the glass and the encapsulated semiconductor material, to be recycled and processed into new solar modules or other products. Detailed information can be found about First Solar’s comprehensive module collection and recycling program on its website (www.firstsolar.com). A specific decommissioning plan for the subject site will be prepared in accordance with Ministry requirements and made available to the public and government agencies for review at least 60 days prior to the final public meeting.

Provincial Policy Statement (“PPS”)

The PPS provides policy direction on matters of Provincial interest related to land use planning and development. As a key part of Ontario’s policy-led planning system, the PPS sets the policy foundation for regulating the development and use of land. The PPS came into effect on March 1st, 2005. The establishment of the solar farm on the subject site is encouraged by and consistent with the PPS, particularly with regard to long term economic prosperity, the Province’s clean energy objectives, and air quality. Section 1.8.3 specifically permits renewable energy generation in “*rural areas and prime agricultural areas in accordance with provincial and federal requirements*” provided that they are designed to minimize impacts on agricultural operations. It is clear that the Provincial intent as confirmed in decisions of the Ontario Municipal Board is that Section 1.8.3 is the guiding policy for Renewable Energy project development and that a solar farm use is permitted on agricultural land as defined by the PPS.

A full analysis of the PPS in relation to the proposed solar farm will be made available to the public and government agencies a minimum of 60 days before the final public meeting.

Greenbelt Plan (2005)

The project is not located within the boundary of the Greenbelt Plan (2005).

Land Use Compatibility

The development of the proposed solar farm is encouraged by the Ontario government and has received from the Province a contract under Ontario’s Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program (RESOP) to produce electricity, which will be fed into the local electricity distribution system.

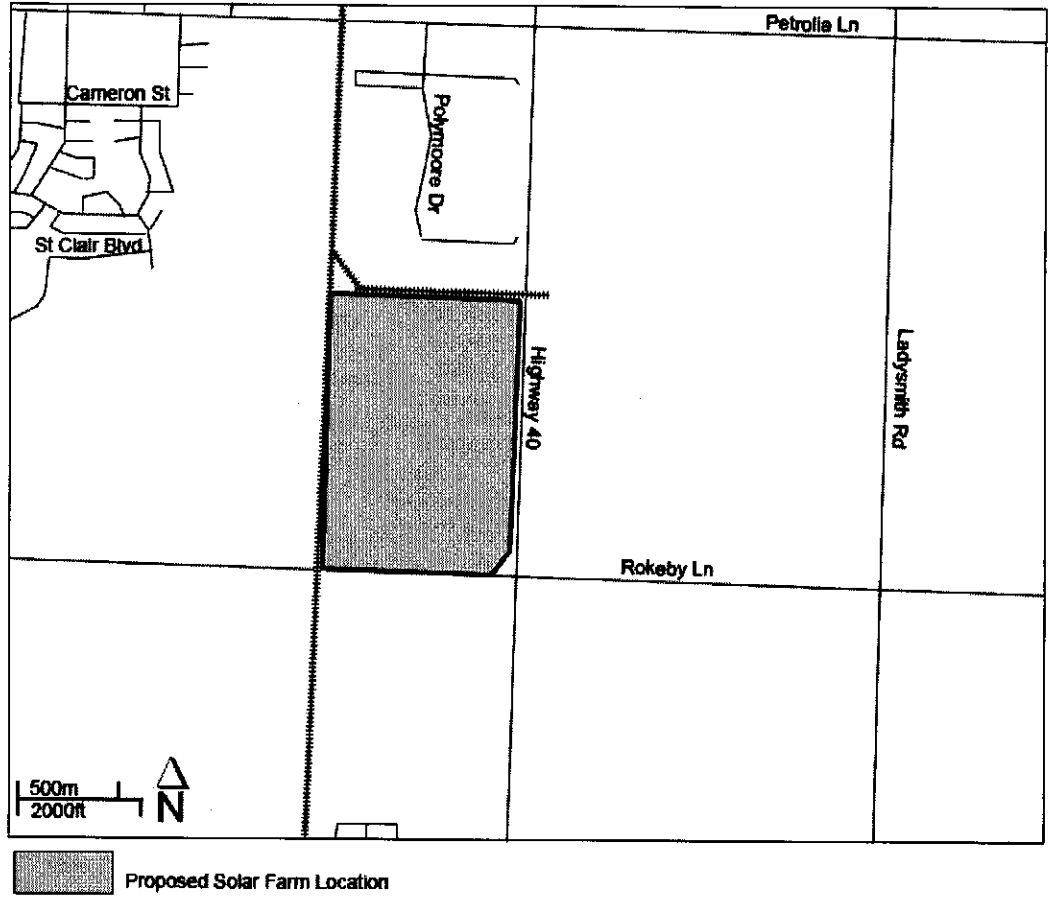
The proposed solar farm is a passive land use and is fully compatible with the land uses in proximity to the subject site. There are no atmospheric emissions or ground vibrations emitted from the project and stormwater flows are not increased from pre-development flows. In addition, proposed plantings between and under the arrays will improve storm water run-off flows, provide erosion control and help to improve soil quality over time.

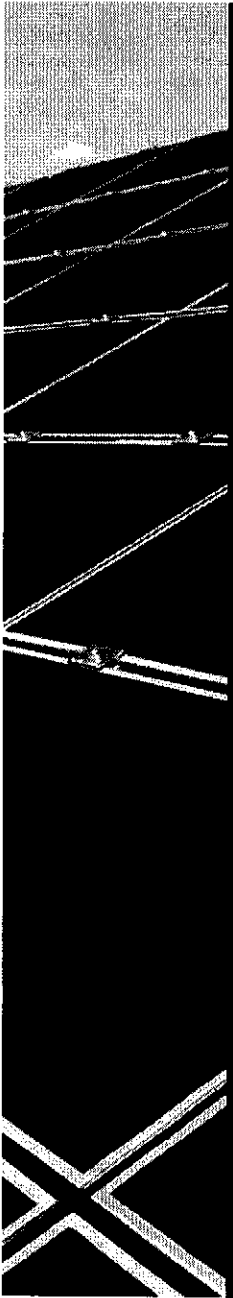
The proposed solar farm will be constructed, operated and decommissioned without impeding the land’s ability to sustain traditional agriculture at the end of the project’s life.

The low-profile character of the proposed solar farm arrays allows for easy screening, buffering and separation from any sensitive land uses.

Project Location Map

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM SITE TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR - MOORE SOLAR FARM





PROJECT DESCRIPTION REPORT

Twp. Of St. Clair – St. Clair-Sombra Solar Farm

Date: November 24, 2009



Contact Information:

Web Page: <http://Canada.FirstSolar.com>

Mailing: First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Sarnia ON N7T 7H3

Email: ontario@firstsolar.com

Telephone: 519-344-2187

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Proponent

First Solar Development (Canada), Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "First Solar").

Project Description

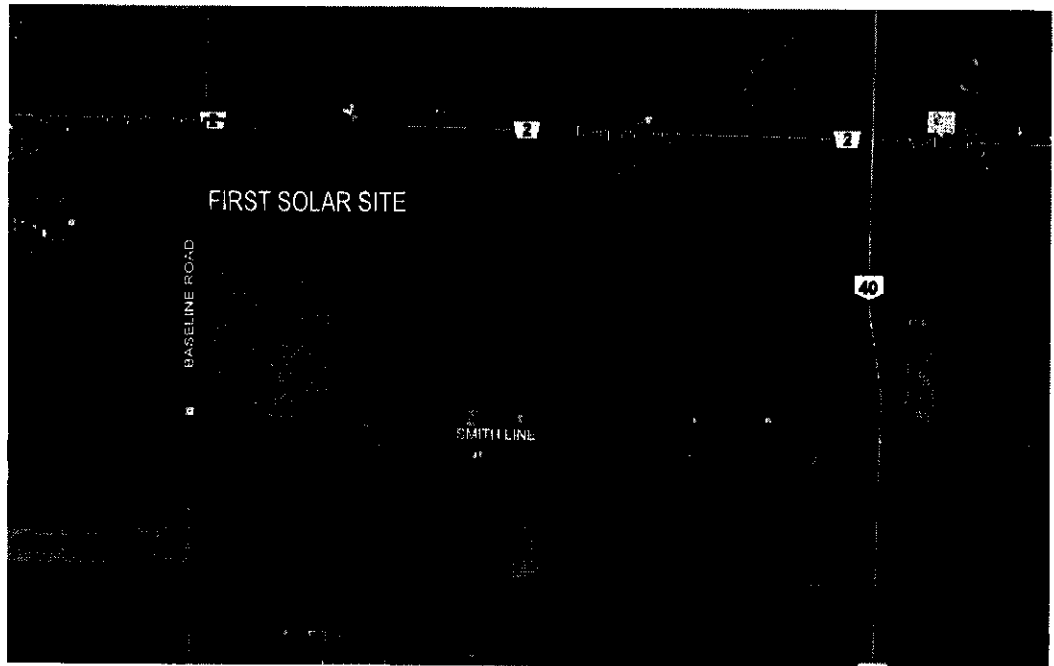
A solar farm is proposed which will collect the energy from the sun using thin film photovoltaic modules and convert it to electrical energy for distribution to the local electricity distribution system. The proposed solar farm will be capable of producing 20 MW of electricity and will be developed on a 347 acre (140 ha) parcel of land located east of Sombra Village in Township of St. Clair (south of Bentpath Line, east of Baseline Road). The solar farm is designated as a "class 3" solar facility as defined by Section 4 of O. Reg. 359/09 regarding Renewable Energy Approvals. A class 3 solar facility is a renewable energy facility with a name plate power capacity greater than 10kW situated at any location other than being mounted on the roof or wall of a building.

About The Proponent

The proponent, First Solar, develops and constructs solar farms and is a solar module manufacturer producing low cost thin film photovoltaic modules. First Solar manufactures and uses low profile (up to 3.5m high), stationary thin film photovoltaic arrays which minimize wind loading and visual impacts. First Solar's modules consume no fuel and create no atmospheric emissions, ground vibrations or water pollution in the generation of electricity. The proponent has proposed and established a number of solar farms in North America, Europe and Asia, including projects developed by First Solar and its affiliates, and by project partners that use First Solar-manufactured modules in their projects. Projects include a planned solar farm in San Luis Obispo County, California which will generate 550 MW of electricity when complete. First Solar is also currently constructing an 80 MW solar farm in Sarnia, Ontario. The first phase of that project was completed in late 2009.

General Location and Site Details of the Proposed St. Clair - Sombra Solar Farm

The site of the proposed solar farm is located south of Bentpath Line, east of Baseline Road as shown below:



©2009 Google – Imagery ©2009 DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA Farm Service Agency, Map Data
©2009 Google

The subject site is approximately 347 acres (140 ha) in size and is currently used for traditional agricultural purposes. The land uses surrounding the site are a mix of agriculture and rural residential uses.

The property is currently owned by local landowners under contract with First Solar.

Photovoltaic Technology Overview

The proposed solar farm will use thin film photovoltaic modules manufactured by First Solar. The modules utilize a thin film semi-conductor layer encapsulated between two sheets of glass that produce electricity when exposed to the sun's rays. Each module produces a total of approximately 70 to 75 watts of direct current ("DC") electricity. Solar modules are connected and mounted together to form solar arrays, each containing many rows of solar modules. Depending on its size, a solar farm may contain many arrays, as shown in the image below:

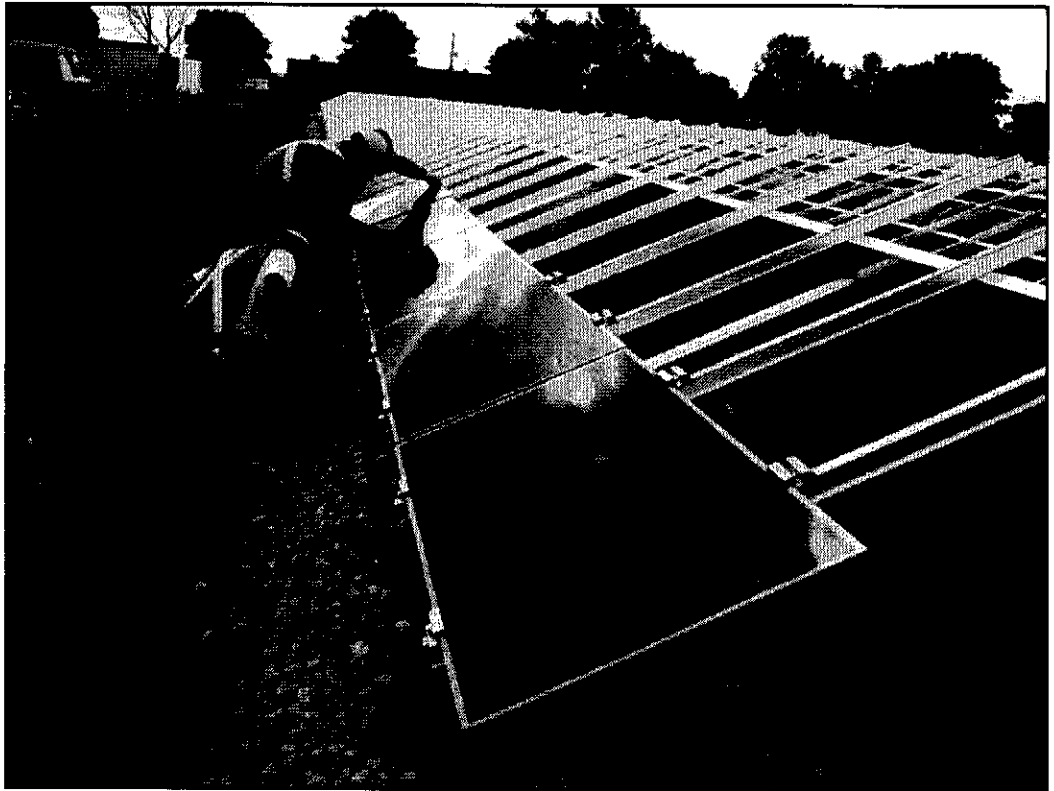


Image Source: First Solar

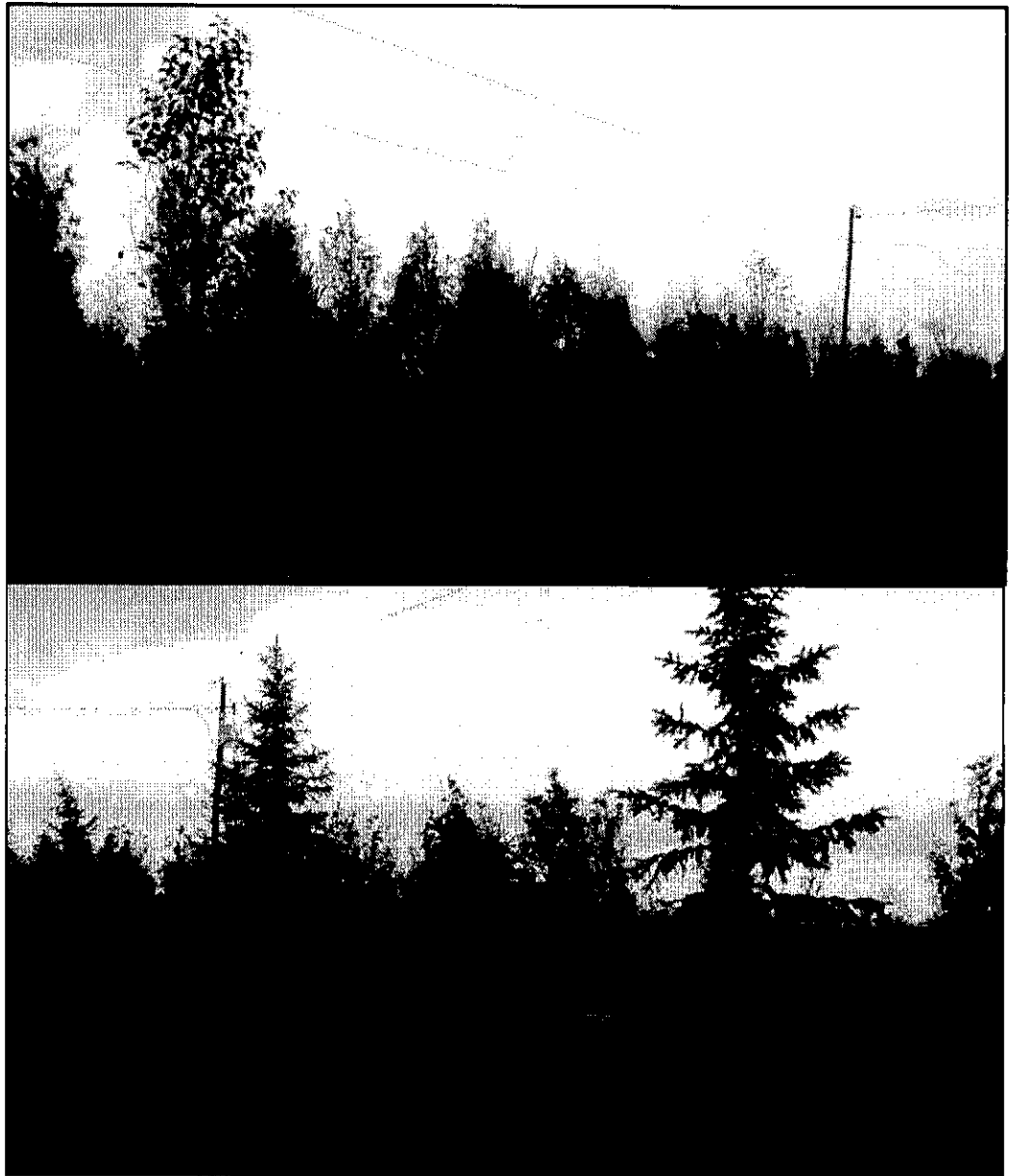
The DC electricity produced by the solar arrays is collected and is converted into Alternating Current (AC) by inverters and then sent to a transformer to increase the voltage of the electricity to the same level as the local electricity distribution system. The inverters, located at various points throughout the site, are enclosed within a concrete housing for noise reduction and weather protection purposes. Metering, safety disconnect and remote trip equipment is located at the utility connection point where the solar farm is connected to the local electricity distribution system. The local utility or Hydro One can control the solar farm grid connection during power outages or grid disruptions to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the electricity system.

Visibility

Given the low profile of the solar arrays used by First Solar, the solar farm will create a visual horizon similar to, or lower than, many other agricultural structures such as a ginseng farm or commercial greenhouses.

The solar arrays have a height of up to 3.5m high and slope toward the ground at an angle suitable for maximum sun exposure.

Where appropriate, tree screens are used, alone or in conjunction with other visual barriers along various segments of the project's boundary to provide a visual screen and enhance aesthetics as shown below.



First Solar tree screen at Sarnia Solar Farm (Image Source: First Solar)

Solar Farm Construction and the Natural Environment

Ensuring the protection and sustainability of the natural environment is a key consideration in any development. As part of its construction program, First Solar employs a variety of native grasses and other plants as groundcover between and under the solar arrays. This ground cover not only benefits soil quality, it improves stormwater runoff quality and the potential for erosion. Typical short grass plantings are shown in the image below at a solar farm in Dimbach Germany for which First Solar provided the modules:

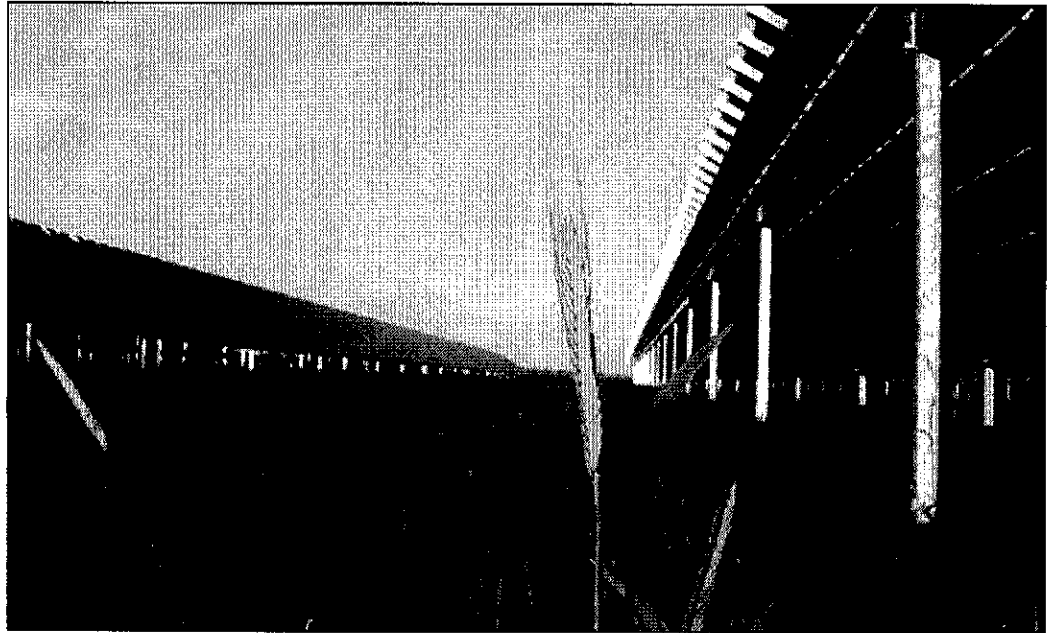


Image Source: First Solar

Because of its passive nature and limited land disturbance, the proposed solar farm will have minimal impacts on the natural environment. However, as part of the Renewable Energy Approval process, First Solar will be preparing a Natural Heritage Assessment and a Water Feature Assessment to identify, document, and investigate natural heritage features on and in the vicinity of the subject site. Should the project be located within a Provincial setback to a natural heritage feature (120 m in most cases), an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) must be prepared which will identify any negative environmental effects that may result from engaging in the project and note appropriate mitigation measures. If an EIS is necessary, First Solar will make this document available to the public at least 60 days prior to the final public meeting. As part of the Renewable Energy Approval process these environmental reports will also be reviewed by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Any needed mitigation will be implemented.

Related to the foregoing, First Solar has commissioned and will submit for public and government agency review, additional technical reports to ensure that all aspects of the project will minimize potential environmental impacts.

Traffic Generation

During construction of the solar farm, as with any construction project, there will be short term, intermittent traffic generated from the delivery of materials and arrival/departure of construction personnel. Due to the short duration of this phase of development and the small number of on-site employees required for regular operation (1-2), limited impact on the local road network and community traffic patterns will occur. Traffic studies have been prepared identifying the amount and types of traffic to be expected during the construction and operation phases of the development. Mitigation measures, where required, will be implemented.

Air & Noise

The solar arrays and related equipment do not generate any air emissions other than a limited amount of noise that comes from the inverters, transformers and associated cooling fans located throughout the solar farm. All noise emissions must meet Ministry of the Environment (MOE) standards for noise levels at adjacent residences. These standards require that noise levels from the solar farm are literally “quieter than a library”, at 40 decibels maximum at the point of reception. A detailed Acoustic Assessment Report will be prepared and made available to the public and government agencies at least 60 days prior to the final public meeting which quantifies noise generated from the solar farm.

Local Socio-Economic Benefits

Solar farm construction will create significant employment opportunities during the construction phase. There will be demand for construction and other skilled trades. Each 10 MW solar farm has hundreds of thousands of solar modules that must be put in place and connected to each other. Electricians are required for aboveground wiring and installation of the inverters, transformers and meters required to connect to the local electricity distribution system. Typically, a 10 MW solar farm will create the equivalent of about 50 jobs during the year of construction, or over 100,000 hours of skilled labour requirement.

In addition to direct construction employment, First Solar works with numerous local engineering and environmental consultants to help design the solar farm, and with many Ontario suppliers to provide equipment.

Local economic benefits will extend beyond the purchase of equipment to be used in the generation of solar electricity. For example, the local hospitality industry is expected to benefit from an increase in visitors and contractors associated with the construction and ongoing operation of the solar farm.

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First Solar was the first solar manufacturer to develop a pre-funded recycling program for its solar modules that enables substantially all components, including the glass and the encapsulated semiconductor material, to be recycled and processed into new solar modules or other products. Detailed information can be found about First Solar’s comprehensive module collection and recycling program on its website (www.firstsolar.com). A specific decommissioning plan for the subject site will be prepared in accordance with Ministry requirements and made available to the public and government agencies for review at least 60 days prior to the final public meeting.

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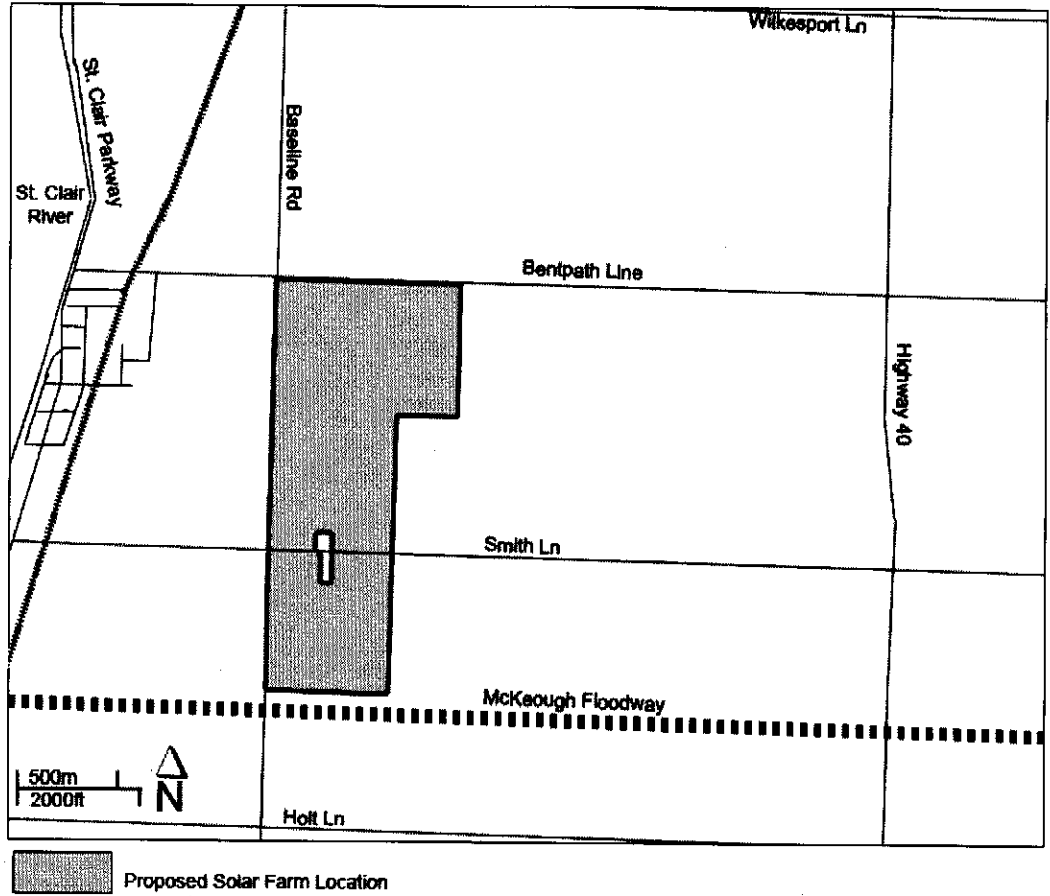
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Project Location Map

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM SITE TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR - SOMBRA SOLAR FARM



4. February 26, 2010 Letters



February 26, 2010

VIA REGULAR MAIL

Chief Chris Plain
Aamjiwnaang First Nation
978 Tashmoo Avenue
Samia, ON
N7T 7H5

Dear Chief Plain,

Further to our letter dated December 14, 2009 regarding our proposed solar farm projects in St. Clair Township Ontario we are writing you to provide an update on the project. On January 14th, 2010 and in accordance with Ontario Regulation 359/09 ("Regulation"), we held the first public consultation meeting. We will send to you notice for the next public meeting once a date for this meeting has been set.

Draft versions of the required project reports and technical studies have been completed and were posted on First Solar's website (<http://canada.firstsolar.com>) during February 2010. The enclosed CD contains a full set of the reports, studies, and site plan drawings for you and your community to review. If you would like hard copies of the draft documents please let us know and we will arrange to have a set provided to you. As well, if you wish to make a set of the documents available to your community in a public location (i.e. your closest library or community centre), please let us know the appropriate contact and we will provide a printed set of the materials for them.

We kindly request that you provide in writing to us any information available to your community that you feel should also be considered by First Solar in finalizing the project studies and reports. In particular, if you have information on potential adverse impacts that the project may have and any measures for mitigating those potential adverse impacts, please let us know.

If you so desire, we would be happy to meet directly with you and your band council (or a community representative that you designate) at your convenience regarding the project. To learn more about the project proposal, public meetings, or to arrange for a meeting, please contact:

Peter Carrie, Vice President
First Solar Development (Canada), Inc.
5115 Blackwell Sideroad,
Samia ON. N7T 7H3
Email: ontario@firstsolar.com
Telephone: 519-344-2187
<http://canada.firstsolar.com/>



February 26, 2010

VIA REGULAR MAIL

Chief Joseph Gilbert
Bkejwanong Territory
R.R. #3
Wallaceburg, ON
N8A 4K9

Dear Chief Gilbert,

Further to our letter dated December 14, 2009 regarding our proposed solar farm projects in St. Clair Ontario and letter dated February 1, 2010 regarding our proposed solar farm project in Amherstburg Ontario we are writing you to provide an update on the projects. On January 14, 2010 and in accordance with Ontario Regulation 359/09 ("Regulation"), we held the first public consultation meeting for the St. Clair projects. The first public meeting for the Amherstburg project is scheduled for March 4th, 2010. We will send to you notice for the next public meetings once a date for these meetings has been set.

Draft versions of the required project reports and technical studies have been completed and were posted on First Solar's website (<http://canada.firstsolar.com>) during February 2010. The enclosed CD contains a full set of the reports, studies, and site plan drawings for you and your community to review. If you would like hard copies of the draft documents please let us know and we will arrange to have a set provided to you. As well, if you wish to make a set of the documents available to your community in a public location (i.e. your closest library or community centre), please let us know the appropriate contact and we will provide a printed set of the materials for them.

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