



Orchard Storage

1 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

1.1 Introduction

The objective of this Plan is to engage with stakeholders, government agencies, and Indigenous communities to gain a better understanding of their concerns and how to effectively address these during Project development. Recommendations or comments will be documented, responded to as appropriate, incorporated into Project documentation, and integrated into the ongoing development of Project design.

The primary goals of external communications will be transparency and responsiveness. Shift Solar will work to effectively engage stakeholders, government agencies, and Indigenous communities about the Project and its associated impacts and benefits.

The communications structure defined in this Plan will apply to external communications related to Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (Class EA) and Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Long Term 1 Request for Proposal (LT1 RFP), with a primary focus on the consultation requirements defined in the MTF Class EA.

1.2 Consultation Objectives

This Plan provides an outline of consultation opportunities so that the Project is well understood, and that issues and concerns can be considered and incorporated into Project planning, to the extent practicable. With that in mind, the following objectives for consultation have been developed:

- Provide consultation opportunities that address the interests and needs of those consulted (including targeted materials and discussions, as appropriate).
- Provide for timely, open, transparent, effective, consistent, and proactive communications.
- Foster and maintain positive and constructive relationships with parties that may be affected by decisions regarding the scope of the Project.
- Build trust, understanding and support for transit initiatives.

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2 Engagement Of Interested Parties

2.1 Overview Of Proposed Consultation Activities

Effective and meaningful communication and engagement requires building trust, enhancing awareness of the Project, and providing flexible consultation opportunities, addressing issues, and incorporating feedback. Interested parties will be engaged in a number of ways throughout the Project, including the following general activities:

- Identify a contact list of relevant stakeholders, government agencies and Indigenous communities, updating this list as the Project proceeds.
- Set milestones to provide advance notification to stakeholders, government agencies and Indigenous communities of consultation opportunities and key Project milestones.
- Facilitate timely, meaningful, and ongoing consultation.
- Build trust through transparent and open dialogue.
- Track and document consultation activities, comments received, and their influence on the Project as part of the MTF Class EA

2.1.1 Public Notices

The following Notices will be prepared and distributed:

- Initial Notification (i.e., Notice of Commencement)
- Notice of Public Meeting

Notices will be posted on the Project website, mailed to interested parties (including owners and occupants within 1,000m of the Project), and if possible, published in local newspapers. Distribution of letters and notices via Canada Post will be carried out where email addresses are not available.

2.1.2 Public Meetings

Shift Solar will hold a minimum of one public meeting to gather input to fulfill requirements of the IESO LT1 RFP, and as part of the MTF Class EA process, as required. The need for public meetings may be revisited as the Project progresses, based on issues, trends, consultation needs, and input from Shift Solar. The public meeting(s) may be held virtually, if required.



In accordance with the IESO LT1 RFP (Section 2.1(f)), notice of the public meeting will be distributed at least 15 days prior to the meeting date with a copy or summary of the meeting posted on the Project website. The public meeting will include a question-and-answer component for members of the public to provide their questions and comments, if any.

Presentation and meeting materials will be developed and may include display boards, digital presentations, comment forms, and sign in sheets. The design of display boards and written materials developed for public meetings will consider the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*. Any public reports (excluding appendices) will follow the AODA.

A comment period of 14 days will follow the public meetings. Comments received will be logged and included in a Record of Consultation.

Shift Solar will keep written documentation of all consultation activities in the Record of Consultation log. They will also prepare a summary report that will detail the topics and information presented, attendees, issues raised, and responses provided.

2.1.3 Meetings

Shift Solar will hold, and remain open to having, ongoing discussions throughout the IESO LT1 and MTF Class EA processes with the intent to solicit feedback on the Project and resolve any outstanding concerns. Initial engagement will include offers for introductory meetings with key regulators and Indigenous communities, to introduce the Project and answer questions regarding the Project.

2.1.4 Project Website

Shift Solar will maintain a dedicated Project website with information about the Project and relevant documents, including contact information.

As outlined in the IESO LT1 RFP (Section 2.1(f)), the Project website will include the following information:

- Legal name and contact information of Shift Solar
- Name, nameplate capacity and generating or storage technology
- Scaled map showing the Project boundaries, location of connection points and connection lines
- Notice and description of public engagement activities such as public community meeting(s)
- Copy or summary of minutes of public community meeting(s)

