

Six Nations could be partner in largest wind project in Ontario

By Donna Duric
Writer

Six Nations could become a partner in the largest wind project in Ontario if it agrees to the \$1 billion Niagara Regional Wind project.

At a sparsely attended community consultation meeting at Six Nations Tourism last Thursday, Six Nations Economic Development Corporation staff said Six Nations could earn no less than \$30

million over 20 years and own 50 per cent of the project if the community agrees. The project, located in part of the Haldimand Tract and the Township of West Lincoln, Town of Lincoln, Wainfleet

and Haldimand County, will consist of 77 turbines and construction is expected to start soon. It will generate 230MW of energy which will be sold to the Ontario Power Authority



under the FIT (feed-in-tariff) program that gives provincial dollars to partners in renewable energy projects.

The project will be owned and operated by Daniels Power, Enercon Canada Inc., Boralex Inc., and possibly Six Nations. The Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation is contemplating a 50 per cent equity ownership.

Six Nations began meeting with Niagara Regional Wind Corporation in 2011.

All permits for the project have been granted and archaeological assessments are expected to be complete by next month, with commercial operation expected in August 2016.

Six Nations archaeology monitors are on-site, from both elected council and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council and the Mississaugas of New Credit.

Twelve of 36 archaeological digs have completed stage three archaeological assessments. Of those 12 sites, eight are moving into a stage four archaeological assessment.

Under Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport guidelines, archaeologists enter stage four when "significant" archaeological finds have been discovered.

Conserving archaeological sites that have cultural heritage value or interest does not mean stopping development, according to the ministry.

Conservation can involve putting long-term protection measures in place around an archaeological site to protect it. The site is then avoided while development proceeds around it. This is called pro-

tection 'in situ.'

The ministry stipulates that if protection is not viable, mitigation can involve documenting and removing an archaeological site, through excavation, before development takes place.

Adam Rosso, an engineer and manager of business development with Boralex, said aboriginal pottery pieces have been discovered, but so far, there has been no evidence of an aboriginal village located in the project area.

Boralex and Enercon are providing Six Nations with 100 per cent equity financing.

Six Nations is not required to provide guarantees for equity financing and has the option to substitute equity financing with alternative financing (a bank or other lending institution).

Boralex and Enercon are also providing capacity funding to complete community engagement with Six Nations.

Aside from the 50 per cent equity ownership for Six Nations that will generate no less than \$30 million in net cash flow for the community, other benefits include:

- \$20,000 per year to Grand River Post Secondary Education.

- A6N (a newly-formed band owned consultation firm) will bid on subcontracting work. The project will also allow future generations to continue to own 50 per cent of the project long after the 20-year deal with Boralex and Enercon has expired.

Matt Jamieson, president of Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation, said the 6.14 per cent interest financing on the project is

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