

GOLDLIGHT
S O L A R

GoldLight

CONSULTATION REPORT



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1. INTRODUCTION

Canadian Solar Solutions Inc., acting on behalf of GoldLight LP, proposes to develop a solar facility with a maximum name plate capacity of approximately 10 megawatts (MW) alternating current (AC), located near Pefferlaw, in the Town of Georgina, Ontario. The permitting and approvals process for GoldLight LP was previously managed by SkyPower Limited, as outlined in **Section 5.6**. The renewable energy facility will be known as GoldLight and will be rated as a Class 3 Solar Facility. Canadian Solar is coordinating and managing the approvals process for GoldLight LP. GoldLight LP has received a contract from the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) for the sale of electricity generated by this renewable facility through the province's Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) program (enabled by the *Green Energy and Green Economy Act*, 2009). The project will require a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) as per *Ontario Regulation 359/09* under Part V.0.1 of the *Ontario Environmental Protection Act*.

This *Consultation Report* has been prepared following the final public meeting with the public and is being submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) as part of a complete REA submission for the GoldLight project as outlined in *Ontario Regulation 359/09*. Other draft reports included in the submission include:

- Project Description Report;
- Construction Plan Report;
- Design and Operations Report;
- Decommissioning Plan Report;
- Noise Study Report;
- Natural Heritage Assessment (4 reports);
- Water Assessment;
- Archaeological Assessments;
- Cultural Heritage Screening; and
- Cultural Heritage Assessment.

The *Consultation Report* is required as part of a complete REA submission to the MOE. It provides the MOE with information on all consultation conducted in respect of the renewable energy project,

including a record of comments and information received by the applicant, and demonstrates how the project was modified as a result of comments received. The content and format of this report follows the recommendations provided in Chapter 2, Part 2 of the *Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals* (MOE, 2011).

2. THE PROPONENT

Canadian Solar Solutions Inc. is managing and coordinating the approvals process for GoldLight LP. Canadian Solar is an experienced developer, owner and operator of power generation and energy delivery assets. Company activities include developing, building, owning and operating renewable energy facilities. Canadian Solar strives to satisfy various environmental approval requirements and obtain regulatory approvals that vary depending on the jurisdiction, project capacity and site location. In addition, GoldLight LP and Canadian Solar Solutions Inc. are building long-term relationships with the communities that host their projects and are committed to the health and welfare of the Town of Georgina and the Region of York, Ontario.

Contact information for the proponent is as follows:

Full Name of Company:	<u>GoldLight LP</u>
Prime Contact:	<u>Mark Feenstra</u>
Address:	<u>545 Speedvale Ave. W., Guelph, Ontario, N1K 1E6</u>
Telephone:	<u>519-837-1881 x2342</u>
Fax:	<u>519-837-2550</u>
Email:	<u>Mark.Feenstra@na.canadiansolar.com</u>

Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) is the consultant responsible for the preparation of REA-related reports for GoldLight. The contact at Dillon is:

Full Name of Company:	<u>Dillon Consulting Limited</u>
Prime Contact:	<u>Katharine Myrans, REA Project Coordinator</u>
Address:	<u>235 Yorkland Boulevard, Suite 800, Toronto, Ontario, M2J 4Y8</u>
Telephone:	<u>(416) 229-4647 ext. 2381</u>
Fax:	<u>(416) 229-4692</u>
Email:	<u>kmyrans@dillon.ca</u>

3. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Class 3 Solar Facility is located at 7130 Old Homestead Road, approximately 8 kilometres from the community of Pefferlaw. **Figure 1** shows the general location of the project in Ontario. The project location covers parts of Lots 8 and 9, Concession 5, in the Town of Georgina and consists of 38.17 hectares of privately owned land (leased by the proponent) with geographic coordinates (centroids) as follows:

- Latitude: 44° 17' 26.06" N
- Longitude: 79° 17' 47.95" W

“Project location” is defined in *Ontario Regulation 359/09* to be “a part of land and all or part of any building or structure in, on or over which a person is engaging in or proposes to engage in the project”. The project location for GoldLight was modified in June 2011 due to environmental constraints on the original Frog Street property. For more information on the project location and facility components please refer to Figure 3 of the *Design and Operations Report*.



Figure 1: General Location of GoldLight in Ontario

4. OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION PROCESS

This *Consultation Report* outlines the consultation program for GoldLight. Consultation was initiated with the municipalities in March 2011, followed by a Meet and Greet Session with the landowners on April 11, 2011, and is expected to culminate with the publication of a notice of the REA application being accepted for review by the Ministry in October 2012. The report documents how interested and affected stakeholders were consulted with regards to the development, design, and implementation of the proposed project. Further, it documents whether or how stakeholder comments influenced the progression of the proposed project.

Stakeholder consultation has been a central component of this project since its inception. The applicant has provided multiple opportunities for information sharing and stakeholder feedback throughout the course of the project. Ongoing consultation activities and project communications are planned throughout the proposed construction and operations stages as necessary and are outlined in **Section 9** of this report.

The following sections describe the key consultation activities that have been undertaken to date. Comments from the general public, landowners, Aboriginal communities, municipalities, local authorities and agencies have been identified and addressed and are identified in the appendices. The REA consultation process is illustrated in **Figure 2**, however GoldLight LP went above and beyond these requirements, as outlined in **Table 2**.

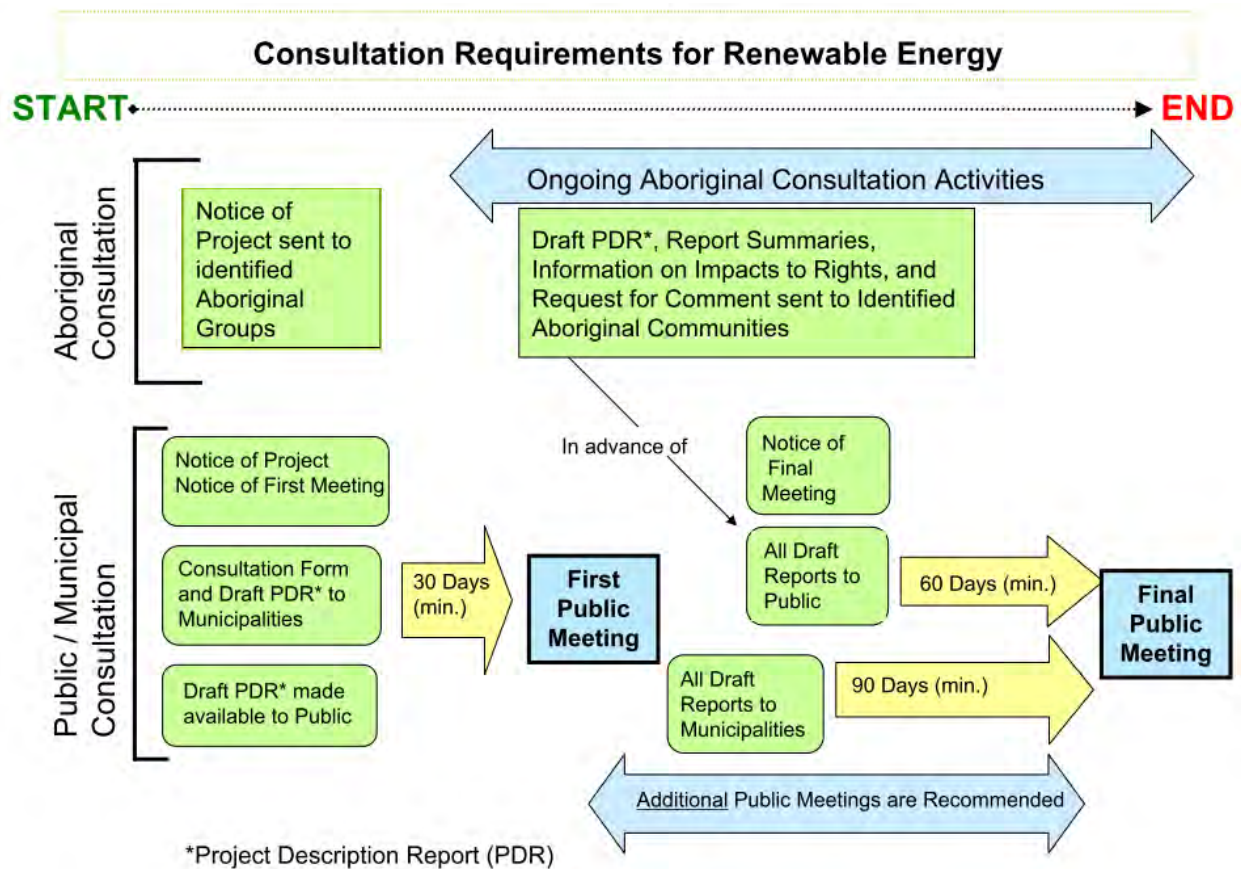


Figure 2: Consultation Requirements for Renewable Energy¹

4.1 Whom to Consult

Mandatory consultation activities are primarily outlined in Sections 14-18 of *Ontario Regulation 359/09* and include project notification, release of draft documents and public meetings. Consultation activities are prescribed for:

- Aboriginal communities that, in the opinion of the Director of the MOE and proponent, have or may have constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely impacted by the project or otherwise may be interested in any negative environmental effects of the project;

¹ Source: MOE (2010). “Application Requirements for Proposed Renewable Energy Projects”. [accessed on: May 17, 2012]. Available at: http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/subject/renewable_energy/STDPROD_085137.html

- Assessed owners of land:
 - abutting a parcel of land on which the project location is situated; and/or
 - within 120 metres of the project location;
- Clerks of each local municipality and upper-tier municipality in which the project location is situated;
- Secretary-treasurers of each Local Roads Board of a local roads area in which the project location is situated (only if the project is within an unorganized territory);
- Secretaries of each Local Services Board of a board area in which the project location is situated (only if the project is within an unorganized territory);
- Secretary-treasurers of planning boards that have jurisdiction in an area in which the project location is situated;
- The Chair of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, if the project location is in the area of the Niagara Escarpment Plan;
- The Director of the MOE; and,
- The Ministry's district manager in each district in which the project location is situated.

The project location does not fall within the area of the Niagara Escarpment Plan and is not situated in unorganized territory. Thus, consultation did not take place with the Niagara Escarpment Commission or Local Road, Services or Planning Boards.

To enhance consultation beyond what is required through regulation, the *Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals*, Chapter (2), recommends consulting with other members of the public who may have an interest in the project. These could include landowners in the vicinity of the project location, local interest groups, businesses and others who may be affected by the project.

Also recommended is notification and consultation with relevant agencies and local conservation authorities. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MTC) and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) were consulted as part of this project. Details of consultation with these groups are outlined in **Sections 6** and **8** of this report.

4.2 Consultation Objectives

Consultation is a two-way exchange of information between renewable energy project applicants and interested or potentially affected local groups, Aboriginal communities, members of the public as well as municipalities, agencies and other interested parties. Consultation helps ensure that concerns are identified early and, where possible, addressed as the project progresses. Consultation also enables applicants to obtain and use local knowledge in their project designs/plans and in the assessment of any potential negative environmental effects.

The objectives of the GoldLight LP consultation process were to:

- Identify potentially interested stakeholders and the nature of their interests;
- Consult with stakeholders as early as possible in the process to identify potential issues and concerns;
- Inform stakeholders of preliminary plans for the proposed project, and identify possible impacts of the proposed project on the physical, natural, social and economic environment of the community;
- Receive input and feedback from stakeholders on all aspects of the project; and,
- Incorporate stakeholder feedback into the planning, design, construction, and operation of the facility where possible and practical.

4.3 Required Documentation

In accordance with *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, this *Consultation Report* includes the following information on consultation activities conducted:

- A summary of communication with any members of the public (**Section 5.7**), Aboriginal communities (**Section 6.6**), municipalities (**Section 7.6**) and agencies (**Section 8.8**) regarding the project;
- Evidence that the information required to be distributed to Aboriginal communities under subsection 17 (1), *Ontario Regulation 359/09* was distributed (**Appendix D**);
- Any information provided by an Aboriginal community in response to a request made under paragraph 4 of subsection 17 (1), *Ontario Regulation 359/09* (**Appendix D**);

- Evidence that a consultation form and draft documents were distributed in accordance with subsections 18 (1) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09* (**Appendix E**);
- The consultation form distributed under subsection 18 (1), *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, if any part of it has been completed by a municipality (**Appendix E**);
- A description of whether and how,
 - comments from members of the public (**Section 5.5**), Aboriginal communities (**Section 6.4**), municipalities (**Section 7.4**) and agencies (**Section 8.2 – 8.6**) were considered by the person who is engaging in the project,
 - the documents that were made available under subsection 16 (5), *Ontario Regulation 359/09* were amended after the final public meeting was held (**Section 5.4, Section 6.3, Section 7.2, and Section 8.9**); and,
 - the proposal to engage in the project was altered in response to comments received from members of the public (**Section 5.8**), Aboriginal communities (**Section 6.7**), municipalities (**Section 7.7**) and agencies (**Section 8.9**);

In support of these requirements, the following information is provided:

- Copies of notices published in accordance with Section 15 of *Ontario Regulation 359/09* (**Appendix A**);
- A record and mailing list of individuals², organizations or agencies who received project notices (**Appendix A**);
- A list of all participants who attended the public meetings (**Appendix C**) and a record of public concerns and issues (**Appendix A**);
- A record of how the concerns and issues have been considered (**Appendix A**);
- A description and documentation of how any issues raised during municipal consultation were considered (**Section 7.4**); and,
- A summary of any outstanding concerns (**Section 10.0**).

² Personal information has been removed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*, 2000

4.4 Summary of Consultation Activities to Date

Consultation activities prescribed by *Ontario Regulation 359/09* were completed by GoldLight LP and are summarized in **Table 1**, which provides the name of the activity, dates on which the activity took place, and a description of the activity conducted. Information in this table is referenced in **Sections 5 to 8** of this report. Correspondence from stakeholders is not included in the table but is summarized in the sections that follow and in the appendices.

Table 1: Ontario Regulation 359/09 Prescribed Consultation Activities to Date

Activity	Timing	Description
Advertising in the local newspaper (<i>Georgina Advocate</i>)	December 1, 2011 (47 days prior to PM#1 ³)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First run of combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i>. Note: this notice served as the <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i> for two other projects in the Town of Georgina (BeamLight and EarthLight).
	December 15, 2011 (33 days prior to PM#1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second run of Combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i>.
	December 22, 2012 (26 days prior to PM#1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Notice published on December 1 and December 15 included incorrect project mapping. This Notice was published on December 22, 2011 with correct mapping.
	July 12, 2012 (68 days prior to PM#2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First run of combined <i>Notice of Draft REA Documents Release</i> and <i>Notice of Second Public Meeting</i>.
	August 30, 2012 (18 days prior to PM#2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second run of combined <i>Notice of Draft REA Documents Release</i> and <i>Notice of Second Public Meeting</i>.
	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Notice of MOE Review and EBR Posting.</i>

³ PM#1 = first official public meeting; PM#2 = second official public meeting

Activity	Timing	Description
	(within 10 days of EBR posting)	
Advertising in Aboriginal newspapers	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal communities were requested to provide the name of community newspapers in which SkyPower could publish notices (this request was included in the letters sent to Aboriginal communities on November 29, 2011). No responses to this request were provided and, therefore, no Aboriginal newspapers were identified.
Landowner Mailings	November 28, 2011 (50 days prior to PM#1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory letter, combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i>, and information on review of <i>Draft Project Description Report</i>.
	July 16, 2012 (63 days prior to PM#2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter and <i>Notice of Draft REA Documents Release</i> and <i>Notice of Second Public Meeting</i>.
Document Releases to the Public	November 28, 2011 (50 days prior to PM#1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Description Report (PDR) – made available on the project web site (www.goldlightsolar.com) and hard copies made available at the Township of Georgina Municipal Office.
	July 16, 2012 (63 days prior to PM#2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft REA Documents – made available on the project web site and hard copies made available at the Township of Georgina Clerk’s Office and the Georgina Public Library – Pefferlaw Branch.
Public Meetings	January 16, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Official Public Meeting.

Activity	Timing	Description
	September 17, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second Official Public Meeting.
Aboriginal Correspondence (Chippewas of Georgina Island, Chippewas of Mnjikaning (also known as Chippewas of Rama), Beausoleil, Georgian Bay Métis Council, Kawartha Nishnawbe, Métis Nation of Ontario)	November 29, 2011 (49 days prior to PM#1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory letter with combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i>, draft PDR and request for information.
	July 12, 2012 (67 days prior to PM #2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter, <i>Notice of Draft REA Document Release</i> and <i>Notice of Second Public Meeting</i>, summaries and full copies of the draft REA reports, and a further request for information.
Municipal Correspondence (Town of Georgina and Region of York)	November 29, 2011 (49 days prior to PM#1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory letter with combined <i>Notice of Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i>, draft PDR, Municipal Consultation Form, and request for preliminary information or concerns.
	June 1, 2012 (109 days prior to PM#2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter and <i>Notice of Draft REA Release</i>. Draft REA documents provided in hard copy and electronic form.
	July 16, 2012 (63 days prior to PM#2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter, <i>Notice of Draft REA Document Release</i>, <i>Notice of Second Public Meeting</i>, and MNR and MTC clearance letters. Draft REA documents provided in hard copy and electronic form.
Agency Correspondence	November 28, 2011 (50 days prior to PM#1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter and combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i> and draft PDR. Sent to the MOE Director, District Manager, Senior Program Support Coordinator and Manager of Renewable

Activity	Timing	Description
		Energy Approvals.
	July 16, 2012 (63 days prior to PM#2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Combined <i>Notice of Draft REA Documents Release</i> and <i>Notice of Second Public Meeting</i>.
Project Website www.goldlightsolar.com	Start of project - Present	<p>The following documents have been posted on the project website at the prescribed times throughout the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Notice of Proposal to Engage and Notice of First Public Meeting</i> ▪ <i>Draft Project Description Report</i> ▪ First Public Meeting Materials ▪ <i>Notice of Draft REA Documents Release and First Notice of Second Public Meeting</i> ▪ Draft Renewable Energy Approval (REA) Reports ▪ Second Public Meeting Materials <p>Once the final REA documents have been deemed complete by the MOE, they will also be posted on the website, along with a copy of the <i>Notice of MOE Review and EBR Posting</i>.</p>

In addition to the prescribed consultation activities listed in **Table 1**, GoldLight LP conducted additional consultation activities as described in **Table 2**. For instance, an Introductory Meeting was held on August 31, 2011 and notices were published for this meeting as described in **Table 2**. A second meeting was held October 12, 2011 at the request of residents that were unable to attend the August meeting. These Introductory Meetings were intended as the First Public Meeting but, due to regulatory requirements, the First Public Meeting had to be repeated. The August 31, 2011 and October 12, 2011 meetings are now referred to as the “Introductory Meetings”. The meeting held on January 16, 2012 is now referred to as the “First Public Meeting”.

Table 2: Non-prescribed Consultation Activities to Date

Activity	Timing	Description
Meet and Greet Session	April 11, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General introduction to the project, same material presented at official first public meeting presented here.
Advertising in the local newspaper (<i>Georgina Advocate</i>)	July 22, 2011 (41 days prior to August 31, 2011 Introductory Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i> (Intended as the First Public Meeting. Now referred to as Introductory Meeting).
	August 24, 2011 (50 days prior to October 12, 2011 Introductory Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First run of combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i> (Intended as the First Public Meeting. Now referred to as Introductory Meeting).
	August 25, 2011 (49 days prior to October 12, 2011 Introductory Meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second run of combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i> (Intended as the First Public Meeting. Now referred to as Introductory Meeting).
	August 2, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice of Change of Venue was published in the <i>Georgina Advocate</i>.
Landowner Mailings and Meetings	July 22, 2011 August 24, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i> (Intended as the First Public Meeting. Now referred to as Introductory Meeting [August and October meetings]).
	February 3, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with landowner adjacent to GoldLight project location. See Appendix A for the full list of topics discussed.
	February 14, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank-you letters to landowners for attending PM#1 on January 12, 2012.
	June 27, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice of Transition – <i>Solar Leaders Canadian Solar and SkyPower enter into</i>

Activity	Timing	Description
		<i>purchase agreement.</i>
	August 2, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Notice of Change of Venue was mailed to adjacent landowners.
	September 11, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unscheduled door-to-door meetings with landowners to discuss project updates and address any issues or concerns with the project.
Public Meetings	August 31, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introductory Meeting held prior to the official First Public Meeting. ▪ Intended to be the First Public Meeting but was repeated due to regulatory requirements.
	October 12, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introductory Meeting held prior to the official First Public Meeting at the request of residents that could not attend the August meeting. ▪ Intended to be the First Public Meeting but was repeated due to regulatory requirements.
Telephone Conversations	October 24, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phone conversation with landowner regarding concerns about the project, which were related to the proximity of their home to the proposed project and the fact that they would likely see the panels due to the elevation of the area.
Aboriginal Correspondence and Meetings	June 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commencement of Archaeological Assessment for various solar projects and Request for Information sent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Métis Nation of Ontario (Consultation Unit); ○ Kawartha Nishnawbe; ○ Georgian Bay Métis Council; ○ Beausoleil; ○ Chippewas of Mnjikaning (Rama);

Activity	Timing	Description
		and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chippewas of Georgina Island.
	July 22, 2011 August 24, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i> (Intended as the First Public Meeting. Now referred to as Introductory Meeting [August and October meetings]).
	February 22, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This meeting involved discussion on a variety of SkyPower projects in areas of interest to the Curve Lake First Nation. It was noted that they have no land claims in the vicinity of the GoldLight project, nor any concerns regarding the proposed facility.
	June 27, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Notice of Transition – <i>Solar Leaders Canadian Solar and SkyPower enter into purchase agreement.</i>
	September 6, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An email was sent to Hiawatha First Nation notifying them that the Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment was being initiated, should they wish to be present.
Municipal Correspondence and Meetings	July 22, 2011 August 24, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i> (Intended as the First Public Meeting. Now referred to as Introductory Meeting [August and October meetings]). ▪ Sent to the Town of Georgina and Region of York.
	August 5, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow-up email sent to Town of Georgina responding to questions regarding the consultation process and confirming key contacts. ▪ Follow-up email sent to Town of Georgina confirming that soil testing is underway and once completed, will be forwarded to the Town.

Activity	Timing	Description
	August 11, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Town of Georgina to touch base on the project before the Introductory Meeting (originally intended as the First Public Meeting).
	August 24, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone conversation with Town of Georgina to discuss the main concerns of council. Concerns included: agricultural land being taken out of production and impacts to trees/habitats. Council requested an evening information session due to public availability.
	September 27, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to the Town of Georgina including response to questions raised at the September 19, 2011 Council meeting and Report No 2011-0082.
	September 28, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Town of Georgina providing responses to the questions that were asked from council regarding the project.
	September 28, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with York Region Transportation staff. It was confirmed that Old Homestead Road is a regional road and is subject to load restrictions (i.e. ½ load season). Further, if existing entrances are modified, entrance permits would be required and an inspector would attend the site to evaluate the modifications.
	November 17, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to the Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in response to the Town of Georgina’s letter to both ministries dated November 8, 2011.
	June 27, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice of Transition – <i>Solar Leaders Canadian Solar and SkyPower enter into purchase agreement.</i>

Activity	Timing	Description
	July 11, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Town of Georgina to provide discuss various questions and concerns of the municipality. See Appendix A for the full list of topics discussed.
	August 13, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to the Town of Georgina requesting comments on the Municipal Consultation Form.
	August 20, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Town of Georgina Council to present an update on the project and discuss the transition of SkyPower to Canadian Solar (Town decided in the end not to have Canadian Solar present).
	August 21, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to York Region requesting comments on the Municipal Consultation Form.
	August 27, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with York Region to provide an overview of projects within the Region and discuss any outstanding questions or concerns.
	September 6, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to York Region responding to various questions and concerns raised through a September 2011 letter and the August 27, 2012 meeting.
	September 10, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Town of Georgina Council to present an update of the project.
	September 25, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to the Town of Georgina responding to various questions and concerns raised through a Council report related to the project.
Agency Correspondence and Meetings	July 25, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of Public Meetings</i> (applicable to various SkyPower projects) sent to the Director of the Environmental Assessment Approvals Branch.

Activity	Timing	Description
	July 25, 2011 August 25, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i> (Intended as the First Public Meeting. Now referred to as Introductory Meeting [August and October meetings]). Sent to the MOE Director.
	February 2, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with MNR Aurora District to discuss the <i>Natural Heritage Assessment</i> and review Species at Risk documentation for GoldLight.
	May 15, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to the LSRCA notifying them of the availability of the <i>Natural Heritage Assessment</i> and <i>Water Assessment Report</i> for review.
	June 27, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice of Transition – <i>Solar Leaders Canadian Solar and SkyPower enter into purchase agreement.</i> Sent to the MOE, MNR, MTC, and the LSRCA.
Project Website www.goldlightsolar.com	November 28, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Notice of Proposal</i> and <i>Notice of First Public Meeting</i> (Intended as the First Public Meeting. Now referred to as Introductory Meeting). Draft <i>Project Description Report</i> was also posted at this time.

The proposal to engage in the project was altered in response to comments received from members of the public and agencies. The documents made available under subsection 16(5) were amended after the final public meeting (PM#2) was held in order to address comments from stakeholders. The changes that were made throughout the consultation process are summarized below:

- The *Decommissioning Plan Report* and corresponding sections of the *Project Description Report* were updated to reflect that Canadian Solar’s EPC contractor will remove all piles and buried electrical cable at the time of decommissioning of the project (this change was incorporated after the second Public Meeting and prior to the final REA submission to the MOE); and,

- Sections of the *Construction Plan Report, Design and Operations Report* and the *Project Description Report* were updated to address concerns related to half-load restrictions on municipal roads (these changes were incorporated after the second Public Meeting but prior to the final REA submission to the MOE).

In addition to the above, the project location was refined to avoid impacts to significant and/or sensitive natural heritage features. As a result of consultation with the MNR and the Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe, changes were made to the *Natural Heritage Assessment* and associated reports, as necessary. For example, after a site visit on May 1, 2012, the delineation of a wetland was extended and the project location revised to avoid this feature.

As a result of consultation with the Town of Georgina, Greenbelt Natural Heritage System information is addressed in the *Natural Heritage Assessment Records Review* and illustrated on Figure 3 of that report.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Ontario Regulation 359/09 Sections 15 and 16 describe mandatory public consultation activities. The following describes the consultation activities undertaken by the proponent to inform members of the public about the details of the proposed project and to solicit their feedback and input. Where public input influenced the proposed project, details are provided. Public correspondence is provided in **Appendix B**. The contact list and Comment/Response Table is provided in **Appendix A**.

5.1 Identification of Landowners

The landowner consultation list was developed to include landowners adjacent to and/or within 120 metres of the project location. Eleven individual properties, nine of which are occupied, are adjacent to and/or within 120 m of the project location (not the participating property owner). This list was developed through information provided by the local land registry office, municipal tax rolls, and door-to-door visits.

5.2 Meet and Greet Sessions

The Meet and Greet session for GoldLight took place on April 11, 2011 at the Pefferlaw Lions Community Centre. The Meet and Greet was held to introduce the potentially interested stakeholders to the project. It was attended by fourteen individuals and one comment form was received indicating support for the project. Attendees of the Meet and Greet were provided with contact information related to the project. Further details for the project were provided at PM#1 in January 2012.

5.3 Notification

Ontario Regulation 359/09 requires the publication and distribution of public notices to inform the public of proposed renewable energy projects and meetings. Notices, prepared and distributed in accordance with *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, were published in the *Georgina Advocate*, a newspaper with general circulation in the Town of Georgina. The *Notice of a Proposal* was combined with the *Notice of Public Meeting* for the First Public Meeting, and the *Notice of Draft REA Documents Release* was combined with the *Notice of Second Public Meeting* (as allowed by Subsection 15(4)). A list of notices and their publication dates is provided in **Table 1**. Copies of all notices were posted on the website

shortly after publication in the newspaper. Notification of the Introductory Meetings held on August 31, 2011 and October 12, 2011 was also published as indicated in **Table 2**. The Meet and Greet, Introductory Meetings (August 31 and October 12, 2011), and First Public Meeting for GoldLight were advertised and held jointly with EarthLight and BeamLight, which are also located in the Town of Georgina.

All notices were distributed to the landowner list via registered mail or courier.

A mailing list for the general public, based on interest at the public meetings and other correspondence, was maintained and updated throughout the project. Copies of notices were emailed to those who requested that their name be added to the list and who provided addresses for communication. Copies of the final mailing lists and notices are available in **Appendix A**.

5.4 Document Releases

Prior to the First Public Meeting on January 16, 2012, a draft *Project Description Report* was prepared and provided for public review, in accordance with subsection 15(2) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, at the Town of Georgina Municipal Office at 26557 Civic Centre Road, RR2, Keswick, Ontario, and on the project website. The availability of the PDR was provided in the *Notice of Proposal* and *First Public Meeting* (see details in **Table 1**).

Prior to the second Public Meeting on September 17, 2012, all draft REA documents were provided for public review, in accordance with subsection 16(5), at the following locations:

- Town of Georgina, Clerk's Office – 26557 Civic Centre Road, RR2, Keswick, Ontario;
- Georgina Public Library (Pefferlaw Branch) – 38 Pete's Lane, Pefferlaw, Ontario; and,
- Project website.

The availability of these documents was provided in the combined *Notice of Draft REA Release* and *Notice of Second Public Meeting*. With the exception of this *Consultation Report*, all documents and supporting materials to be submitted in the final application to the MOE were provided to the public in the draft release.

5.5 Public Meetings

An Introductory Meeting was held on August 31, 2011 and repeated October 12, 2011 at the request of residents that were unable to attend the August meeting. Thirteen people registered their names on the sign-in sheet at the August meeting and ten people registered at the October meeting. The

Introductory Meetings were initially intended as the first public meeting as required under *Ontario Regulation 359/09*. However, due to regulatory requirements, they had to be repeated. The January 16, 2012 meeting became the first official public meeting (PM #1) and was held on from 6pm to 8pm at the Egypt Community Hall, located at 6756 Smith Boulevard in Egypt, approximately 3.8 km from the proposed project location in the Town of Georgina. The public was notified of the meeting as described in **Section 5.3**.

PM #1 provided a forum for members of the public to learn about the project, information to date, and to discuss their questions and concerns related to the potential impacts of the project. Display panels outlined the project location, potential environmental concerns, the REA process, and general information about the project and proponent. Ten people registered their names on the attendance sheet. Representatives of SkyPower, GoldLight LP and Dillon attended to answer questions. Copies of the draft PDR were made available along with handouts comprised of a project summary, FAQ and a list of key project personnel and their contact information. Comment sheets were also made available to attendees.

One comment sheet was filled out by members of the public at the August 31, 2011 meeting, three comment sheets were filled out the October 12, 2011 meeting, and three comment sheets were filled out at PM#1 held on January 16, 2012. Comments provided at the meetings generally expressed support for and concerns with the project, varying opinions regarding the public meeting, and requests to be kept informed. At these meetings, attendees raised questions during one-on-one conversations with GoldLight LP's staff regarding the following:

- REA process, including current status;
- Proximity of the proposed facility to residential properties;
- Potential impacts to property values;
- Visual impacts;
- What soil classifications are permitted for the construction of renewable energy facilities;
- Potential impacts to the price of electricity;
- The location of the project connection to the power grid;
- Potential for reflection;
- Municipal involvement in the REA process;
- Physical attributes of the panels;

- Project size and operation;
- Potential for stormwater runoff to impact neighbours; and,
- Project schedule.

Specific responses to these concerns are documented in the Comment Response Table in **Appendix A**.

One adjacent landowner submitted a letter of concern regarding three solar project proposals in the area after the October meeting (See **Appendix B**). The following concerns were highlighted in this letter:

- The use of prime agricultural land to development solar farms;
- The development of the project in an area where residences exist;
- The potential to use Crown land for solar projects;
- Continued research and evolution of green technologies;
- Lake effect impacts on the amount of sunlight available for electricity production; and,
- Natural heritage features and wildlife observations at the project location.

Specific responses to these concerns are documented in the Comment Response Table in **Appendix A**.

The second public meeting (PM #2) was held on September 17, 2012 from 6pm to 8pm, at the Pefferlaw Lions Community Centre, located at 38 Pete's Lane in Pefferlaw. This meeting was originally scheduled to be held at the Egypt Community Hall, located at 6756 Smith Blvd in Pefferlaw. However, due to a fire that occurred at Egypt Community Hall on July 26, 2012, the venue was changed. A notice was placed in *The Georgina Advocate* on August 9, 2012 to inform the public of the change in venue, and members of the public also received a change of venue notice in the mail. Further, on the day of the PIC, a sign will be placed at the old venue site re-directing residents to the new venue. The *Second Notice of Second Public Meeting* was revised to reflect this change and was published in the *Georgina Advocate* on August 30, 2012. The public was notified of the meeting as described in **Section 5.3**. The public was also contacted by phone approximately one week prior to the meeting to remind them of the meeting.

PM #2 provided a forum for members of the public to review the draft REA reports as well as to discuss their questions and concerns related to the potential impacts of the project. Display panels summarized the details of the REA core reports (the *Construction Plan Report, Design and Operations*

Report, and *Decommissioning Plan Report*), with an emphasis on potential negative environmental effects during the different phases of the project, and proposed mitigation and monitoring measures. Six people registered their names on the attendance sheet. Representatives of Canadian Solar, GoldLight LP and Dillon attended to answer questions. Copies of the PDR and comment sheets were made available to attendees.

No comment sheets were filled out by members of the public at this meeting. At the second public meeting, local residents raised questions during one-on-one conversations with GoldLight LP and Dillon Consulting staff regarding the following:

- Meaning of the 120 m and 300 m buffer illustrated on Figures/panels;
- Concern over materials to be left on-site after decommissioning;
- REA approval timing; and,
- Details of archaeological features discovered.

No individuals submitted letters of concern after the meeting. Materials provided at the public meetings are available in **Appendix C**.

5.6 Notice of Transition

On June 21, 2012, SkyPower Limited entered into a purchase agreement with Canadian Solar Solutions Inc. As part of the purchase agreement, Canadian Solar acquired a majority interest in the GoldLight project, with SkyPower retaining a minority interest in the GoldLight project. A letter outlining the notice of transition was mailed to landowners on June 27, 2012. At the time of submission of this report, no correspondence had been received from landowners regarding the transition.

5.7 Summary of Communication

In total, seven comment sheets were received from members of the public between from the start of the project to the date of submission of this report to the MOE in October 2012. Concerns were raised via comment forms during the public consultation process and during the Introductory Meeting and PM#1, as outlined in **Section 5.5**.

Responses to all comments received have been summarized in the Comment/Response Table in **Appendix A**. Copies of all written correspondence are provided in **Appendix B**.

5.8 Alterations to the Project Proposal or Draft Documents

Minor changes to the proposal to engage in the project or the project design were made as a result of PM#2. Relevant sections of the *Decommissioning Plan Report* and *Project Description Report* were updated to reflect Canadian Solar’s commitment to removing all steel piles and/or buried electrical cable from the site at the time of decommissioning. Other questions and concerns raised throughout the process have been adequately addressed in the core REA reports.

6. ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

Consultation with Aboriginal communities is an essential component of GoldLight LP's consultation program. All Aboriginal consultation activities met the requirements of *Ontario Regulation 359/09* Section 17 and were guided by the MOE's *Draft Aboriginal Consultation Guide for Preparing a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) Application* (2011). Accordingly, local Aboriginal communities were consulted throughout the progression of the project.

The following describes the consultation activities undertaken by the proponent to inform members of Aboriginal communities about the details of the proposed project and to solicit their feedback and input; especially, as it relates to potentially affected Aboriginal or treaty rights. Correspondence received from Aboriginal communities during the consultation process for GoldLight is documented in **Section 6.6** below. All correspondence sent by GoldLight LP to Aboriginal communities is provided in **Appendix D**, with the exception of MOE correspondence relating to Aboriginal consultation, which is provided in **Appendix F**, but discussed below.

6.1 MOE Director's Aboriginal Contact List

On July 18, 2011, an email was sent to the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (EAAB) of the MOE requesting information on Aboriginal communities that may have an interest in the proposed project. This letter included the draft PDR and a request form for a REA Aboriginal Consultation List.

On September 1, 2011, the MOE responded with a mandatory consultation list of First Nations. The First Nations indicated in the list are as follows:

- Chippewas of Georgina Island;
- Chippewas of Mnjikaning (Rama);
- Beausoleil;
- Georgian Bay Métis Council;
- Kawartha Nishnawbe; and,
- Métis Nation of Ontario.

Correspondence with these groups has been included in **Appendix D**.

6.2 Notification

As per sections 15 and 17 of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, copies of notices listed in **Table 1** were provided to Aboriginal communities. They were combined with letters of introduction and information, requests for information and document releases. Evidence of the distribution of the notification letters has been included in **Appendix D**.

Throughout the consultation process for Aboriginal communities, Canadian Solar had difficulty sending registered and couriered mail to the Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nation. After repeated attempts to deliver the *Notice of Proposal* and the *Draft REA Documents Release*, Chief Kris Nahrgang of the Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nation indicated that mail should be sent unregistered and that the group would become involved in the project at such a time when native archaeological finds or cultural heritage features were identified within the project location. Records of this and other correspondence are presented in **Appendix D**.

6.3 Document Release

On July 12, 2012, a package was sent to Aboriginal communities on the Director's Aboriginal Contact List containing the combined *Notice of REA Documents Release* and *Notice of Second Public Meeting*. As required by subsections 15(5) and 17(1), paper copies of all draft REA documents were provided and were accompanied by an executive summary of each draft REA document. Please see the *Summary of Draft REA Reports* submitted under separate cover as part of the complete REA Application Package. A copy of the summary is also provided in **Appendix D**.

6.4 Public Meetings

PM #1 and PM #2 were not attended by anyone who identified themselves as an Aboriginal community member on the sign-in sheet. No formal comment sheets were filled out anyone who identified themselves as members of Aboriginal communities at the public meetings. For details on the public meetings, see **Section 5.5** above.

6.5 Notice of Transition

On June 21, 2012, SkyPower Limited entered into a purchase agreement with Canadian Solar Solutions Inc. As part of the purchase agreement, Canadian Solar acquired a majority interest in the GoldLight project, with SkyPower retaining a minority interest in the GoldLight project. A letter

outlining the notice of transition was mailed to Aboriginal communities on June 27, 2012. At the time of submission of this report, no correspondence had been received from these groups regarding the transition.

6.6 Summary of Communications Received

Correspondence was received from Aboriginal communities between March 2011 and September 2012, the date at which this report is being submitted. Issues and concerns raised during the Aboriginal consultation process are summarized below.

A letter was received from Curve Lake First Nation on July 6, 2011, acknowledging receipt of the letter of Commencement of Archaeological Assessments for 9 Solar Farms and suggesting that the Williams Treaty First Nation Claims Coordinator be circulated the letter as well. The letter from Curve Lake First Nation also indicated that they are not currently aware of any issues that would cause concern with respect to Traditional, Aboriginal and Treaty rights. It was requested that the Curve Lake First Nation be contacted immediately should any archaeological resources be discovered. This did not occur because First Nation artifacts were not discovered. However, the Curve Lake First Nation was provided with the *Notice of Draft REA Documents Release*, which included a summary of the draft REA documents, as prescribed by section 15(5) and 17(1) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*.

Chief Roland Monague of Beausoleil First Nation contacted Canadian Solar on January 13, 2012 to confirm that letters about projects and notifications for public meetings were received. This correspondence was forwarded to the Beausoleil lawyer; however, it was noted that no issues are anticipated. No further correspondence has been received from the Beausoleil First Nation to date.

A meeting was held between SkyPower and the Curve Lake First Nation on February 22, 2012. Curve Lake First Nation indicated they have no land claims in the vicinity of the GoldLight project, nor any concerns regarding the proposed facility.

6.7 Alterations to the Project Proposal or Draft Documents

No changes to the proposal to engage in the project or the project design were made as a result of the consultation with Aboriginal communities given that comments were addressed through the core reports. As required under subsection 16 (5) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, copies of all draft documents were made available to Aboriginal communities. No comments were received, and as a

result, no revisions were made to the documents after the final public meeting (PM#2). Copies of relevant correspondence with Aboriginal communities are provided in **Appendix D**.

7. MUNICIPAL CONSULTATION

Local municipalities have a unique understanding of project feasibility issues related to infrastructure and servicing. This section details consultation activities undertaken by the proponent with local municipalities. All municipal correspondence can be found in **Appendix E**.

7.1 Notification

As per subsection 15(5) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, copies of notices listed in **Table 1** were provided to the municipalities. They were combined with the mailings for document releases and the Municipal Consultation Form (outlined below, in **Section 7.3**).

7.2 Document Release

On November 29, 2011 a draft PDR, accompanied by an introductory letter with the combined *Notice of Proposal* and *Notice of First Public Meeting*, was provided to the Town of Georgina and the Region of York in accordance with subsections 18(1) and 18(2) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*.

In accordance with subsection 18(3) the Draft REA documents (with the exception of the *Consultation Report*) were provided to the Town of Georgina and the Region of York on June 1, 2012, along with the combined *Notice of Draft REA Release*. The *Notice of Second Public Meeting* was provided to the Town of Georgina and the Region of York on July 16, 2012.

7.3 Municipal Consultation Form

As per the requirements of Section 18 of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, copies of the Municipal Consultation Form were initially provided to the Town of Georgina and the Region of York in the November 2011 package. Canadian Solar sent follow-up correspondence to the Town of Georgina on August 13, 2012; however, comments from the Town of Georgina on the Municipal Consultation Form have not been received to date. Region of York staff has indicated that they will rely on the Town of Georgina to provide comments on the Municipal Consultation Form.

Copies of the draft REA reports (dated June 1, 2012) were sent to the Town of Georgina and Region of York, along with another copy of the Municipal Consultation Form. The draft reports and Municipal Consultation Form were provided in accordance with subsections 18(3)(b) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*.

Evidence of the distribution of the Municipal Consultation Form and other correspondence has been included in **Appendix E**.

7.4 Municipal Correspondence and Meetings

Members of the project team have met with and corresponded with representatives of the Town of Georgina and Region of York numerous times throughout the municipal consultation process. These instances are summarized below and described in **Appendix A**.

An email was received on August 4, 2011 from staff at the Town of Georgina seeking confirmation of the municipal and public consultation processes associated with solar projects in Georgina. The Town also requested to be provided with a copy of all comments received from the public so that issues are understood by the municipality. A follow-up email was received from Town of Georgina staff on August 5, 2011 inquiring about soil tests.

Members of the project team met with representatives of the Town of Georgina on August 11, 2011 to provide an information update prior to the August 31, 2011 Introductory Meeting. Comments received from the municipality were as follows:

- Concern about the use of Canada Land Inventory (CLI) 1-2 lands for non-agricultural uses. Although the property is zoned rural, it was not intended to be used for non-agricultural purposes;
- Staff contacted the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office and confirmed that the project falls within the guideline (it was noted that they would also be contacting the Ontario Power Authority); and,
- Requested details regarding the area of land within the project area that is actively being farmed.

It was determined at this meeting that the group should meet again after the Introductory Meeting in August to discuss feedback.

On August 24, 2011, following the first Council meeting that addressed the proposed project, staff contacted SkyPower to identify two main concerns discussed at the meeting. These concerns were:

- Agricultural land being taken out of production (62 acres of soy and 8 acres of hay for GoldLight specifically); and,
- Any potential impact to trees/habitats.

At the Council meeting, Council requested that Town staff attend the public meeting (August 31, 2011) and report back on issues discussed and comments received. It was noted that Council would provide comment prior to the Municipal Consultation Form being received. Council also requested clarification with respect to standard fencing references and suggested that an evening session would be beneficial for the community to attend.

On September 16, 2011, a letter was received from York Region providing the following comments on the proposed solar facility:

- There is currently a regional road project in the vicinity of the proposed facilities. Contact information was provided;
- Old Homestead Road is a regional road and driveway access must be discussed with Transportation staff. Contact information was provided; and
- The project is subject to the Region's Forest Conservation By-law. Contact information was provided.

At the September 19, 2011 Town of Georgina Committee of the Whole meeting, the proposed SkyPower projects in the Town of Georgina were discussed. Based on items discussed at this meeting and addressed in Report No. 2011-0082, SkyPower prepared a response to various questions associated with the projects on September 27, 2011.

A meeting was held with York Region Transportation staff on September 28, 2011. It was confirmed that because Old Homestead Road is a regional road, it is therefore subject to load restrictions (i.e., ½ load season). If existing entrances are modified, entrance permits would be required and an inspector would attend the site to evaluate the modifications.

During a telephone conversation on September 28, 2011, SkyPower notified the Town that responses had been prepared to questions asked by Council. These responses were provided via email on the same day. In response, the Town sought confirmation that the following additional comments would be addressed:

- In addition to the Feedback form, the municipality requested that SkyPower provide an opportunity for the public to write out their concerns at the October 12, 2011 meeting;
- SkyPower was asked to include the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System on the Project Location mapping and address these area in the environmental reports; and,
- SkyPower address the aquifer and recharge areas identified in Section 3.2.5 of Council report PB-2011-0082.

SkyPower was copied on a letter from the Town of Georgina to the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs on November 8, 2011 regarding Feed-in-Tariff contracts on lands located within CLI Class 1 and 2 soils and Specialty Crop Areas in the Town of Georgina.

On December 1, 2011, an email was received from Town staff acknowledging receipt of *the Notice of Proposal, Notice of Public Meeting and Draft Project Description Report* for GoldLight. This email also requested clarification regarding the repetition of meetings and notified SkyPower of staffing changes at the Town of Georgina.

A meeting was held with Town staff on July 11, 2012. Topics discussed included:

- Council presentation August 20, 2012 to provide staff's review of technical documents (Canadian Solar was requested to provide an overview of the transition from SkyPower to Canadian Solar);
- Suggestion of Canadian Solar sponsoring a farmers market and/or a mentorship program to promote farming;
- Height of panels;
- Length of lease with the landowner;
- Decommissioning: The Town requested a commitment be made to study the land after decommissioning. This is a requirement of the *Renewable Energy Act*.
- Soil studies were requested;
- Recycling of panels;
- Truck traffic during construction; and,
- Off-site access improvement (line built by HONI and funded by Canadian Solar).

Following this meeting, an email was received from the Town on July 20, 2012 highlighting a few items that Canadian Solar committed to providing at the meeting. These include:

- An example decommissioning agreement that is required as part of the REA;
- Soil test for GoldLight;
- Details and locations of any solar projects in Georgina that are upcoming;

- Transmission line plans from the proposed project location to the distribution station; and,
- Overview of the construction process.

This email also provided a summary of the amount of agricultural land in Georgina prepared by the Town's Tax Division.

A meeting was held with York Region staff on August 27, 2012. Canadian Solar provided an overview of projects within the Region, including anticipated next steps and construction schedule. Specific responses to the various questions and concerns discussed at this meeting are documented in the Comment Response Table in **Appendix A**. Minutes of the meeting can be found in **Appendix E**.

Canadian Solar attended the August 20, 2012 Town of Georgina Council meeting to present an update on the project and discuss the transition of SkyPower to Canadian Solar, however, the Town decided not to have Canadian Solar present. It was requested that Canadian Solar attend the September 10, 2012 Council meeting as well. On September 25, 2012, Canadian Solar sent a letter to the Town of Georgina responding to various questions and concerns raised through a Council report related to the project. All comments and responses can be found in **Appendix A**. All correspondence with municipalities and an explanation of how comments were addressed is provided in **Appendix E**.

7.5 Notice of Transition

On June 21, 2012, SkyPower Limited entered into a purchase agreement with Canadian Solar Solutions Inc. As part of the purchase agreement, Canadian Solar acquired a majority interest in the GoldLight project, with SkyPower retaining a minority interest in the GoldLight project. A letter outlining the notice of transition was mailed to the Town of Georgina and the Region of York on June 27, 2012. At the time of submission of this report, no correspondence had been received from the municipalities regarding the transition.

7.6 Summary of Communication

In total, five emails were received from representatives of the Town of Georgina. One telephone conversation and two meetings were also held with the Town. The Region submitted one letter and one meeting was held with SkyPower and Regional staff. One letter from the Town of Georgina to the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs also forms part of

the municipal consultation record between March 2011 and September 2012, the date at which this report is being submitted.

The following key issues and concerns were raised during the municipal consultation process:

- Soil testing;
- Use of agricultural land;
- Intention of applicable zoning;
- Decommission agreement;
- Transmission line plans;
- Height of panels;
- Length of lease;
- Recycling of panels;
- Truck traffic during construction;
- Potential impacts to trees and habitats;
- Opportunities for Canadian Solar to get involved in the community (i.e. sponsorship of farmers market); and,
- Further solar development in the Town.

Responses to all comments received have been summarized in the Comment/Response Table in **Appendix A**. As mentioned previously in **Section 7.3**, copies of completed Municipal Consultation Forms have been provided in **Appendix E**.

7.7 Alterations to the Project Proposal or Draft Documents

Minor revisions to the proposal to engage in the project were made in response to comments received during the municipal meetings. Requested Greenbelt Natural Heritage System information was addressed in the *Natural Heritage Assessment Records Review* and illustrated on Figure 3 of that report. The documents made available under subsection 16(5) were amended after the final public meeting (PM#2) was held to address concerns from the municipality regarding partial-load requirements on municipal roads during the construction phase.

8. AGENCY CONSULTATION

As part of the consultation process, proponents of renewable energy projects are required to consult with government and other agencies (e.g., MOE; conservation authorities). This section details the consultation activities undertaken with these groups. All correspondence with agencies is provided in **Appendix F**.

8.1 Notification

As per subsection 15(5) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09* copies of the required notices listed in **Table 1** were provided to the MOE District Manager and MOE Director on the dates listed. As shown in **Table 2**, additional notices related to the Introductory Meeting were also distributed to the MOE Director.

8.2 Consultation with the Ministry of the Environment

On July 18, 2011, an email with the *Notice of a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project* and *Notice of First Public Meeting* and draft PDR was sent to the following MOE personnel:

- Director, Environmental Approvals Branch;
- Senior Program Support Coordinator EAAB;
- Manager, Renewable Energy Approvals; and,
- York-Durham District Manager.

On July 16, 2012, the *Notice of Draft REA Documents Release* and *Notice of Second Public Meeting* were sent to the MOE Director of Environmental Approvals Branch and the District Manager.

As noted in **Section 6.1**, an email was sent to the Director of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (EAAB) of the MOE on July 18, 2011, requesting information on Aboriginal communities that may have an interest in the proposed project area. On September 1, 2011, MOE responded with a mandatory consultation list of Aboriginal communities.

8.3 Consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources

As outlined in Section 28(1) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, proponents are required to consult with the MNR in order to receive confirmation on each of the reports that are required to be submitted (i.e., those comprising the *Natural Heritage Assessment*).

On February 2, 2012, SkyPower and Dillon met with the MNR to discuss the *Natural Heritage Assessment* and review Species at Risk documentation for GoldLight. SkyPower provided an overview of the GoldLight project, findings of the records review and site investigation, and discussed the evaluation of significance and Environmental Impact Study (EIS). Permitting and approvals for Species at Risk was also discussed at this meeting. The *Natural Heritage Assessment* was provided to the MNR on June 28, 2012 and MNR signoff was received July 4, 2012. As a result of consultation with the MNR, several changes were made to the *Natural Heritage Assessment* and associated reports, as necessary. For example, after collaboration with the MNR, the delineation of a wetland was extended and the project location revised to avoid this feature.

8.4 Consultation with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture

As per the requirements of Sections 19-23 of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, proponents of renewable energy approvals must consider protected properties, and archaeological and heritage resources. Consultation with the MTC is undertaken for *Archaeological Assessments* and full *Cultural Heritage Assessments*, as required.

A *Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment* was completed in April 2012 and was sent to the MTC for written comments in April 27, 2012. These assessments identified two archaeological sites of value or interest on the property, one within the project location and the other within 120 metres of the project location. Both are subject to Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment prior to any development on the property. MTC provided a letter of acceptance of the *Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessments* on June 19, 2012. A Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment is currently being conducted.

A *Cultural Heritage Screening* was completed for GoldLight in April 2012. The screening concluded there were no areas of identified cultural heritage concern within the project location and no negative impacts anticipated. However, because the self-assessment identified potential built heritage features abutting the project location, a full *Cultural Heritage Assessment* was conducted along with a Visual Assessment. These assessments determined that there will be no direct impacts to the cultural heritage features and minimum indirect impact. The *Cultural Heritage Assessment* was submitted to MTC on April 24, 2012 and clearance was provided on May 4, 2012.

8.5 Consultation with Conservation Authorities

As outlined in Section 5.1, Chapter 1 of the Ministry of Environment's *Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals*, proponents are encouraged to consult with local conservation authorities to determine if there are natural hazard lands in the vicinity of the project location, and to determine if any changes to the project may be required. Details of consultation with the conservation authorities having jurisdiction over the GoldLight project location are discussed below.

On May 15, 2012 the LSRCA was notified via email that the *Natural Heritage Assessment* and *Water Assessment* were ready to be reviewed and link to download these documents were provided. Correspondence was received from the LSRCA on June 5, 2012 acknowledging receipt of the reports and noting that staff have not observed any deficiencies at that point in the review. This email also identified the need for formal permit applications to be submitted to the Conservation Authority. At the time of submission of this report, no further response had been received.

8.6 Consultation with Other Agencies

In an email sent November 23, 2011, Dillon sought input from the Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe regarding bird count information. In a response dated November 29, 2011, the Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe responded providing bird count information and indicating concerns about these sites in rural habitat areas. Of particular concern was the Frog Street east location with regard to grassland prairie breeding birds, especially species in decline and at risk. The *Natural Heritage Assessment* was updated to reflect information provided, where relevant. Information related to Species at Risk was included in the *Approvals and Permitting Requirements Document* (APRD) submitted for review to the MNR. The APRD is not part of this REA submission.

8.7 Notice of Transition

On June 21, 2012, SkyPower Limited entered into a purchase agreement with Canadian Solar Solutions Inc. As part of the purchase agreement, Canadian Solar acquired a majority interest in the GoldLight project, with SkyPower retaining a minority interest in the GoldLight project. A letter outlining the notice of transition was mailed to the MOE, MNR, MTC and LSRCA on June 27, 2012. At the time of submission of this report, no correspondence had been received from these agencies regarding the transition.

8.8 Summary of Communication

In total, four letters were received from and one meeting was held with government and other agencies between March 2011 and September 2012, the date at which this report is being submitted. The following key issues and concerns were raised during the agency consultation process:

- Permitting requirements for development within LSRCA regulated area;
- Permitting requirements for Species At Risk; and,
- Mitigation measures recommended for threatened and endangered species.

8.9 Alterations to the Project Proposal or Draft Documents

As a result of consultation with agencies, alterations were made to the *Natural Heritage Assessment* as described in **Section 8.3 and 8.6**. As required under subsection 16 (5) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, copies of all draft documents were made available to government agencies (MNR). No comments were received, and as a result, no revisions were made to the documents after the final public meeting (PM#2) in response to agency consultation. Correspondence related to the above issues is provided in **Appendix F** and summarized in the Comment/Response Table in **Appendix A**.

9. ONGOING CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

While the majority of stakeholder consultation was undertaken during the project design phase, Canadian Solar is committed to maintaining communication with interested stakeholders over the project's lifecycle. This section describes ongoing consultation and communication efforts.

9.1 Emergency Response Plan

The Region of York has established an Emergency Response Plan (the *Region of York Emergency Plan and Annexes, 2009*). The Town of Georgina has also established such a plan (*The Corporation of the Town of Georgina Emergency Plan, 2007*) based on hazard identification and risk assessment. The latter outlines the procedures for the declaration of an emergency, identifies first responders and an emergency control group, responsibilities, emergency information dissemination and is reviewed on an annual basis by the Town.

Prior to construction, GoldLight LP will establish an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for GoldLight. In preparing this Plan, GoldLight LP will invite Fire Chief Bill O'Neil of the Town of Georgina Fire Department to the project location to review potential emergency scenarios that could arise during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the project. The ERP will then be submitted for review and comment to the Town of Georgina and Region of York. Based on their feedback, a final version of the plan will be prepared. At the time of construction, this plan will be reviewed with the chosen contractor and may be further updated. Copies of the plan will be kept on-site and in relevant offices.

9.2 Emergency Communications Plan

An Emergency Communications Plan will be included in the ERP and will provide key contact information for relevant responders, regulators, landowners and other stakeholders. It will contain a description of the chain of communications between GoldLight LP and relevant responders under emergency scenarios applicable to the project. Emergency issues could potentially occur including fire, personal injury and spill incidents. A log book including key contacts and their information (names, emergency phone numbers) will be posted in the construction trailers as well as at the municipal clerk's office and GoldLight LP offices for easy access during an emergency.

In the event of an emergency, relevant responders will be immediately contacted by phone based on the outlined chain of communication. If required during a major emergency, GoldLight LP will

provide information releases to the community by way of radio announcements. Technical staff will recommend actions plans and assist with responses to the public, stakeholders, and first responders such as the local fire department and police services. The Emergency Communications Plan will be developed in coordination with the Fire Department, County and Township and will be made available on the project website and provided to the MNR and MOE.

9.3 Non-Emergency Communications Plan

This section provides information on the methods of communication and information dissemination in non-emergency situations.

9.3.1 *On-Going Stakeholder Engagement*

Public consultation and stakeholder engagement activities are welcome and will continue throughout the life of the project. Information will be mailed to stakeholders as necessary. During construction and operations phases of the project, a sign will be erected at the gate of the facility, which will include the appropriate contact information, including telephone number, email and mailing address should the public have any questions, concerns or complaints.

The following consultation activities are up-coming:

- Notice announcing application to MOE and posting on EBR;
- Responses to communications received from the public throughout MOE technical review;
- Announcement on project website when MOE review is complete and Notice to Proceed has been issued;
- Notices announcing construction dates and any traffic disruptions; and,
- On-going liaison with public, as necessary.

Members of the public can contact GoldLight LP at any time with questions or comments about this project via phone or email. Contact information is provided in **Section 2.0** of this and other REA technical reports and is available on the website and in newspaper notices.

9.3.2 *Communications Methods, Records and Complaints Resolution Process*

Correspondence received by GoldLight LP will be recorded in an electronic file and/or log book. If received during the REA process, this correspondence will be included in the *Consultation Report*. If

received after the final REA submission to the MOE, and during the six month review period, it will be recorded, filed, and provided to the MOE as an addendum to the *Consultation Report*. In both cases, if the correspondence requires a response this will be provided in a timely fashion and the response will be recorded.

Complaints and other communications received during the construction, operations, maintenance and decommissioning phases will be recorded in an electronic file and/or log book and will include the following:

- time and date of communication;
- type of inquiry/comment/complaint;
- name and contact information of the person(s);
- response and date of response; and,
- any follow-up issues.

A record will be kept for all complaints, including: the history of the complaint resolution process that was followed and all actions taken to remediate the cause of the complaint. Where appropriate, steps will be taken to prevent reoccurrence of similar complaints in the future and this information will also be recorded. Where relevant, the Ministry's Spills Action Centre will be notified of the complaint at 1-800-268-6060.

10. OUTSTANDING CONCERNS

Based on the consultation activities described in this report, GoldLight LP has not identified any outstanding concerns related to the project.

11. CONCLUSIONS

GoldLight LP's consultation program has been characterized by open communication with the general public, landowners, Aboriginal communities, municipalities, government, and other agencies. Through notices, mailings, a project website, public meetings and other consultation activities, GoldLight LP has listened and responded to stakeholder concerns. As a result of consultation activities, several changes have been made to the proposal of the project and associated documents (see **Section 4.4**). GoldLight LP remains committed to ongoing communication with interested stakeholders.