



DILLON
CONSULTING

LOYALIST SOLAR

Consultation Report

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1.0 Introduction

Loyalist Solar LP, a limited partnership between Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and BluEarth Renewables Inc. (together the “Proponent”), proposes to develop a non-rooftop solar facility with a maximum name plate capacity of 54 megawatts alternating current (“MW_{AC}”), located in the Township of Stone Mills, County of Lennox & Addington, Ontario (**Figure 1**). The renewable energy facility will be known as the Loyalist Solar Project (the “Project”).

The Proponent submitted a proposal to the Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”) under the Large Renewable Procurement I (“LRP”) process and was subsequently awarded a LRP contract by the IESO to generate electricity. The Project will now be subject to a number of approvals including, among others, *Ontario Regulation 359/09* (“O. Reg. 359/09”) – Renewable Energy Approval (“REA”) under Part V.0.1 of the Ontario *Environmental Protection Act*.

This *Consultation Report* has been prepared following the final public meeting and is being submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (“MOECC”) as part of an REA submission for the Project. Other reports in the submission include:

- Project Description Report
- Construction Plan Report
- Design and Operations Report
- Decommissioning Plan Report
- Noise Study Report
- Water Assessment Report and Water Body Report
- Natural Heritage Assessment (Records Review Report, Site Investigation Report, Evaluation of Significance Report and Environmental Impact Study)
- Archaeological Assessment (Stage 1 and 2)
- Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Executive Summary Report

The *Consultation Report* provides the MOECC with information on consultation activities conducted in respect of the renewable energy project, including comments and information received by the proponent and any Project modifications made as a result of the comments received. The content and format of this report follows requirements set out in Chapter 2 of the MOECC’s Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals (2013) and required by the Regulation as detailed in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Checklist for Requirements under O. Reg. 359/09 – Consultation Report

Required Documentation	Location in Report
<p>A summary of communication with any members of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the public aboriginal communities municipalities local roads boards and Local Services Boards regarding the Project. 	<p>Section 6, Public Consultation Section 7, Aboriginal Consultation Section 8, Municipal Consultation N/A</p>
Evidence that the information required to be distributed to Aboriginal communities under subsection 17 (1) of O. Reg. 359/09 was distributed.	Appendix D
Evidence that a consultation form was distributed in accordance with subsection 18 (1) of O. Reg. 359/09.	Appendix E
The consultation form distributed under subsection 18 (1) of O. Reg. 359/09, if any part of it has been completed by a municipality, local roads board or Local Services Board.	Appendix E
<p>A description of whether and how:</p> <p>a) comments from members of the public, aboriginal communities, municipalities, local roads boards and Local Services Boards were considered by the person who is engaging in the Project,</p>	<p>Section 6, Public Consultation Section 7, Aboriginal Consultation Section 8, Municipal Consultation</p>
<p>b) the documents that were made available under subsection 16 (5) of O. Reg. 359/09 were amended after the final public meeting was held, and</p>	Sections 6.7, 7.6, 8.5 and 9.7
<p>c) the proposal to engage in the Project was altered in response to comments mentioned in subparagraph a.</p>	<p>Section 6, Public Consultation Section 7, Aboriginal Consultation Section 8, Municipal Consultation</p>

2.0 The Proponent

The Proponent is coordinating and managing the approvals process for the Project. The contact is:

Full Name of Company:	<i>Loyalist Solar LP, c/o BluEarth Renewables Inc.</i>
Prime Contact:	<i>Tom Bird, Director, Regulatory</i>
Address:	<i>34 Harvard Road, Guelph, ON, N1G 4V8</i>
Telephone:	<i>1-844-214-2578</i>
Email:	<i>projects@bluearth.ca</i>

Dillon Consulting Limited ("Dillon") has been retained by the Proponent to prepare the REA application for the Project. The contact at Dillon is:

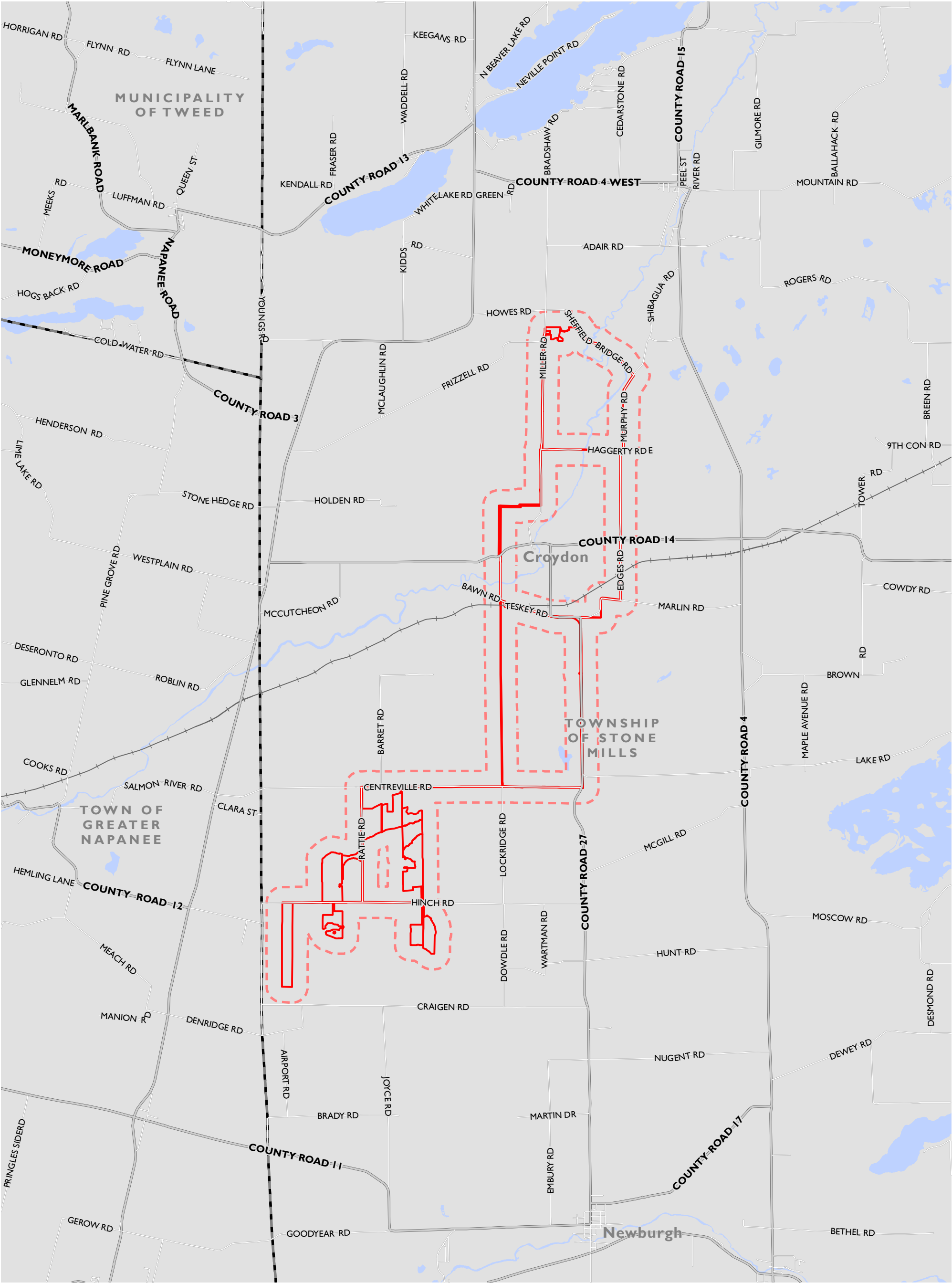
Full Name of Company:	<i>Dillon Consulting Limited</i>
Prime Contact:	<i>Megan Bellamy, Project Manager</i>
Address:	<i>235 Yorkland Boulevard, Suite 800, Toronto, ON, M2J 4Y8</i>
Telephone:	<i>(416) 229-4646 ext. 2423</i>
Fax:	<i>(416) 229-4692</i>
Email:	<i>MBellamy@dillon.ca</i>

3.0 Project Location

This Class 3 Solar Facility is to be located within the Township of Stone Mills, in the County of Lennox & Addington, approximately nine kilometres north of Napanee, Ontario. The Project Location, situated on multiple privately owned parcels, consists of approximately 200 hectares (494 acres) and is contained within an area generally bounded on the north by Howes Road, Craigen Road to the south, County Road 27 and Murphy Road to the east, and County Road 41 to the west (described as the "Project Location" on **Figure 1**). The proposed project location, consisting of multiple privately-owned parcels, is to be leased by the Proponent. It has an approximate centroid at the following geographic coordinates:

- Latitude: 44°22'3.382" N
- Longitude: 76°58'19.543" W

Figure 1 shows the general location of the Project in Southeastern Ontario. The 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". Information on the Project Location and facility components is found in the *Design and Operations Report*.



BluEarth Renewables Inc.
LOYALIST SOLAR LP

General Project Location
FIGURE 1

- Railway
- Project Location Boundary
- Project Location 300 m Area of Investigation
- Municipal Boundary



MAP CREATED BY: GM
MAP CHECKED BY: JP
MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N



PROJECT: 163674 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2017-01-25

4.0 Operational Flexibility

A detailed Project design phase will be undertaken prior to the start of construction which may result in some modifications to the information presented in the REA reports. These modifications include, but are not limited to general adjustments to the site plan that result in a decrease in the Project footprint (within the current boundary), and/or a decrease in the number of Project components or infrastructure (including transformer, inverter stations, photovoltaic (“PV”) panels, PV racking etc.). Adjustments to the location of Project components may also occur within the Project Location boundary. Where specific equipment is proposed, alternate equipment may be utilized so long as it is equivalent in nature and does not result in any additional negative effects.

Regarding sound emitting components, provisions for operational flexibility are incorporated by constraining such equipment within an area of placement (polygon) rather than at a fixed point. The Noise Study Report demonstrates that the sound emitting equipment can be located anywhere within these polygons and still achieve the required predicted sound level limits at nearby receptors. Please see the Noise Study Report for additional details.

In all cases where an operational or technical change is necessary, the Project will remain within the Project Location boundary as shown on **Figure 1**, and commitments made in the various technical reports adhered to. This includes observing the minimum areas to be assessed between Project components and the nearest significant natural feature, water body and/or other feature where described and ensuring any proposed mitigation measures remain effective at avoiding or minimizing impacts. During operations, routine modifications to the solar facility may be implemented (e.g., resurfacing of ingress/egress points and/or access roads, repairs to fencing, electrical maintenance, etc.) provided their effects are environmentally insignificant and do not exceed the boundaries of the constructed Project.

Four Connection Line route options have been assessed and presented in the REA reports. All four potential routes have been assessed as per REA requirements. Ultimately, only one route will be constructed and it will be chosen based on input from stakeholders and regulatory agencies as well as from findings from engineering studies. Residents will be notified once the final route has been selected.

The classification (Class 3 Solar Facility) and nameplate capacity (54 MW_{AC}) of the Project are not subject to change.

5.0 Overview of Consultation Process

This *Consultation Report* details the formal consultation program for the Project which was initiated under the REA process in May, 2016 with the distribution of the draft *Project Description Report* and publication of a combined Notice of Proposal and Notice of First Public Meeting. However, it should be noted that consultation activities associated with the LRP process were initiated in early 2015. The REA consultation program is expected to conclude with publication of a notice informing the public that the REA application has been posted on the Environmental Registry for public comment. This report documents the consultation activities that were undertaken and provides the comments and information received by the Proponent. The report also documents how comments were considered and whether and how the Project was modified as a result of comments received.

Stakeholder consultation has been a central component of this Project since its inception. The Proponent has provided opportunities for information sharing and stakeholder feedback throughout the course of the Project. Ongoing Project communications are planned throughout the proposed construction and operations stages as necessary and are outlined in **Section 10** of this report.

The following sections describe the key consultation activities that have been undertaken to date. Comments from the general public, stakeholder groups, Aboriginal communities, the Township of Stone Mills, County of Lennox & Addington, Quinte Conservation Authority (“QCA”), and other agencies have been identified and addressed. Details of consultation with each group are included as appendices to this report. The REA consultation process is illustrated in **Figure 2**.

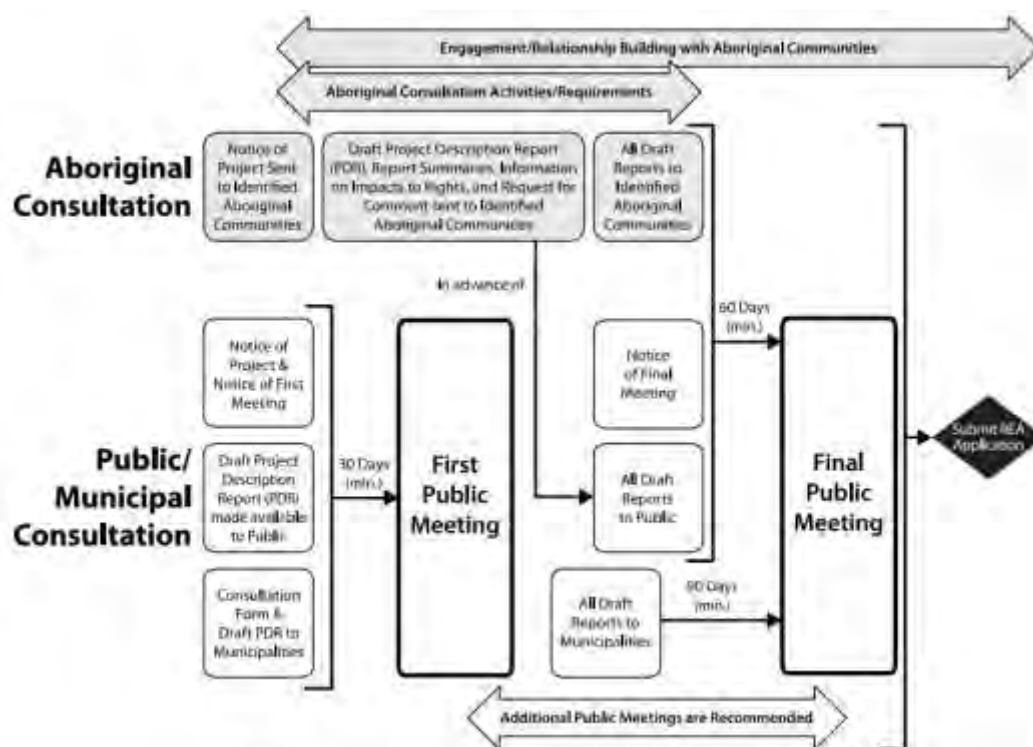


Figure 2: REA Consultation Process

5.1 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. **Table 2** outlines which contacts are applicable to this Project.

Table 2: Applicability of Mandatory Consultation Activities

Prescribed Consultation Contacts	Applicability
Aboriginal communities that, in the opinion of the Director of the MOECC 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	Applicable
Assessed owners of land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> abutting a parcel of land on which the Project Location is situated; and/or within 120 metres of the Project Location 	Applicable
Clerks of each local municipality and upper-tier municipality in which the Project Location is situated	Applicable
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)	Not applicable
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)	Not applicable
Secretary-treasurers of planning boards that have jurisdiction in an area in which the Project Location is situated	Not applicable
The Chair of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, if the Project Location is in the area of the Niagara Escarpment Plan	Not applicable
The Director of the MOECC	Applicable
The MOECC District Manager in each district in which the Project Location is situated	Applicable
The Secretary of every company operating an oil or natural gas pipeline, if a pipeline right of way for the pipeline is located within 200 metres of the Project Location	Not applicable

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 within the Niagara Escarpment Commission or Local Road, Services or Planning Boards. The Project Location is not within 200 metres of an oil or natural gas pipeline, or pipeline right-of-way.

To enhance consultation beyond what is required through the 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. It is also recommended that the proponent provide notification to and consult with relevant agencies and local conservation authorities.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (“MNRF”), Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (“MTCS”) and the Quinte Conservation Authority (“QCA”) were consulted as part of this Project. Members of the public and/or local community groups who expressed an interest in the project were added to the project contact list so they could be kept informed throughout the process.

5.2 Consultation Objectives

Consultation is a two-way exchange of information between renewable energy project proponents 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 proponents to obtain and use local knowledge in their project designs/plans and in the assessment of any potential negative environmental effects.

The goals of the Project consultation process were:

- To ensure that relevant information about the renewable energy project proposed to be developed is provided to the relevant Aboriginal communities, members of the public and municipalities.
- To obtain/identify relevant information/local knowledge from the community, municipalities and Aboriginal communities.
- To identify concerns that may arise from the proposed Project.
- To address concerns by way of provided additional information, explanation, changing project design or making commitments in response to input received.

5.3 Summary of Consultation Activities to Date

Consultation activities prescribed by *Ontario Regulation 359/09* were completed by the Proponent and are summarized in **Table 3**, 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 6 to 9** 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 3: Ontario Regulation 359/09 Prescribed Consultation Activities to Date

Activity	Timing	Description
Advertising in the local newspaper	May 26, 2016 (34 days prior to the first public meeting)	Combined <i>First Notice of a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and First Notice of First Public Meeting</i> was published in the following newspapers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Napanee Beaver • The Napanee Guide
	June 16, 2016 (13 days prior to the first public meeting)	Combined <i>Second Notice of a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and Second Notice of First Public Meeting</i> was published in the following newspapers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Napanee Beaver • The Napanee Guide
Advertising in the local newspaper	November 24, 2016	<i>First Notice of Second Public Meeting</i> was

Activity	Timing	Description
(continued)	(68 days prior to the second public meeting)	published in the following newspapers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Napanee Beaver Napanee Guide
	December 8, 2016 December 15, 2016 (54 and 47 days prior to the second public meeting)	<i>Second Notice of Second Public Meeting</i> was published in the following newspapers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Napanee Beaver (December 15, 2016) Napanee Guide (December 8, 2016)
	Date to be determined. This notice will be published within 10 days of EBR posting.	<i>Notice of MOECC Review and EBR</i> will be published in the following newspapers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Napanee Beaver Napanee Guide
Advertising in Indigenous Newspaper(s)	N/A	N/A
Landowner Mailings	May 24, 2016 (36 days prior to the first public meeting)	<i>Notice of Proposal and Notice of First Public Meeting</i>
	November 18, 2016 (74 days prior to the second public meeting)	Letter with <i>First Notice of Second Public Meeting and Draft REA Documents Posting</i>
Document Releases to the Public	May 26, 2016 (34 days prior to the first public meeting)	<i>Project Description Report (PDR)</i> - made available in hard copy at the Township of Stone Mills Main Office, Camden East Public Library and electronically on the Project website.
	November 23, 2016 (69 days prior to the second public meeting)	Draft REA Documents – made available in hard copy at the Township of Stone Mills, County of Lennox & Addington, Camden East Public Library, and electronically on the Project website.
Public Meetings	June 29, 2016	First Public Meeting
	January 31, 2017	Second Public Meeting
Aboriginal Correspondence	May 25, 2016 (35 days prior to the first public meeting)	Introductory letter, combined <i>Notice of Proposal and Notice of First Public Meeting</i> and a copy of the draft PDR couriered to the following as identified on the Aboriginal Consultation List received from MOECC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alderville First Nation Curve Lake First Nation Hiawatha First Nation High Lands and Waters Métis Council Huron Wendat Williams Treaties First Nations Coordinator Kawartha Nishnawbe Métis Consultation Unit - Métis Nation of Ontario Mississauga of Scugog Island First Nation Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

Activity	Timing	Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council
	November 7, 2016 (85 days prior to the second public meeting)	Status update letter with the <i>Notice of Second Public Meeting</i> to all of the above-listed Aboriginal groups with a summary of the draft REA documents and hard copies of draft documents.
Municipal Correspondence (Township of Stone Mills, County of Lennox & Addington)	May 25, 2016 (35 days prior to the first public meeting)	Introductory letter with combined <i>Notice of a Proposal and Notice of First Public Meeting</i> , draft PDR and Municipal Consultation Form.
	November 1, 2016 (91 days prior to the second public meeting)	Letter accompanied by the <i>Notice of Second Public Meeting</i> and draft REA documents.
	November 23, 2016 (69 days prior to the second public meeting)	Draft REA Documents and letter requesting that the documents be made available in the office for public viewing.
Agency Correspondence (MOECC Director and MOECC District Manager)	May 25, 2016 (35 days prior to the first public meeting)	Introductory letter with combined <i>Notice of a Proposal and Notice of First Public Meeting</i> accompanied by the draft PDR.
	November 18, 2016 (74 days prior to the second public meeting)	Letter and <i>Notice of Second Public Meeting</i>
Website (www.blueearth.ca/loyalist)	As required, the following were posted to the Project website:	Combined <i>First Notice of a Proposal and First Notice of First Public Meeting</i> Draft <i>Project Description Report</i> <i>Notice of Second Public Meeting</i> All draft REA reports and documents Final REA reports and documents
	To be determined (will be on website within 10 days of EBR posting)	<i>Notice of MOECC Review and EBR Posting</i>

In addition to the prescribed activities in *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, the Proponent undertook a number of additional consultation initiatives. A summary of these initiatives is provided in **Table 4**.

Table 4: The Proponent's Initiatives beyond Ontario Regulation 359/09

Topic	Action Undertaken
LRP Notices	June and July 2015 - Notices were sent to nearby residents (landowners and adjacent landowners) in accordance with the IESO LRP I RFP requirements. Notices were to inform the public about the project and upcoming public meetings.
LRP Public Meetings	July 8, 2015 and August 24, 2015 - Public meetings were held at the Newburgh Community Hall to discuss the proposed Project. Approximately 40 people attended the first meeting and approximately 22 people attended the second. Notices regarding the meeting were mailed in advance to residents within 120m of the Project area, were published in the Napanee Guide and Napanee Beaver, and posted on the Project website.
Adjacent Landowner Consultation	June to August 2015 - Project representatives endeavoured to meet in-person with all residents with properties that abutted the Project properties. Consultation efforts resulted in over 75% of abutting landowners having signed an agreement in support of the Project.
Township of Stone Mills Support Resolution and Community Vibrancy Agreement	August 20, 2015 - The Township of Stone Mills passed a Resolution of Support for the Project and approved a Community Vibrancy Agreement which required the formation of a Technical Review Committee to oversee several aspects of the Project development.
Township of Stone Mills Approval of Visual Screening Plan	October 25, 2016 - The Township of Stone Mills Council approved the Visual Screening Plan which confirmed project setbacks and vegetation screening requirements.
Project Newsletters	October 2015 and August 2016 – Project update newsletters were mailed to residents and posted to the Project website.
Technical Review Committee Meetings	<p>The Technical Review Committee ("TRC") which is comprised of Township of Stone Mills staff and Project representatives, met a number of times to review aspects of the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 31, 2016 – Project site plan review, stakeholder consultation update, visual screening plan discussion, grading and stormwater controls discussion, road use agreement discussion • June 23, 2016 – discussed visual screening plan and road use agreement • July 19, 2016 – provided Project development update, discussed visual screening plan and road use agreement • October 5, 2016 – reviewed final vegetation screening plan, schedule of tasks for TRC, discussed pre-construction methodology • January 18, 2017 – discussed Road Use Agreement, entrance permits, connection line pole locations, road rights-of-way
Landowner and Adjacent Landowner Update Letters	December 6, 2016 - A letter was hand-delivered to residents along the proposed connection line routes to provide an update regarding the Project, particularly the connection lines. The letter provided information and invited feedback.
Meeting with Métis Nation of Ontario	January 7, 2017 - A meeting was held with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) during which the MNO provided a history of their background. Project representatives provided a background on the Project.

Topic	Action Undertaken
Community Meeting with Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte	February 1, 2017 - A community meeting was held Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. The meeting was held in the same format as the second public meeting and Project representatives and Archaeological Research Associates were available to answer questions.

The Project design and/or assessment process was altered in response to comments received from members of the public, stakeholder groups, Aboriginal communities, and the Township of Stone Mills. The changes are summarized within the subsequent sections of this report (**Sections 6, 7 and 8**).

6.0 Public Consultation

Ontario Regulation 359/09 Sections 15 and 16 describe required public consultation activities. The following describes the consultation activities undertaken by the proponent to inform members of the public about the proposed Project and to solicit their feedback and input. Where public input influenced the Project, details are provided. Public correspondence (e.g. letters, newsletters, etc.), including notifications, mailouts and public meeting documents, is provided in **Appendix B**. The comment/response table is provided in **Appendix A-3**.

6.1 Identification of Landowners

The landowner consultation list was developed to include landowners of properties abutting the properties on which the Project Location is situated and those within 120 meters of the Project Location. 106 landowners were identified fitting this criterion. The list was developed through information provided by the local land registry office and municipal tax rolls.

6.2 Notification

Ontario Regulation 359/09 requires the publication and distribution of 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 newspapers with general circulation in the area of the Project.

Public notices were published in the Napanee Beaver and Napanee Guide.

The Notice of a Proposal was combined with the Notice of Public Meeting for the First Public Meeting, (as per Subsection 15(4) of the Regulation). A list of notices and their publication dates is provided in **Table 3**. Notices were also posted on the Project website.

A mailing list was created and updated as needed and consisted of landowners adjacent to and within 120 m of the Project Location, and other residents or stakeholder groups that had expressed an interest in the Project. The mailing list was used to distribute notices and other Project-related correspondence.

6.3 Document Releases

Prior to the first REA Public Meeting on June 29, 2016, a draft Project Description Report (“PDR”) was prepared and provided for public review in accordance with Subsection 15(2) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, at the following locations:

- Township of Stone Mills (4504 County Road 4, Centreville)
- County of Lennox & Addington (97 Thomas Street East, Napanee)
- Camden East Public Library (2832 County Rd. 1 East, Camden East)
- Proponent’s website at <http://www.blueearth.ca/loyalist>

The Notice of Proposal and First Public Meeting (see details in **Table 3**) informed the public that the PDR was available for review.

Prior to the second REA Public Meeting on January 31, 2017, all draft REA documents were provided for public review in accordance with Subsection 16(5), at the same locations. The public was notified about the release of these documents in the Notice of Second Public Meeting mailed on November 18, 2016 (69 days before the second public meeting). With the exception of this *Consultation Report*, all documents and supporting materials submitted in the final application to the MOECC were provided to the public in the draft release.

6.4 Public Meetings

The first REA public meeting was held on June 29, 2016 at the Newburgh Community Hall from 5:30 pm until 8:30 pm. The meeting was attended by 38 people, and included members of the community and Council Members from the Township of Stone Mills.

The meeting was an open house format, where members of the public could learn about the project, and discuss their questions and concerns related to potential impacts of the project. Display panels outlined the proposed project location, potential environmental concerns, the REA process, and general information about the project and about BluEarth Renewables Inc. Representatives of the Proponent, Dillon Consulting, CanACRE, and Harden Environmental Services Ltd. attended to answer questions. Copies of the draft PDR and comment forms were made available to attendees. The information presented at the meeting is found in **Appendix C**.

No comment sheets were filled out by members of the public at the meeting. The following topics were discussed with attendees during the meeting:

- Property value
- Potential groundwater effects
- Potential visual impacts
- Project layout
- Project construction
- Project decommissioning
- Natural heritage and species at risk
- Project schedule

Responses to the concerns raised during the first public meeting are documented in the comment/response table found in **Appendix A**.

A “Frequently Asked Questions” document was developed to address common questions regarding the project following the first public meeting. This document was made available to the public on the proponent’s website.

The second REA public meeting was held on January 31, 2017 at the Newburgh Community Hall from 5:30 pm until 8:30 pm. The meeting was attended by approximately 25 people.

The meeting was an open house format, where members of the public could learn about the project, and discuss their questions and concerns related to potential impacts of the project. Display panels outlined summaries of project reports, details regarding the construction, operations and decommissioning phases, natural heritage information, and details and summaries of other specific studies (including hydrogeology, archaeology, etc.). The panels provided an update as to the scheduling and next steps, and described changes to the reports since the draft release. Representatives of the Proponent, Dillon Consulting, CanACRE, Archaeological Research Associates Ltd., and Harden Environmental Services Ltd. attended to answer questions. A copy of the draft project reports and comment forms were made available to attendees. A handout was made available which described changes to the reports since the draft release.

One comment sheet was filled out by a member of the public at the meeting. The information presented at the meeting is provided in **Appendix C**.

The following topics were discussed with attendees during the meeting:

- Connection Line route options
- Consultation process
- Potential groundwater effects
- Noise
- Project construction
- Project maintenance (including pesticide usage)
- Property value
- Natural heritage and Species at Risk

Responses to the concerns raised during the second public meeting are documented in the comment/response table found in **Appendix A**.

A “Frequently Asked Questions” document will be developed to address common questions regarding the project following the second public meeting. This document will be made available to the public on the Proponent’s website.

6.5 Newsletters

The proponent developed and issued newsletters to provide Project information to the public. The newsletters provided project updates, responses to frequently asked questions, updates to the project

schedule, next steps, updates to the community benefit agreement, and Proponent contact information. Newsletter No. 1 was issued in October 2015, and Newsletter No. 2 was issued in August 2016. A copy of these newsletters can be found in **Appendix B**.

6.6 Summary of Communication Received

In total, one comment sheet, and multiple emails, letters and phone discussions were received from members of the public between the start of the Project and the date of submission of this report to the MOECC.

The following stakeholder groups identified themselves as having an interest in the Project:

- Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council – noted general concerns about displacement of wildlife habitat and specific concerns regarding alvar and Loggerhead Shrike habitat impacts.
- Friends of the Salmon River – presented concerns regarding potential impacts to the Salmon River watershed.
- Wildlife Preservation Canada – noted concerns regarding impacts to Loggerhead Shrike habitat.
- Nature Conservancy of Canada – expressed an interest in working with the Proponent to establish wildlife habitat compensation lands.

Responses to all comments received have been summarized in the comment/response table in **Appendix A**. Consultation summaries for the above noted stakeholder groups are included in **Appendix B**. Copies of written correspondence are provided in **Appendix B**.

6.7 Alterations to the Project Proposal or Draft Documents

Some alterations were made or are under consideration to the Project based on public consultation, including the following:

- The Project Location boundary was altered based on concerns from an adjacent landowner regarding visual impacts. The Project boundary was moved behind a hedgerow thereby screening the Project from the adjacent residence.
- Based on input from landowners who were hosting the Project on their properties, the Project Location was adjusted to maintain visual screening barriers (vegetation) and to accommodate farming and grazing practices
- A local resident with experience in wildlife observations expressed an interest in contributing her wildlife sightings to the *Natural Heritage Assessment* (“NHA”). Her observations were added to the *NHA Records Review*.
- The Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council advocated that some areas not be included in the Project location as was planned. These consisted of an area that had previously undergone rehabilitation for Loggerhead Shrike and an area considered to be a sensitive alvar. Though no Loggerhead Shrike nests had been recorded in the area, it was removed from the Project Location so additional rehabilitation efforts could be undertaken to attract nesting Loggerhead Shrike. The area considered to be sensitive alvar was also removed from the Project Location.

- The Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council were concerned about the accuracy of alvar classification and Loggerhead Shrike nest identification and recommended consultants be used whom they believed were experts in these areas. Loyalist Solar LP retained these consultants as sub-contractors to Dillon so that they were involved in the fieldwork and assessment of results. The results were shared with the Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council.

7.0 Aboriginal Consultation

Consultation with Aboriginal communities is an essential component of the Proponent's consultation program. All Aboriginal consultation activities have met the requirements of *Ontario Regulation 359/09* Section 17 and were guided by the MOECC's *Aboriginal Consultation Guide for Preparing a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) Application* (2013). Accordingly, local Aboriginal communities identified by the MOECC for this Project were consulted throughout the progression of the Project.

The following describes the consultation activities undertaken by the Proponent to inform Aboriginal communities about the details of the proposed Project and to solicit their feedback and input, especially as it related to potentially affected Aboriginal or Treaty rights. Correspondence received from Aboriginal communities during the consultation process is provided in **Appendix D**. All correspondence sent by the Proponent to Aboriginal communities is also provided in **Appendix D** with the exception of MOECC correspondence relating to Aboriginal consultation, which is provided in **Appendix F**, and discussed below.

7.1 MOECC Director's Aboriginal Consultation List

On April 8, 2016, an email and draft *Project Description Report* were sent to the Director of the Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch of the MOECC requesting information on Aboriginal communities that may have an interest in the proposed Project.

On May 17, 2016, the MOECC responded with a list of Aboriginal communities for consultation, which included the following groups:

- Alderville First Nation¹
- Curve Lake First Nation²
- Hiawatha First Nation³
- Mississauga of Scugog Island First Nation⁴
- Kawartha Nishnawbe

¹⁻⁴ It is noted that correspondence sent to these First Nation Communities were copied to the Williams Treaty First Nations Coordinator.

- Huron Wendat
- Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte⁵
- Peterborough and District Wapiti Metis Council⁶
- High Lands and Waters Métis Council

In addition to the *Notice of Proposal and Notice of First Public Meeting*, the Aboriginal communities listed above were circulated a letter by the Proponent introducing them to the Project on May 25, 2016 (see **Appendix D**).

7.2 Notification, Requests for Information and Document Releases

As per Sections 15 and 17 of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, notices and documents listed in **Table 3** were provided to Aboriginal communities. Paper copies of all draft REA documents were accompanied by an Executive Summary Report.

Requests were made in each letter mailed to Aboriginal communities to notify the Proponent of any opportunities to publish notices in Aboriginal community newspapers but no responses were received and no such publications occurred. In addition, each letter requested the following, in accordance with subsection 17(1) of the regulation:

“...information that should be considered in the planning of this Project, in particular any information that your community may have regarding any potential adverse impacts of the Project on constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights and recommendations for measures to mitigate these adverse impacts. Also, if you have any information regarding potential negative environmental impacts or impacts on the community, and how these could be avoided, minimized and/or mitigated.”

Follow up phone calls were made on June 15, 2016 to each First Nation after the mailing of the PDR and from November 14-24, 2016 after the mailing of the Draft REA documents to confirm receipt of the documents and inquire if there were questions. No questions were received.

7.3 Public Meetings

The first public meeting was attended by representatives from the High Lands and Waters Métis Council. No other Aboriginal community members identified themselves at the meeting.

The second public meeting was attended by representatives of Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte acting as partners in the Project. No other Aboriginal community members identified themselves at the second public meeting or completed any comment sheets.

⁵⁻⁶ It is noted that correspondences to these First Nations communities were copied to the Métis Consultation Unit (Métis Nation of Ontario).

7.4 Additional Activities

Additional consultation activities were undertaken with the Aboriginal Communities, as described below.

In June and August 2015, as part of the LRP process, and prior to receiving the MOECC Aboriginal Consultation List, the following Aboriginal communities were provided with notices regarding the Project LRP meetings:

- Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
- Alderville First Nation
- Hiawatha First Nation
- Curve Lake First Nation
- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
- Métis Nation of Ontario

After providing the Notice and letter dated May 25, 2016, the following responses were received:

- Hiawatha First Nation commented that the Project was deemed to have little, if any, impact on Hiawatha First Nation's traditional territory and/or rights and wanted to be informed of archaeological finds and environmental impacts. Furthermore, they asked that they provide monitors if archaeological artifacts are found and that archaeological reports be provided once completed
- Huron Wendat First Nation requested shape files of the Project location and stated that they will determine if the Project presents any impacts to their treaty rights.

On October 18, 2016, those communities identified in the MOECC Aboriginal Consultation List were provided an update letter regarding the archaeological work undertaken in 2016. The letter resulted in the following responses:

- Hiawatha First Nation commented that the Project was deemed to have little, if any, impact on Hiawatha First Nation's traditional territory and/or rights and wanted to be informed of archaeological finds and environmental impacts. Furthermore, they asked that they provide monitors if archaeological artifacts are found. They were sent the archaeological assessments along with the Natural Heritage Assessment and REA reports.
- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation requested the Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessments when completed. They were sent the assessments along with the REA reports.
- Huron Wendat First Nation stated that they want to provide an archaeological monitor for the Stage 3 Archaeological Assessments. They were invited to participate in the Stage 3 Assessments when they commenced in the Spring of 2017.
- Métis Nation of Ontario requested a meeting to review the Project and provide a historical and cultural overview of the Métis peoples. A meeting was set for January 7, 2017.

On November 17, 2016, an afternoon and an evening community meeting were held at Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory for the purpose of providing additional information about the Project to the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte community members. The Project information that was provided was the same as that from the first public meeting. The meeting was advertised on the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte website, social media and flyers distributed within the community. In total, there were 16 attendees at the meetings. Members of Tyendinaga Mohawk Council were in attendance.

On November 24, 2016, a letter was sent from Chief Maracle of Tyendinaga Mohawk Council on behalf of the Project, to the communities on the MOECC Aboriginal Consultation List. The letter informed the communities that they are now in receipt of the draft REA reports and let them know that Project representatives would be contacting them to discuss any issues they may have.

On December 8, 2016, Curve Lake First Nation sent a letter in regards to the following matters: requesting that all correspondence be copied to the Williams Treaty First Nations Claims Coordinator; providing their Consultation and Accommodation Standards; requesting a summary statement of potential impacts to the environment and Aboriginal heritage and cultural values; and, conveying their expectations regarding archaeological assessments. The Proponent provided a letter in response on February 3, 2017.

On January 7, 2016, a meeting was held with the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) at their request, to review the Project and to provide a background regarding the history of the Métis Nation. MNO indicated that they would follow up should they have any specific requests or need for additional information. To date, MNO has not provided any additional correspondence.

On February 1, 2017, a second community meeting was held at Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory to provide Project updates to community members. The information provided was the same as provided for PM#2. The meeting was advertised on the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte website, social media and on newsletters mailed to residents in the community. In total, there were 12 attendees at the meetings. Members of Tyendinaga Mohawk Council and staff were also in attendance. A summary of the comments and responses from both the November and February community meetings can be found in **Appendix D**.

7.5 Summary of Communications

Copies of correspondence with Aboriginal communities are provided in **Appendix D**.

7.6 Alterations to the Project Proposal or Draft Documents

At the request of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and Alderville First Nation, arrangements were made to have archaeological monitors participate in the archaeological assessments. Monitors were present for the majority of archaeological fieldwork to date.

At the request of Tyendinaga Mohawk Council, two community meetings were held within Mohawk Tyendinaga Territory to provide community members the opportunity to learn more about the Project and discuss questions and comments with Project representatives.

Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte completed an independent review of the draft REA documents in November 2016. Revisions to the draft documents were made to clarify methodology in the *Natural Heritage Assessment* and improve clarity and consistency of common information across the REA reports.

8.0 Municipal Consultation

Local municipalities have a unique understanding of project design 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**.

8.1 Notification and Document Release

As per the regulation, copies of notices listed in **Table 3** were provided to the Township of Stone Mills and County of Lennox & Addington. They were combined with the required mailings for document releases and the Municipal Consultation Form.

8.2 Municipal Consultation Form

As per the requirements of Section 18 of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, copies of the Municipal Consultation Form were provided to the Township of Stone Mills and County of Lennox & Addington as required and described in **Table 3**. Evidence of the distribution of the Municipal Consultation Form and other correspondence has been included in **Appendix E**.

Responses to the Municipal Consultation Form were received from the Township of Stone Mills on December 29, 2016 and from the County of Lennox and Addington on December 16 2016 and February 2, 2017. The comments from each municipality were provided by email rather than on the form. The municipalities provided commentary on traffic routing during construction, waste disposal, emergency response plans, and protocols for ongoing communication with the Proponent during construction.

The comments and responses from the Proponent are found in **Appendix A**.

8.3 Public Meetings

The first public meeting was attended by member(s) of the Township of Stone Mills. No members from the County of Lennox & Addington identified themselves at either of the public meetings. No comment sheets were filled out by members of the Township or County at the public meetings.

8.4 Technical Review Committee

A Technical Review Committee ("TRC") comprised of Township staff and Project representatives was formed as per the Community Vibrancy Agreement signed between the Township and Loyalist Solar LP. The mandate of the TRC is to provide input and review several development aspects of the Project, including the visual screening plan, road use agreement, stormwater management and grading design,

and the hydrogeological study. The committee has met several times to date and will continue to do so throughout the development of the Project.

8.5 Summary of Communications

Ongoing consultation has occurred with municipal representatives from both the Township of Stone Mills and the County of Lennox & Addington since the outset of the Project. As noted in **Table 3**, a Community Vibrancy Agreement was executed by the Township of Stone Mills and the Proponent. In addition, the Township of Stone Mills Council passed a resolution of support from the Project as part of the LRP process.

8.6 Alterations to the Project Proposal or Draft Documents

The Project design was altered to adhere to the agreed upon setbacks and visual screening measures detailed in the visual screening plan. The Project was also designed to abide by the Township's preferred setbacks from water wells. Additional Project refinements are possible through the TRC's pending input on entrance permits, the road use agreement and the connection line design.

9.0 Agency Consultation

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

9.1 Notification

As per subsection 15(5) of *Ontario Regulation 359/09* copies of the required notices listed in **Table 3** were provided to the MOECC District Manager and MOECC Director on the dates listed.

9.2 Consultation with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

Consultation with the MOECC outside of the required mailings (see **Table 3**) consisted of several meetings to discuss the project. An introductory "pre-consultation" meeting was held on April 5, 2016 to introduce the Project and discuss the REA process. An update meeting was held with MOECC on July 4, 2016 to review the current status of the project and inform the MOECC that the REA application package would be submitted in early 2017. A subsequent meeting was held on January 5, 2017 to discuss the stormwater management requirements, modeling approach for the Noise Study Report and timing for application review by the Ministry.

9.3 Consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

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

An introductory email requesting information from the MNRF for the records review was sent on May 16, 2016. Subsequently, a meeting was held with representatives from the MNRF, Dillon Consulting and the Proponent, on May 19, 2016. Discussion items at the meeting included an introduction to the Project; background data review; the NHA process and requirements; Species at Risk; and survey protocols and scheduling.

On May 24, 2016, the Notice of a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and Notice of First Public Meeting and draft PDR was sent to representatives from the MNRF.

On November 18, 2016, the MNRF was copied as part of stakeholder consultation to inform them of the release of draft REA documents, and that the second public meeting would take place on January 31, 2017.

Draft versions of the NHA reports were provided to MNRF for comment. Submission and review of the NHA reports was iterative. The comments received were incorporated, and subsequent revisions of the reports submitted to the MNRF. The complete NHA was submitted to the MNRF in January 2017. A confirmation letter was received from MNRF on January 27, 2016 (see **Appendix F**).

9.4 Consultation with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

As per the requirements of Sections 19-23 of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*, proponents must consider potential impacts to protected properties, and archaeological and heritage resources when planning their projects. Consultation with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) is undertaken for Archaeological Assessments and Cultural Heritage Assessments, as required.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments were conducted concurrently between April and October 2016. A comment letter was received on December 6, 2016 from the MTCS which confirmed the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments had been entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports and that the MTCS was satisfied that the report was prepared in accordance with their guidelines.

A *Cultural Heritage Assessment* was completed for the Project between May and October 2016. The assessment identified 87 Built Heritage Resources, and 5 Cultural Heritage Landscapes, and it was determined that they all have cultural heritage value or interest. A comment letter was received in February 2017 from the MTCS confirming that the heritage assessment process and reporting are consistent with requirements established in Sections 19-23 of *Ontario Regulation 359/09*.

Copies of these letters are provided in **Appendix F**.

9.5 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.

On May 24, 2016, the Combined Notice of a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project and Notice of First Public Meeting, and draft PDR were sent to the General Manager of the Quinte Conservation Authority ("QCA").

In-person meetings were held with Quinte Conservation staff on June 9 and November 22, 2016. The purpose of the meetings was to inform QCA of the status and preliminary findings of natural environment and hydrogeological studies, as well as an update on stakeholder engagement, the Project schedule, the preliminary site layout and forthcoming studies (e.g. stormwater management, erosion and sediment control plan, grading plan, etc.). QCA permitting requirements were discussed and relevant background natural heritage information and flood plain mapping was requested.

A summary of consultation activities with QCA is included in **Appendix F**.

9.6 Summary of Communications

Ongoing consultation has occurred since the outset of the Project with various Provincial Ministries and agencies, including QCA.

9.7 Alterations to the Project Proposal or Draft Documents

The Project layout and draft documents were altered based on consultation with MNRF and MOECC. Alterations included revisions of study protocols, modification/ addition of mitigation measures, and refinement of the Project Location boundary to avoid or minimize impacts to significant natural features.

10.0 Ongoing Consultation and Communication

While a significant amount of stakeholder consultation was undertaken during the LRP and REA process, the Proponent is committed to maintaining communication with interested stakeholders over the Project's lifecycle. This section describes ongoing consultation and communication efforts.

10.1 Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultation and stakeholder engagement activities are welcome and will continue throughout the life of the Project.

During the construction and operations phases of the Project, a sign will be posted at the gate(s) of the facility which will include the contact information, including telephone number should the public have

any inquiries. Prior to the start of construction, a letter with contact information for the Project representative will be delivered to residents in the vicinity.

The following consultation activities are up-coming:

- Notice announcing application posting on EBR
- Responses to public comments received during MOECC technical review
- Announcement on the Project website when the MOECC review is complete and the IESO Notice to Proceed has been issued
- Communications to the public regarding construction details and any traffic disruptions
- Ongoing liaison with public with information mailed as necessary

10.2 Communication Methods, Records and Complaints Resolution Process

Correspondence received by the Proponent has been recorded in an electronic file and/or log book. If correspondence is received after the final REA submission to the MOECC, and during the six-month review period, it will be recorded and filed. 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
- Any follow-up issues

A record will be kept of 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.

11.0 Outstanding Concerns

Based on the consultation activities described in this report, the Proponent has not identified any outstanding concerns related to the Project. The Proponent recognizes that as the Project design progresses, additional concerns may develop and need to be addressed. The Proponent commits to responding to such concerns in a timely manner.

12.0 Conclusions

The Proponent's consultation program has met the requirements as set out by *Ontario Regulation 359/09* and has been characterized by open communication with the general public, landowners, Aboriginal communities, the Township of Stone Mills, County of Lennox & Addington, government and other agencies. Through notices, mailings, a project website, newsletters, public meetings, and other consultation activities, the Proponent has listened and responded to stakeholder comments. Concerns were resolved to the extent possible through providing additional information, modifying the Project development process and revising the Project design.

The Proponent is committed to ongoing communication with interested stakeholders.