

COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 14, 2023

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Distributed November 10, 2023

Subject

SC1. Memorandum from the Deputy City Manager,
Planning and Growth Management, dated
November 14, 2023.

Municipal Support Resolution for
11720 Kipling Avenue

Disclaimer Respecting External Communications

Communications are posted on the City's website pursuant to Procedure By-law Number 7-2011. The City of Vaughan is not responsible for the validity or accuracy of any facts and/or opinions contained in external Communications listed on printed agendas and/or agendas posted on the City's website.

Please note there may be further Communications.



DATE: November 10, 2023

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Haiqing Xu, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management

RE: **STAFF COMMUNICATION – Council Meeting, November 14, 2023**
Municipal Support Resolution for 11720 Kipling Avenue

1. Purpose

To provide the Mayor and Council with information regarding the Municipal Support Resolution (the 'MSR') requested by EDF Renewables (the 'Proponent'), for a proposed battery energy storage facility located at 11720 Kipling Avenue.

2. Background

On September 19, 2023, EDF Renewables presented at the Committee of the Whole (2) to request an MSR for the aforementioned lands, to support their bid to the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Long Term Request for Proposals ("LT1 RFP"). The IESO is a crown corporation that manages the electricity supply to residents across Ontario.

According to IESO, Ontario is anticipated to be facing a province-wide energy shortage of 3,500MW due to increased demand, the retirement of the Pickering nuclear plant, planned refurbishments of other nuclear generating units, and expiring contracts with facilities, and the LT1 RFP program seeks to increase both energy production and storage capacity to meet the impending demand for electricity. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are rechargeable batteries that can store energy from different sources, or during off-peak hours, and discharge it when needed.

Ontario's policy framework provides basis for various energy systems and projects: "Planning authorities should provide opportunities for the development of energy supply including electricity generation facilities, transmission and distribution systems, district energy and renewable energy systems and alternative energy systems" (Provincial Policy Statement, 2020, Policy 1.6). "Municipalities shall identify opportunities for energy conservation, energy efficiency and demand management, and encourage land use patterns and urban design standards that support energy efficiency and demand reductions" (A Place to Grow, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2020,

Policy 4.2.9). York Region shall engage and collaborate with local municipalities, local utilities, and other stakeholders in the provision of energy conservation, demand management of various energy systems and local generation (York Region Official Plan, 2022, Policy 6.7). The City of Vaughan shall support reductions in peak electricity consumption by encouraging innovative energy storage technologies through best practices and design guidelines that minimize peak electricity consumption (Vaughan Official Plan, 2010, Policy 8.5).

In principle, staff support Battery Energy Storage System projects within the City of Vaughan as they will help to reduce peak electricity loads, as identified in Green Directions Vaughan, and new storage capacity reduces reliance on gas generation, thus acting as a climate change mitigation measure.

The Proponent identified that the deadline for the bid to the IESO is December 12, 2023. The recommendation of the Committee of the Whole (2) on September 19, 2023 was to refer this matter to staff and report back.

3. Analysis

The IESO provides municipalities with a guiding document for MSR which includes a Form of Municipal Support Resolution (Exhibit A), identifying the information to be included within the MSR. Municipalities may also develop their own MSR which shall identify the municipal lands that are subject to the project.

The IESO identifies that MSRs can be awarded by municipal Councils during two (2) different stages: (1) prior to completing the RFP bid or (2) at the contracting stage of the development. The IESO also identifies that an MSR prior to the bid stage provides the Proponent with Rated Criteria Points that support their bid, but are not considered necessary to award the bid.

In consideration of the above, staff of the Policy Planning and Special Programs Department have concluded that preparing a Municipal Support Resolution for the subject lands municipally described as 11720 Kipling Avenue, is premature at this time as a development application has not been submitted to evaluate the proposed development's consistency with and conformity to the applicable provincial, regional and local plans and policies, in accordance with the *Planning Act*.

Policy Planning staff advise that additional requests for MSRs for battery energy storage facilities within the City of Vaughan have been received. Staff advise that all future MSR requests will only be presented to Committee of the Whole and Council once a

Proponent has submitted a development application and it has been determined by staff that the proposed development is consistent with and conforms to the applicable provincial, regional and local plans and policies, in accordance with the *Planning Act*.

For more information, contact Will Baigent, Sustainability Coordinator, ext. 8941

Approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Haiqing Xu', written in a cursive style.

Haiqing Xu, Deputy City Manager
Planning and Growth Management