



## TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: October 14, 2016

REPORT TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Bill White, CAO/Clerk

SUBJECT: Solar Installations; German Solar former CN Lands

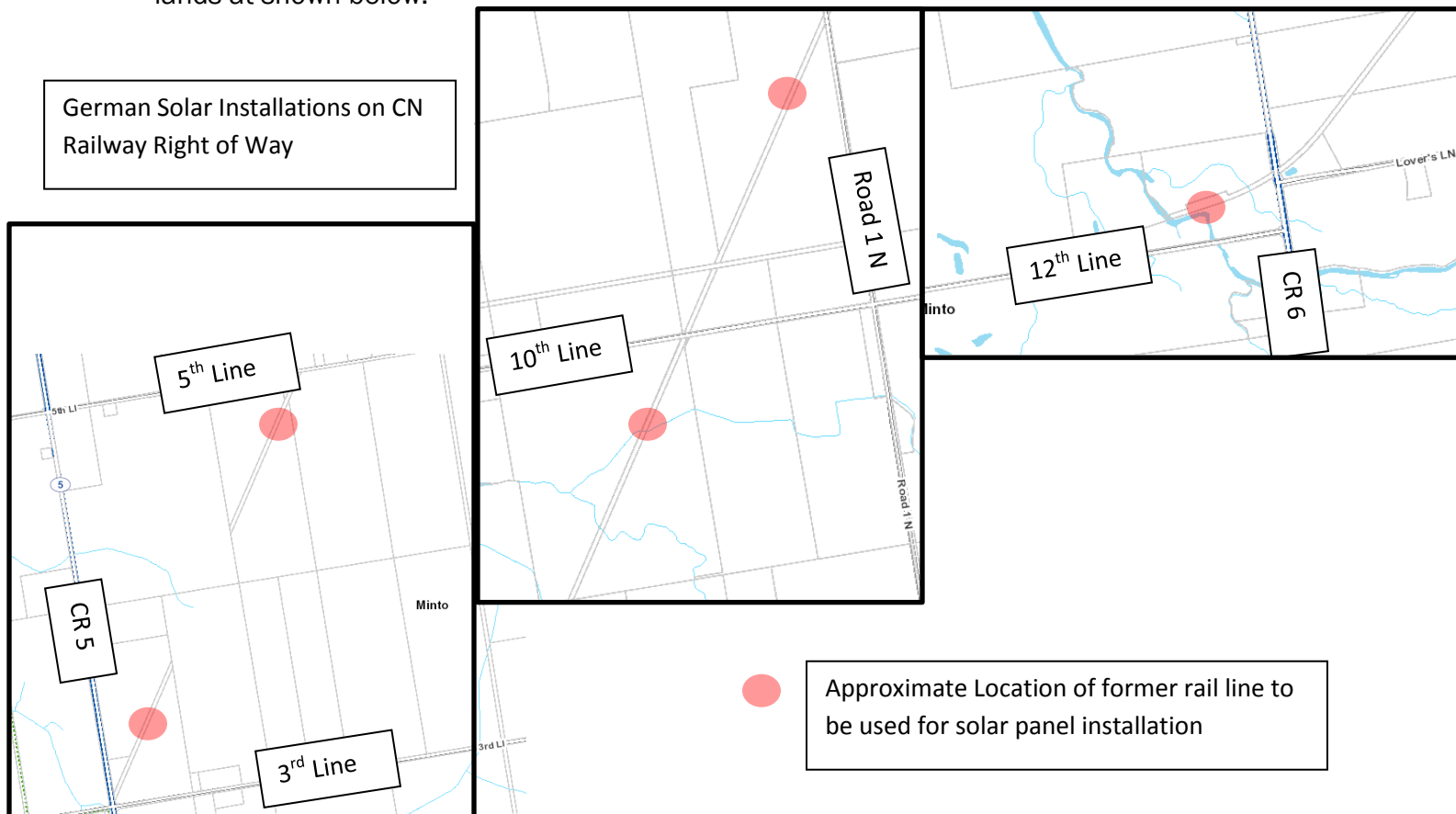
### **STRATEGIC PLAN:**

10.11 In partnership with private business host solar power initiatives on Town land that encourage local investment keeping in mind community impacts, and Provincial policy. Support on a case by case basis investment in solar energy on private lands where compatible with community interests are addressed.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2012 and 2013, the Town unsuccessfully submitted 8 sites under feed in tariff (FIT) rules for solar installations less than 500 kW. In May 2015 guidelines published for FIT 4.0 allowed the Town to again submit its 8 sites, and finally contract offers were received in 2016. FIT 4.0 required municipalities in the program pass a “blanket resolution” supporting other solar projects so that they may receive priority points under the program. The Town passed a blanket resolution June 16, 2015 which expired one year later.

Guidelines for FIT 5.0 are now published which allow for new solar applications under 500kW starting October 31, 2016. German Solar proposes five installations on former rail lands as shown below:



The applicants will install along the rail lines in double or single row configurations as illustrated in the pictures below and outlined in their presentation.



Double Row Configuration



Single Row Configuration

If a contract offer is received for ground mount installation typically there is a public process involved before panels can be installed. Passing the requested resolution should not prevent the Town from commenting on the specifics location of the panel rows if this is a concern to Council.

The following is a sample resolution provided by German Solar. While it is not a blanket resolution this time, it does limit the Town support to allowing the project to receive priority points and not any other approval or purpose.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 | <p><b>[WHEREAS]</b> capitalized terms not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the FIT Rules, Version 5.0.</p> <p><b>[AND WHEREAS]</b> _____ (insert the legal name of the Applicant) (the "Applicant") proposes to construct and operate a<br/>         _____<br/>         (insert description of Project, including Renewable Fuel (e.g., Rooftop Solar, Biogas, etc.))</p> <p>(the "Project") on _____ (insert the PIN or legal description of the Property(ies)) (the "Lands") in<br/>         _____<br/>         (insert the name of the Local Municipality) under the province's FIT Program;</p> <p><b>[AND WHEREAS]</b> the Applicant has requested that Council of _____ (insert the name of the Local Municipality)<br/>         _____<br/>         indicate by resolution Council's support for the construction and operation of the Project on the Property.</p> <p><b>[AND WHEREAS]</b> pursuant to the FIT Rules, Version 5.0, Applications whose Projects receive the formal support of Local Municipalities will be awarded Priority Points, which may result in the Applicant being offered a FIT Contract prior to other Persons applying for FIT Contracts;</p> |
|   | <p><b>[NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT]</b></p> <p>Council of the _____ (insert the name of the Local Municipality) supports the construction and operation of the<br/>         _____<br/>         Project on the Lands.</p> <p>This resolution's sole purpose is to enable the Applicant to receive Priority Points under the FIT Program and may not be used for the purpose of any other form of municipal approval in relation to the Application or Project, or for any other purpose.</p>   |

### **COMMENTS:**

The C.A.O. Clerk met with the Chief Building Official and Public Works director regarding this proposal. Generally there was no concern with the application so long as further detail came forward on the layout and look of the site. While the installations on former rail lines in the north of Minto will not likely be visible to the public, the project between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Line east of CR 5 may be visible from municipal roads in some cases. The single or double row configuration makes sense and will allow access to maintain the panels.

The Town had has provided support resolutions for SARJ Equipment in Palmerston and the Fisher family for microFIT some years back. In 2013 The Town opposed an application for a 10MW \$40 million solar farm on 6396 16<sup>th</sup> Line, Part Lots 13, 14, Concession 17. It was these large renewable projects that were suspended by the Province September 26, 2016. Passing the municipal support resolution would not affect the Town's concerns about a 10MW solar farm where it to be proposed again. The Town is still on record as not a willing host for industrial wind turbines; passing the municipal support resolution under FIT 5.0 does not impact on this position.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

There are no financial considerations with passing the support resolution.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receives the C.A.O. Clerk's October 14, 2016 report, Solar Installations; German Solar former CN Lands, and that the required municipal support resolution be provided as needed as generally outlined as follows:

***WHEREAS*** Capitalized terms not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the FIT Rules, Version 5.0

***AND WHEREAS*** GSC RP 15 LP, a subsidiary of German Solar Corporation (the "Applicant") proposes to construct and operate a Non-Rooftop Solar Project (the "Project") on various former rail lands (the "Lands") in the Corporation of the Town of Minto under the Province's FIT Program;

***AND WHEREAS***, the Applicant has requested that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Minto indicate by resolution that the Project on the Property.

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the FIT Rules, Version 5.0. Applications whose Projects receive the formal support of Local Municipalities will be awarded Priority Points, which may result in the Applicant being offered a FIT Contract prior to other Persons applying for FIT Contracts;

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*** Council of the Corporation of the Town of Minto supports construction and operation of the Project on the Lands.

This resolution's sole purpose is to enable the Applicant to receive Priority Points under the FIT Program and may not be used for the purpose of any other form of municipal approval in relation to the Application or Project, or for any other purpose.

Bill White, C.A.O. Clerk