

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2017

Item 6, Report No. 26, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 27, 2017.

**6 ESA DEVIATION REQUEST FORM FOR SOLAR PANEL PROJECTS
 ALL WARDS**

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the following be approved in accordance with Communication C20 from the Deputy City Manager, Community Services and the Manager, Facility Maintenance Services, dated June 20, 2017:**
 - 1. That the report of the Deputy City Manager, Community Services and the Manager of Facility Maintenance Services contained in the Committee of the Whole agenda of June 20, 2017 as Item #6, be received.**

Recommendation

The Deputy City Manager, Community Services and the Manager of Facility Maintenance Services in consultation with Legal Services, Office of the City Solicitor recommend:

1. That the City Clerk be authorized to execute the ESA Rodent Deviation Request form for the solar panel projects as advised by Alectra Utilities (Attachment 1).

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities in the Green Directions Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, 6.1:

To fully support the implementation of Green Directions at all levels of City operations.

Economic Impact

There are no financial implications for the Corporation resulting in authorizing the City Clerk to execute the agreement.

Communications Plan

None.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to authorize the City Clerk to execute the ESA Rodent Deviation Request form for the solar panel projects.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the February 21, 2017 meeting, Council awarded tender T16-464, Roof upgrade for installation of solar panels at six (6) community centres, Chancellor CC, Father Ermanno Bulfon CC, Maple CC, Dufferin Clark CC, Garnet A. Williams CC, and North Thornhill CC.

The Roof upgrade for installation of solar panels at the six (6) community centres, Chancellor CC, Father Ermanno Bulfon CC, Maple CC, Dufferin Clark CC, Garnet A. Williams CC, and North Thornhill CC project consists of the repair and upgrade of the roofs. The City is working in partnership with Alectra Utilities for the installation of solar arrays on the rooftops of the community centres.

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The work to repair and/or replace roofs at these locations is required as a result of the roof assessments conducted in 2016 and to meet the requirements of the solar installations overall. The project will strengthen the City's commitment to environmental stewardship as once installed, arrays are projected to generate an estimated 850 kW of energy per year to the Alectra grid and approximately \$47,750 in annual lease payments to the City.

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) passed rule 64-210(5) to protect roof top solar arrays from rodents. Rule 64-210(5) requires mechanical protection against rodents for PV source circuit conductors on or above a building, where the dc arc-fault protection (when required) is not located at the module. The problem largely exists with residential installations however the rule applies to all rooftop installations. Alectra has determined that there is no commercially viable solution for tilted arrays on commercial rooftops. In Alectra's 88 rooftop installations they have had only one incidence of rodent damage and that was to a sensor wire used to monitor the solar generation. ESA will grant an exemption to the rule but Alectra must have the owner sign a deviation form to ensure they are aware of the exemption. There is no solution to this issue that would leave Alectra's solar installations economically viable. The Electrical Safety Authority allows the exemptions to commercial installations because the risk of rodent damage is very small in these cases.

Alectra's solar systems will be remotely monitored to effectively manage the safe operation of the systems. Alectra's solar systems are fully insured as per the lease agreement with the City of Vaughan and nothing changes in regard to risk to the City of Vaughan.

Alectra is asking all Shareholders, City of Vaughan, City of Barrie, City of Markham and City of Hamilton to sign the rodent deviation request form for their hosted FIT 4 solar rooftop projects.

The alternatives available would be for Council to recommend that Alectra be required to install rodent protection, however this is not seen as a viable option, as Alectra Utilities have indicated this is not economically feasible and would cause them to cancel the projects in Vaughan.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

This report supports the following priorities set forth in the Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018):

- Invest, renew and manage infrastructure and assets.
- Continue to cultivate an environmentally sustainable City.

Regional Implications

None.

Conclusion

Staff recommends the City Clerk be authorized to execute the ESA Rodent Deviation Request form for the solar panel projects as advised by Alectra Utilities.

Attachments

1. ESA Application for Rodent Deviation Request - City of Vaughan
2. City of Vaughan - Facility List

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(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)