



Newsroom 2011

[October 31, 2011 - FIT Program review under way](#)

Ontario is moving forward with its commitment to review the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) Program.

The review will consider a range of issues, including but not limited to:

- FIT price reduction
- ensuring the long-term sustainability of clean energy procurement
- continuing to build on the success of Ontario-based manufacturing and clean energy job creation
- consideration of new technologies and fuel sources
- local consultations and the renewable approval process (REA).

[August 5, 2011 - Option on Waiver of OPA Termination Rights](#)

Further to the August 2, 2011, program update regarding the waiver on OPA termination rights, please be advised of the following option: If a Supplier submits an **accurate** and **complete** waiver on or before August 15, 2011, the OPA will use commercially reasonable efforts to review and execute the waiver by September 30, 2011.

[August 2, 2011 - Waiver of OPA termination rights available](#)

To support manufacturing supply chain development, on August 2, 2011, the Ministry of Energy directed the OPA to offer FIT contract holders the opportunity to have the OPA's termination rights under section 2.4(a) of the FIT Contract waived.

[July 4, 2011 - Projects enabled by Bruce to Milton transmission line offered contracts](#)

The OPA announced it will offer contracts to 25 new large-scale renewable energy projects, representing 1,046 MW of capacity. There are 19 wind projects and six solar projects.

[June 3, 2011 - Allocating Capacity and Offering FIT Contracts for Bruce to Milton Enabled Projects](#)

As outlined in the province's Long-Term Energy Plan, the Bruce to Milton Transmission project will allow the Ontario Power Authority to offer contracts for renewable energy projects under the Feed-in Tariff Program. Today the Ontario Power Authority is outlining the process to offer over 1,000 MW of renewable energy contracts.

[May 26, 2011 - Third round of mid-sized renewable energy contracts offered](#)

On May 26, 2011, the OPA began offering contracts to 839 CAE FIT projects, representing more than 140 MW of capacity. Contracts will be offered over the next 10 weeks.

[February 24, 2011 - Second Round Of Large-Scale Renewable Energy Projects](#)

The OPA has awarded 40 new contracts for more than 872 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy under the FIT Program, following the completion of the second phase of the Transmission Availability Test (TAT) and the Distribution Availability Test (DAT).

[February 9, 2011 - One-year extension of Milestone Date for Commercial Operation available for FIT contract holders](#)

The OPA is offering to amend the contracts of all FIT counterparties who have not yet reached commercial operation so that these suppliers may extend their milestone date for commercial operation (MCOD) by up to one year.

[February 9, 2011 - Rule change for CAE FIT applications](#)

The OPA has made a rule change for capacity allocation exempt (CAE) FIT applications submitted on or after December 8, 2010.

[February 1, 2011 - New FIT Program Proposed for Commercial Aggregators](#)

The OPA is introducing a new stream in the Feed-In Tariff Program for commercial aggregators, called the CFIT (commercial feed-in-tariff) Program, to accommodate the unique nature of commercial micro-generation projects.

FIT Program review under way

Ontario is moving forward with its commitment to review the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) Program.

The review will consider a range of issues, including but not limited to:

- FIT price reduction
- ensuring the long-term sustainability of clean energy procurement
- continuing to build on the success of Ontario-based manufacturing and clean energy job creation
- consideration of new technologies and fuel sources
- local consultations and the renewable approval process (REA).

As a result of this review, new prices and rules for FIT contracts will be carefully developed to balance the interests of ratepayers with the need to encourage investments in new clean energy in Ontario.

Ontarians can provide feedback by answering an online survey or making a written submission at www.Ontario.ca/FITreview until December 14, 2011. The OPA hosted a webinar on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 to discuss the FIT Program Review. [View the session archive.](#)

New FIT applications will continue to be accepted and time-stamped, but they will not be processed until the new version of the Program Rules and pricing schedule are available once the review is complete. They will then be subject to the new FIT Rules and pricing schedule.

Existing FIT applications (those that were submitted prior to the announcement of the FIT Program review on October 31 and have not yet received a contract) will be processed under the new FIT Rules and pricing schedule once the FIT Program review is complete.

While not normally refundable, the OPA will refund the FIT application fee for applicants who wish to withdraw their application as a result of the program review announcement.

The FIT Program review will not affect existing contracts. Projects should proceed according to their existing contract terms and obligations.

FIT contract holders that have reached commercial operation	Not affected	Existing Rules and contract
FIT contract holders that have not yet reached commercial operation	Not affected	Existing Rules and contract
FIT applicants on the priority ranking list	Subject to the new Rules and pricing	Awaiting available transmission or distribution capacity

FIT CAR applicants submitted June 5, 2010 or later	Subject to the new Rules and pricing	To be processed under new Rules, subject to available transmission or distribution capacity
FIT CAE applicants submitted December 8, 2010 or later	Subject to the new Rules and pricing	To be processed under new Rules, subject to screen for available transmission or distribution capacity
New FIT applicants	Subject to the new Rules and pricing	Will be time-stamped, to be processed under new Rules, subject to available transmission or distribution capacity

Option on Waiver of OPA Termination Rights

August 5, 2011

Further to the [August 2, 2011, program update](#) regarding the waiver on OPA termination rights, please be advised of the following option:

- If a Supplier submits an **accurate** and **complete** Waiver on or before August 15, 2011, the OPA will use commercially reasonable efforts to review and execute the Waiver by September 30, 2011.

The timelines for submission of all additional materials (Domestic Content Plan and evidence of agreement(s) for the purchase of Generating Equipment) do not change.

The OPA hosted web-enabled teleconferences on August 9 and August 23 to discuss the process for obtaining a waiver. Below are the links to the session archives where you will be able to listen to the sessions and view the presentations. A PDF copy of August 23 presentation is also [posted here](#).

Archive August 9: http://www.snwebcastcenter.com/event/?event_id=2025

Archive August 23: http://www.snwebcastcenter.com/event/?event_id=2057

Waiver of OPA termination rights available

August 2, 2011

To maintain momentum and ensure Ontario remains North America's leading jurisdiction for clean energy investment, Ontario is making it easier for energy developers and manufacturers to do business in the province. This is part of ongoing efforts to help provide stability and create jobs in Ontario's clean energy sector.

To support manufacturing supply chain development, on August 2, 2011, the Ministry of Energy directed the OPA to offer FIT contract holders the opportunity to have the OPA's termination rights under section 2.4(a) of the FIT Contract waived.

The directive is available by [clicking here](#). A Ministry of Energy news release is available by [clicking here](#).

Section 2.4(a) of the FIT Contract says that either the OPA or the Supplier may terminate the FIT Contract until the OPA issues a Notice to Proceed (NTP) and the Supplier has paid the Incremental NTP Security.

The Minister's directive established a December 31, 2011, deadline for approved Domestic Content Plans and equipment purchase agreements. These plans need to be reviewed by the OPA. To ensure that there is enough time to thoroughly review plans, the OPA has established the following timeline:

- Non-Capacity Allocation Exempt projects (generally larger than 500 kW) must submit the waiver, a Domestic Content Plan and evidence of agreement(s) for the purchase of Generating Equipment as follows:
 - [the waiver](#) by **October 14, 2011**
 - a Domestic Content Plan, in the Prescribed Form titled [FIT Contract Form of Domestic Content Plan \(Waiver\)](#), by **October 14, 2011 (form updated August 9)**
 - evidence of agreement(s) for the purchase of Generating Equipment, in the form of a [Statutory Declaration](#), by **November 30, 2011**.

The Domestic Content Plan will be reviewed for completeness and substantiation.

- Capacity Allocation Exempt projects must submit the [waiver](#) and a [Domestic Content Plan](#) by 5 p.m. on **December 30, 2011**.

If those requirements are not met by the specified deadline, the waived termination rights will be reinstated.

All Suppliers still need to submit an NTP Request to the OPA and provide evidence of regulatory approvals (Renewable Energy Approval, or environmental assessment or screening in the case of a hydroelectric project), a completed Financing Plan, a Domestic Content Plan, if applicable, and documentation related to required impact assessments, as well as pay the required security.

More details about submitting the waiver and the required additional information are [available here](#).

This change will further advance Ontario as the leading destination for clean energy investment. Ontario's clean energy sector has already created 20,000 jobs to date and is on track to create 50,000 jobs by the end of 2012.

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Archive August 23: http://www.snwebcastcenter.com/event/?event_id=2057

Projects enabled by Bruce to Milton transmission line offered contracts

On **July 4, 2011**, the OPA announced it will offer contracts to 25 new large-scale renewable energy projects, representing 1,046 MW of capacity.

There are 19 wind projects and six solar projects. A list of these new renewable energy projects can be [found here](#).

It is estimated that these projects will provide enough electricity to power more than 280,000 homes or a community the size of Windsor each year. These projects will create about 5,000 jobs and help attract approximately \$3 billion in new private-sector investment to the province.

These contract offers represent projects that are enabled by the new Bruce to Milton transmission line. Projects on the priority ranking list in the Bruce and West of London areas were offered an opportunity to change their connection point and were then assessed for transmission availability. The process for allocating the capacity is [outlined here](#).

[Ministry of Energy news release](#)

[Map of contracts offered through Bruce to Milton capacity allocation process](#)

[Updated Priority Ranking List](#)

[FIT Applications for the Bruce to Milton Capacity Allocation Process](#)

Allocating Capacity and Offering FIT Contracts for Bruce to Milton Enabled Projects

June 3, 2011

As outlined in the province's Long-Term Energy Plan, the Bruce to Milton Transmission project will allow the Ontario Power Authority to offer contracts for renewable energy projects under the Feed-in Tariff Program. Today the Ontario Power Authority is outlining the process to offer over 1,000 MW of renewable energy contracts.

Eligibility

- Projects that will be included in the assessment must be on the [FIT Priority Ranking list](#) for either the Bruce or West of London transmission areas.

Process

- Eligible proponents have five business days to change their connection points. The location of the project itself cannot change.
- Projects with connection points that trigger upgrades only to the connection parts of the system (the costs of which are the responsibility of the proponent) will be eligible to receive a contract offer where capacity is available.
- An updated [Transmission Availability Table](#) has been posted on the FIT website.
- When the five-day change of connection window closes, the OPA will carry out a Transmission Availability Test and, in conjunction with LDCs, a Distribution Availability Test, for all eligible projects.
- The OPA will offer contracts for up to 750 MW in the Bruce transmission area, and up to 300 MW in the West of London transmission area.
- Contracts will be offered based on transmission capacity availability and the priority project ranking in both of the eligible transmission areas.
- Please [click here](#) for the Connection Point Amendment Form and Instructions.

Timing

- The five-day change of connection point window is effective June 6 and closes June 10, 2011, at 5 p.m.
- TAT/DAT assessments will start immediately after the change of connection point window closes.
- The OPA anticipates offering contracts in late June.

Economic Connection Test

- In November 2010, the province released its Long-Term Energy Plan. Based on the plan, the OPA was directed to plan for 10,700 MW of installed non-hydroelectric renewable energy capacity by 2018. The plan also identified

investments in five priority transmission projects.

- Projects that do not receive contract offers through the Bruce to Milton capacity allocation will remain on the priority ranking list. The OPA continues its work on the ECT process.

Webinar on Allocating Bruce to Milton Capacity *UPDATED June 7, 2011

The OPA held a web-enabled teleconference on June 6, 2011 to provide information and answer questions on the assessment and contract offer process.

An archive of the session's audio and presentation files are available below.

- http://www.snwebcastcenter.com/event/?event_id=1888

- [Click here](#) for presentation.

A revision has been made to the third bullet on Slide 12.

For more information on the Bruce to Milton assessment and contract offer process and other FIT-related issues please email fit@powerauthority.on.ca.

Questions

Questions that applicants have on the process should be sent by email to fit@powerauthority.on.ca.

The OPA will not be responding individually to questions received but will post questions it receives and their answers as quickly as possible at [this link](#). This will ensure that the same information is available to all parties.

[Transmission Table \(Circuit\)](#)

[Transmission Table \(Station\)](#)

[FIT Rules Version 1.5](#)

[FIT Contract Version 1.5](#)

[FIT Standard Definitions Version 1.5](#)

[Connection Point Amendment form and Instructions](#)

Third round of mid-sized renewable energy contracts offered

On May 26, 2011, the OPA began offering contracts to 839 CAE FIT projects, representing more than 140 MW of capacity. Contracts will be offered over the next 10 weeks.

These contract offers are the third phase of mid-sized (capacity allocation exempt) renewable energy projects and are for applications submitted between June 5 and December 7, 2010. It is estimated that this will create and support more than 2,000 direct and indirect jobs, and attract more than \$900 million in private sector investment.

Contracts are being offered to homeowners, farmers, schools, municipalities, major retailers, a car dealership, community housing projects, fairgrounds, a hospital, a greenhouse, a transit commission and even a monastery.

A detailed list of these third-round, renewable energy projects is [available here](#).

[Ministry of Energy news release](#)

February 24, 2011 - Second Round Of Large-Scale Renewable Energy Projects

The Ontario Power Authority has awarded 40 new contracts for more than 872 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy under the FIT Program, following the completion of the second phase of the Transmission Availability Test (TAT) and the Distribution Availability Test (DAT).

These new contracts include 257 MW of solar projects and 615 MW of wind projects and are located across the province. They will generate enough combined electricity each year to power 200,000 homes or a community the size of Burlington.

For a listing of these second-round FIT contracts, [click here](#).

This brings the total number of contracts awarded by the OPA under the FIT program to 1,570, representing 3,565 MW of clean, renewable energy for Ontario.

The OPA began the testing for transmission and distribution availability in October 2010 for larger FIT applications that were submitted between December 1, 2009, and June 4, 2010. The TAT and DAT were delayed because of the exceptionally high volume of second round FIT applications received. In total, there were 324 large FIT applications (greater than 500 kW) with a potential generating capacity of 4,547 MW.

Applicants who were not awarded contracts because transmission capacity is not currently available have been added to the priority ranking list and will proceed to the Economic Connection Test (ECT). The ECT will determine whether the costs of the required system upgrades to enable renewable generation to connect are justifiable for initiating development work and can be included in grid expansion plans. Details and timing regarding the ECT process will follow shortly.

The updated priority ranking of projects is available by [clicking here](#).

In the coming weeks, the OPA expects to begin awarding phase three contracts for capacity allocation exempt (CAE) projects (under 500 kilowatts) that applied between June 5, 2010, and December 7, 2010.

For phase one large FIT contract offers (applications submitted during the launch period), [click here](#).

For phase one CAE contract offers (applications submitted during the launch period), [click here](#).

For phase two CAE contract offers (applications submitted between December 1, 2009, and June 4, 2010), [click here](#).

February 9, 2011 - One-year extension of Milestone Date for Commercial Operation available for FIT contract holders

The OPA is offering to amend the contracts of all FIT counterparties who have not yet reached commercial operation so that these suppliers may extend their milestone date for commercial operation (MCO) by up to one year.

The FIT Program is the most comprehensive program of its kind in North America. The interest and uptake has exceeded expectations. The OPA has offered more than 1,500 FIT contracts representing almost 2,700 megawatts to produce and deliver power to the province's electricity grid.

When this program was launched, Ontario also introduced a new environmental approvals process that provides a consistent set of rules and approvals across the province. The new approvals process has meant adjustments for several ministries, as well as a learning curve for developers. There has been feedback from renewable energy project developers that they need more time to prepare the material for a complete submission.

In response, the government is asking the OPA to offer extensions to developers to help them successfully bring their projects into operation. We have heard these concerns and are addressing them.

FIT contract holders now have additional flexibility, which will allow them adequate time to obtain all necessary approvals prior to constructing their project. This includes ensuring public, Aboriginal and municipal consultation requirements have been met where necessary.

Over the next several weeks during February and March, the OPA will contact FIT suppliers by email with an offer to execute an amending agreement that would extend the MCO by up to one year in exchange for trade-offs by the supplier on certain Force Majeure rights. The email will also include further instructions on how to finalize the agreement and take advantage of the extension offer. The extension will not take effect until this agreement has been executed.

This extension will not affect the domestic content requirements

February 9, 2011 - Rule change for CAE FIT applications

The OPA has made a rule change for capacity allocation exempt (CAE) FIT applications submitted on or after December 8, 2010. A new eligibility criterion has been added that requires CAE facilities to be deemed by the OPA as capable of connecting at the proposed connection point. To access the new version of the FIT Rules, please [click here](#).

This rule change is designed to ensure that potential connection issues are identified as early as possible in the application and contracting processes and will better align projects with available connection capacity.

The proposed rule change was posted for comment on December 8, 2010. The comment period closed on January 7, 2011. We thank all those who made submissions.

Based on feedback received, the OPA will require CAE FIT applicants to obtain a Connection Impact Assessment from their local distribution company after the OPA issues a contract. This is consistent with the FIT Program process for larger projects and ensures fairness in terms of access to the grid. To view the Guidelines for Connection Capability, [click here](#).

For more information about connecting your CAE FIT project, please speak to your local distribution company. If you have further questions, you can contact the OPA at 1-888-387-3403 or send an email to fit@powerauthority.on.ca.

February 1, 2011 - New FIT Program Proposed for Commercial Aggregators

The CFIT Program is being reviewed in the context of the FIT Program Review. Updates will be posted on the FIT Program website when they are available.

The Ontario Power Authority is introducing a new stream in the Feed-In Tariff Program for commercial aggregators, called the CFIT (commercial feed-in-tariff) Program, to accommodate the unique nature of commercial micro-generation projects.

This program stream is intended for commercial entities with one or more micro-generation projects, those who are not eligible participants for the microFIT Program, and those who wish to take advantage of secured lender provisions not found in the microFIT contract.

The OPA committed in August 2010 to introducing a program for commercial aggregators, businesses that lease land or rooftops from individuals for multiple renewable energy projects. A microFIT advisory panel was established, and it reviewed proposals and made recommendations on the CFIT Program. **The OPA is now inviting broader stakeholder feedback on the draft CFIT Rules, Conditional Offer and Contract.**

Proposed key features of CFIT include:

- appropriate pricing - 71.3 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for rooftop solar PV projects, 44.3 cents/kWh for ground-mounted solar PV projects
- contract provisions to permit a lender to have step-in rights in the event of a supplier default to the lender
- an application fee of \$500 per megawatt, with a minimum fee of \$500.

In setting the price for the CFIT Program, the OPA considered:

- equipment and installation costs for economies of scale realized by commercial aggregators
- ensuring a reasonable rate of return on equity of the project
- balancing the need to protect ratepayers with prices that are responsive to current market conditions
- ensuring long-term program sustainability
- the current FIT price schedule for other project sizes.

Potential changes to streamline the application and contract management processes of the CFIT program will require additional time and will be considered during the two-year program review in 2011.

Comments on the draft CFIT Rules, Conditional Offer and Contract will be accepted for two weeks, until February 18, 2011. They can be sent by email to submissions@powerauthority.on.ca.

 [Draft CFIT Program Rules](#)

 [Draft CFIT Contract](#)

 [Draft CFIT Conditional Offer](#)

 [CFIT Program Summary of Changes](#)