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microFIT Program review underway

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

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

- microFIT 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 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 will hold a webinar on Wednesday, November 2, 2011, at 10 a.m. in order to provide information.

Existing microFIT applications submitted up to August 31, 2011 (within the OPA's 60-day processing period) will be processed and issued conditional offers under the existing Rules and pricing schedule.

MicroFIT applications that were submitted after August 31 and new applications will be subject to the new microFIT Rules and pricing schedule. Applications 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.

The microFIT Program review will not affect existing contracts or conditional offers.

microFIT contract holder	Not affected	Existing Rules and Contract
microFIT conditional offer holder	Not affected	Existing Rules. Contract when received will reflect rate in conditional offer.
microFIT applicant on or before August 31, 2011	Not affected	Existing Rules. Conditional offer when received will reflect current rate.
microFIT applicant September 1, 2011 or later	Subject to new rules and pricing	Application will be time-stamped and processed once new Rules and pricing are available.
New microFIT applicant	Subject to new rules and pricing	Application will be time-stamped and processed once new Rules and pricing are available.

Hydro One Networks Application from Section 6.2.6 & 6.2.7 of Distribution System Code - Notice of Application

Hydro One Networks Inc. has applied to the Ontario Energy Board for a six-month exemption from the required timelines to connect micro-embedded generation facilities to its distribution system. Hydro One states that the volume of requests to connect micro-embedded generation projects has been well beyond its expectations and that it expects the volume of connection requests to continue to increase. It has asked for this exemption immediately on an interim basis, until the Board makes its final determination in the matter. Hydro One has been directed to provide the OPA with a copy of the Notice of Application for posting on its website.

Hydro One states that a period of six months would be sufficient to allow it to deal with the anticipated high volume of micro-embedded generator applications, to manage its activities through the summer construction, new connects and high load periods, and to make any necessary revisions to business processes.

The attached [Notices of Application, in English and French](#), provide more information.

Domestic content requirements for microFIT projects

June 9, 2011

As microFIT proponents were informed in February 2011, the OPA is offering to extend microFIT conditional offers by up to one year. Pursuant to the [Deputy Minister of Energy's letter of January 28, 2011](#), regarding conditional offer extensions, the OPA wishes to provide clarification about the domestic content requirements for microFIT projects.

On October 8, 2010, the OPA issued a program update to identify that applications submitted after that date would not be expected to be processed or connected before December 31, 2010, and, therefore, would be expected to meet the 60-percent domestic content requirement.

This means that the domestic content requirement for microFIT solar PV applications submitted in 2009 and 2010 can be determined by the date of submission of the microFIT application.

- Applicants who submitted eligible solar PV microFIT applications to the OPA on or before October 8, 2010, have to meet a minimum domestic content requirement of 40 per cent. Applicants have the option of choosing to meet a higher domestic content threshold.
- All other applicants for solar PV microFIT projects, including those who submit their application in 2011, will have to meet a minimum domestic content requirement of 60 percent.

Conditional offer holders indicate their domestic content level when they apply for a contract once their project is connected.

This approach to the domestic content requirements recognizes that those microFIT applicants who reasonably believed they could bring their microFIT project into commercial operation by the end of 2010 should not need to meet the higher requirements because of delays related to microFIT administration or connections. It is also consistent with the Minister of Energy's recent [Directive of June 8, 2011](#).

Additional information on domestic content requirements is [available here](#).

Rule change for new microFIT applications

February 9, 2011

As a reminder, the OPA strongly encourages microFIT applicants to speak to their local distribution company about connecting to the grid before proceeding with their project.

The OPA has made a rule change that applies to all microFIT applications submitted on or after December 8, 2010. Applicants will need to obtain an offer to connect from their local distribution company before the OPA issues a microFIT conditional offer of contract. To access the new version of the microFIT 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. Local distribution companies will be required to screen applicants to ensure they can connect prior to the OPA issuing a microFIT conditional offer.

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.

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

The [Guidelines for Connection Capability](#) are available.

 [FAQs - microFIT Rule Change and Connection Constraints](#)

New FIT program proposed for commercial aggregators

February 1, 2011

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.**

Comments on the draft CFIT Rules, Conditional Offer and Contract will be accepted for two weeks, until February 18, 2011.

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 and Contract were accepted for two weeks, until February 18, 2011. The comment period is now closed.

 [Draft CFIT Program Rules](#)

 [Draft CFIT Contract](#)

 [Draft CFIT Conditional Offer](#)

 [CFIT Program Summary of Changes](#)

The OPA expects to begin accepting applications for the CFIT Program in mid-March 2011.

Thank you for your interest in the Feed-In Tariff Program.