
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report CDS-04-2025 Boralex Environmental Compliance Approval - Letter of Support



For Consideration by Council in Committee on April 8, 2025

Objective:

To obtain Council's direction to a request from Boralex for a letter of support in relation to an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) application.

Recommendations:

1. THAT Report CDS-04-2025 Boralex Environmental Compliance Approval - Letter of Support be received;
2. AND THAT staff be directed to proceed with Option # _____ as outlined in Report CDS-04-2025.

Respectfully submitted: Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager, Community & Development Services

Approved: Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer

Executive Summary:

Boralex, a developer-operator in the renewable energy industry, is soon to start construction of a 300MW battery energy storage system (BESS) project in the Hagersville Business Park. Boralex is requesting a letter of support in relation to their application for an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks (MECP). The ECA is for stormwater and sewage works. A letter has been drafted and is included as an attachment to this report should Council decide to provide its support.

Background:

Boralex, a developer-operator in the renewable energy industry, is soon to start construction of a 300MW battery energy storage system (BESS) project in the Hagersville Business Park, located at 304 Army Camp Road. In May 2023, the project was selected by the Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) as part of its Expedited Long-Term Request for Proposals (RFP) for storage capacity. Contracts have been executed with the IESO to move the project forward to construction and service. The BESS project previously received a municipal support letter from Haldimand in February 2023 and a community benefit agreement has been executed.

Recently, Boralex reached out to the Mayor's office and requested a letter of support for its Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) application to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks (MECP). The ECA is for stormwater and sewage works. Boralex advised that the review process could take up to 6 months and they believe that a municipal support letter may assist in expediting the MECP review process.

Analysis:

The ECA process is highly regulated and has a number of technical specifications that must be met by the applicant in effort to obtain Ministry approval. The letter from the County would not serve to by-pass the regular process in any way, and so, all public interest matters would still be fully addressed prior to ECA issuance. A letter of support for the ECA would be consistent with previous support that was provided in relation to the project.

Council's options are as follows:

1. Do nothing – in this option a letter of support will not be issued. Staff would advise Boralex of the Council decision should this be the option selected; or
- Issue letter of support – in this option, the letter included as Attachment 1 would be signed by the Mayor and issued to Boralex for inclusion in their ECA application package.

Financial/Legal Implications:

Not applicable.

Stakeholder Impacts:

Not applicable.

Report Impacts:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

References:

None.

Attachments:

1. Draft Support Letter.