

## Subject: Meeting Notes | Brant Battery Energy Storage Project Public Open House – November 16, 2023

Boralex hosted its first Public Open House for the proposed Brant Battery Energy Storage Project (Project) on November 16, 2023, from 4:00 – 8:00 PM, at Brant Sports Complex-Lafarge Hall, in Brant, ON.

**Boralex team:** Brandy Giannetta (Director, Environment and Community Relations), Juan Anderson (Director, Greenfield Origination), Marnie Dawson (Manager, Greenfield Origination), Lauriane Dery (Manager, Public Affairs and Communications), Anjali Purohit (Manager, Environment and Community Relations), Michelle Closson (Team Leader, Environment and Community Relations), Shelby Dockendorff (Advisor, Public Affairs and Communications), , Alexander Dejanovic (Land Manager).

### Brant Sports Complex-Lafarge Hall

944 Powerline Rd  
Brant, ON  
N3L 0B2

Approximately 65 people attended the open house (note, number is approximate as not all signed-in).

**Project Details:** Boralex is proposing a battery energy storage system (BESS) project in Paris, County of Brant, Ontario. The Brant Battery Energy Storage Project (Project) is anticipated to have a nameplate capacity of up to 100 MW. The anticipated footprint of the Project is approximately 5-10 acres. Presentation slides from the public open house are available and can be viewed on the project webpage.

### Topic of Questions/Comments

### Boralex's Response

<b>Where is Boralex located?</b>	Boralex is a Canadian company that is also operational in the US, France, and the UK. The headquarters is based in Kingsey Falls, Quebec and we have an office in Milton, ON. The team leading this Project is largely based in Ontario.
<b>How were people informed about the Open House?</b>	Registered mail was sent to stakeholders located adjacent to the Project site land parcel. Boralex also sent non-registered mail to residents within 1 km of the proposed Project location. Newspaper and digital advertisements in the Brantford Expositor and the Brant Beacon were also published two weeks in advance of the open house.
<b>Are the battery units loud?</b>	A sound assessment will be undertaken and completed by independent experts. Boralex will ensure applicable provincial limits are complied with.
<b>How will the batteries look, and will it affect the use of hiking &amp; biking trails?</b>	The Project will consist of containerized batteries, inverters, medium voltage transformers, gravel internal access roads, buried collector and communication cabling, a small transmission substation, potential garage and operations and maintenance building, and an underground or above-ground transmission line. The Project footprint will be approximately 5-10 acres. Boralex does not anticipate any impacts to the use of trails along the river. The transmission line will be crossing the river in one location, and Boralex will work to ensure minimal impacts.
<b>How many Batteries would this project consist of?</b>	For a Project of up to 100 MW, the number of battery energy storage containers can range from 100-400. The exact number of battery energy storage containers will depend on the supplier Boralex selects for the Project.
<b>What will the transmission line look like?</b>	The Project is at very early stages in the development process and therefore it has not been determined whether the transmission line river crossing will be overhead or underground, in general the transmission is expected to be on single poles. When more

**Topic of Questions/Comments****Boralex's Response**

	information about our transmission line and transmission line route is available, we will share it. Currently the proposed transmission line is approximately 3 km long.
<b><i>How did you select this site?</i></b>	In discussions with Brant Municipal Enterprises, the land parcel was identified to be an ideal location for a battery energy storage project, because it is zoned industrial, was previously used as a landfill, and has current uses for waste transfer and aggregate extraction.
<b><i>Will there be any negative impacts?</i></b>	We will be undergoing the Minor Transmission Facility Class Environmental Assessment Screening process to evaluate impacts and identify mitigation measures. Various studies will be completed, such as archeological studies and environmental constraints analysis, to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts. Boralex will also need to obtain applicable municipal permits and approvals prior to construction. During the open house there were questions regarding the crossing of the Nith River. At this time, Boralex engineers are considering various options in order to minimize impacts.
<b><i>How many staff will be employed?</i></b>	During the construction phase of the Project, we anticipate approximately 60 jobs. Once the Project is operational, we anticipate 1-2 full-time staff.
<b><i>How will you handle potential fire risks?</i></b>	Boralex has hired a specialized fire safety consultant to provide guidance on best practices for all of our battery energy storage projects. The consultant will work with Boralex and the County of Brant's fire department on best practices to be incorporated into an emergency response plan. Boralex indicated that support will be provided to the local emergency response providers, including training and/or specialized equipment, if necessary, in accordance with expert advice. During the discussions at the open house, it was identified that the County's fire department consists of volunteers. There were specific questions asked about the potential risk of multiple battery energy storage containers catching fire. It was described that Project design will incorporate appropriate separation between containers to prevent fire from spreading should one occur. It was also explained that the current best practice to manage a fire incident includes containing and controlling the fire such that it will extinguish itself and not putting water directly on a battery fire. Additionally, Project operation will include preventive measures, such as 24/7 control monitoring of the battery energy storage units.
<b><i>Will Boralex be upgrading the roads?</i></b>	Boralex will enter into a Road Use Agreement with the County of Brant which would typically include a damage deposit, accepted travel routes, location of proposed infrastructure in the road allowance, dust suppression if applicable, and a commitment to road restoration to pre-existing conditions or better. Concerns were expressed at the Open House regarding the access road and how long it would be utilized for construction purposes. Boralex indicated that construction would take approximately 8 to 12 months. Boralex will continue to work with the County to finalize details regarding the access road.
<b><i>How does Battery Energy Storage Work?</i></b>	A battery energy storage system can be charged by electricity generated from renewable energy, like wind and hydroelectric power, as well as drawing and storing energy from the grid during off-peak periods. Energy is released from the battery energy storage system during times of peak demand, keeping costs down and electricity flowing.
<b><i>When will the Project be operational?</i></b>	We anticipate construction will commence as early as Q2 of 2026 and that the Project will be operational in 2027/2028.
<b><i>Do you have a First Nation Partner?</i></b>	We are working with an area First Nation on a partnership.

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<b><i>What electricity source is stored in the batteries?</i></b>	Since charging will typically occur at night, the Ontario electricity supply mix at that time is mostly Nuclear, Hydro, and Wind.
<b><i>Can you make a visual mock-up of the site?</i></b>	Yes, we can do this as the project advances.
<b><i>How will the project interact with plans for increased recreational use of the area?</i></b>	We have located the project on the portion of the property made available by the County. If the project progresses, we'll work closely with any stakeholder group and also see if there is a way we can contribute to efforts for more trails/walkways.
<b><i>Do you have any handouts I can take?</i></b>	Yes, a large stack handouts is available (all were taken by the end of the meeting, a substantial portion from one attendee who indicated they would be sharing with a group they are a part of).
<b><i>Are you planning to expand the project in the future?</i></b>	The project as proposed will take up most of the available capacity on the line, however, if we aren't successful in this round, we will work together with Brant Municipal Enterprises to either re-bid in the future or modify the project to suit future opportunities. We would have another meeting at that time.
<b><i>How does this kind of project earn revenue?</i></b>	There a few ways revenue can be earned. The IESO process is for fixed payments to be available to respond to system needs. In addition, there is potential revenue from night vs day price differences as well a potential to provide some other grid services.
<b><i>Will there be a fence around the site?</i></b>	Yes, the facility will be fenced and/or walled, just like other electrical infrastructure like substations etc.

### Contact

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the proposed Project, we can be reached at the email addresses or phone numbers below.

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