



EDP Renewables Canada Ltd.  
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## South Branch Battery Storage Project

# COMMUNITY AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by EDP Renewables Canada Ltd.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDP Renewables Canada Ltd. (the “Proponent”) is proposing to design, build, and operate the South Branch Battery Storage Project (“Project”) in response to the Independent Electricity System Operator’s (IESO) Long-Term Request for Proposals (LT1 RFP) for the procurement of capacity services to meet system reliability needs.

The Project is proposed to be located approximately 20 kilometers south of Winchester and 70 kilometers south of the nation’s capital, Ottawa. The Project takes its name directly from the South Branch River that runs near the proposed project site. South Branch Battery Storage Project would reside entirely inside the Municipality of South Dundas, in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry.

EDP Renewables Canada Ltd. believes that strong and adaptive community engagement is essential to the successful development of battery storage projects. This Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan (“CIEP”) has been developed to form the basis for the overall community engagement strategy which will be implemented throughout the Project’s lifecycle. The CIEP outlines the engagement activities and methodology that will be undertaken throughout the remaining development of the Project.

To ensure effective and meaningful engagement, this CIEP will be adapted to inform future engagement activities throughout the various stages of the Project based on feedback received from those who are potentially affected by or have an interest in the Project (i.e. Municipalities, communities, etc.). To learn more about EDPR and the South Branch Battery Storage Project, please visit the company and Project Websites: [www.edpr.com](http://www.edpr.com) ; <https://www.edpr.com/north-america/south-branch-battery-storage>.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

EDP Renewables Canada Ltd. (“EDPR”) is a leading, global renewable energy company devoted to value creation, innovation, and sustainability. To achieve this vision, EDPR dedicates considerable time and resources to building genuine and trusting relationships within local communities. The community engagement at the South Branch Battery Storage Project (the “Project”) is a testament to this commitment.

This Community Engagement Plan (“CIEP”) outlines the purpose and goal of our community engagement activities, the approach, and outcomes of consultations to date, and our plan for continued community engagement through the lifecycle of the Project. As detailed herein, achievement of the CIEP’s purpose and goal will build a foundation of trust with the local community positioning the Project to succeed during each phase of the Project.

### 1.1 Purpose

EDPR strongly believes that open, timely, comprehensive, and constructive community engagement is vital to the success of any development. Accordingly, EDPR is committed to maintaining consultation throughout the life of the Project. Consultation involves the exchange of information

between EDPR and interested, or potentially affected local groups, First Nations communities, members of the public, municipalities, agencies, and other interested stakeholders. For the purposes of this CIEP, “community” and “stakeholder” refer to anyone who is affected by or has an interest in the Project.

EDPR’s primary objective for community engagement is to identify, notify, inform and consult with all potentially interested stakeholders in order to gain a thorough understanding of the key issues and areas of importance for these stakeholders. As EDPR believes that feedback is critical to the success of community engagement, EDPR’s community consultation has, and will continue to place a strong focus on receiving input and feedback from stakeholders on all aspects of the Project. The Proponent commits to providing additional information or explanation, addressing concerns, and incorporating stakeholder feedback into the planning, design, construction and operation of the Project, where possible and practical. EDPR believes that the successful implementation of an engagement plan ensures that the community in which a project is located has the opportunity to be involved with the full project lifecycle, from development through to decommissioning.

## 1.2 Goals

In general, the goal of the CIEP is to ensure that the Project minimizes the Project’s potential negative impacts and maximizes local benefits for the community. The specific goals of the CIEP are:

1. Identify and address issues before they become a concern through comprehensive and early engagement with community stakeholders;
2. Broaden the community engagement process to identify potential and relevant community benefits that can facilitate community support for the Project;
3. Provide the community with accurate, timely, and consistent information relating to the Project and battery storage projects;
4. Develop community support for the Project by proactively mitigating impacts and tailoring benefits to best suit the community; and
5. Promote training opportunities that allow for direct involvement by the community in the Project.

To achieve these goals, genuine community outreach, timely engagement and feedback to the community’s concerns and issues is required to ensure Project success and implementation. Thus, the primary objective of the CIEP is to ensure respect is shown to the community by engaging them in the planning process before decisions have been made. Their timely input will be critical to ensuring that their comments are incorporated and reflected in the final plans for the Project. The Proponent acknowledges that these efforts do not stop once the Project becomes operational. As an owner and operator, EDPR intends to continue engagement efforts and ensure that community feedback is collected and addressed throughout the operation and decommissioning phases of the Project.

### 1.3 Project Description and Location

The proposed Project is a battery energy storage facility sized to provide up to 200 MW over at least four (4) consecutive hours (800 MWh).

It occupies approximately 25 acres of land within a parcel located on the south side of Branch Road, between Byker Road and New Ross Road, in the Municipality of South Dundas, Ontario.

A map of the Project area is below (see Figure 1 – Project Map).

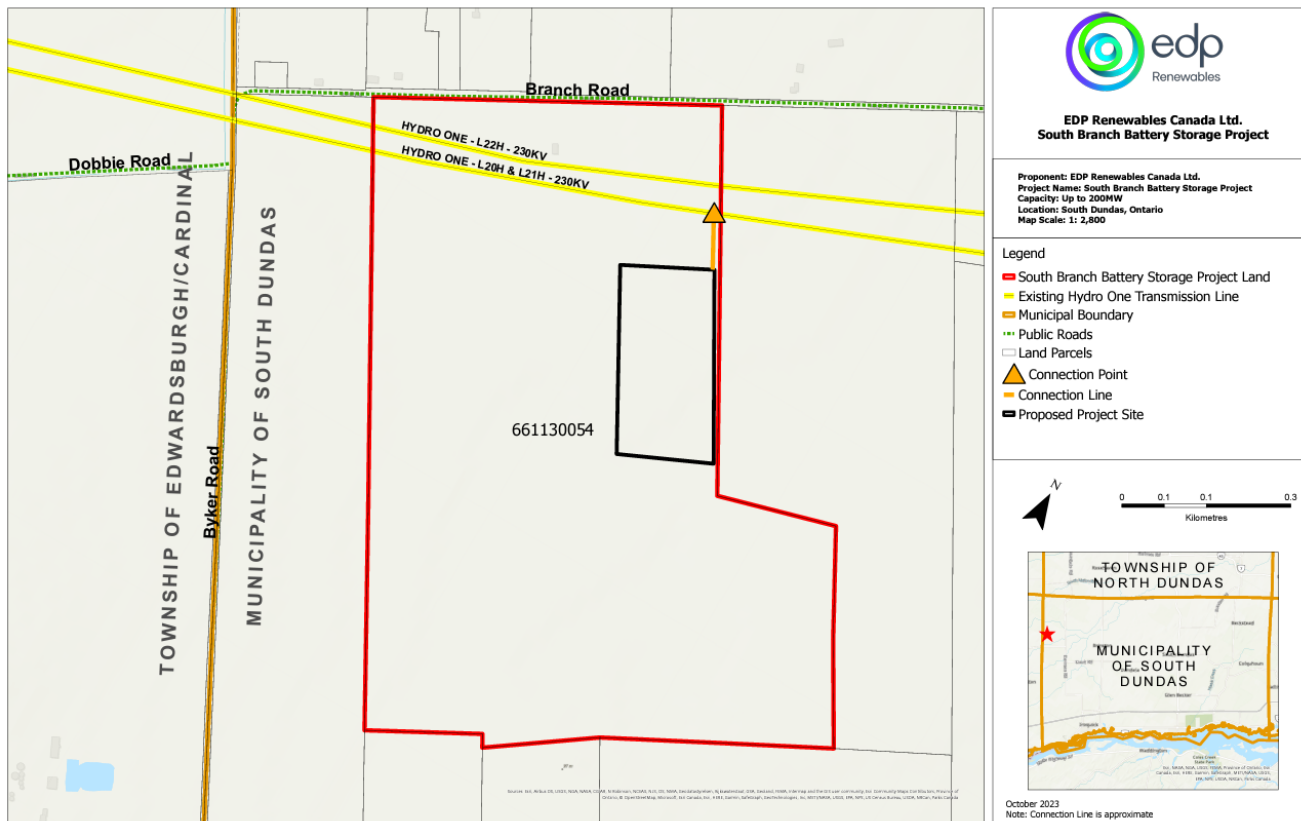


Figure 1 – Project Map



## 1.4 Project and RFP Schedule

The IESO formally began the LT1 RFP in 2023. Below is the anticipated Project and RFP schedule, which is subject to change throughout the process.

**Table 1-1 – Anticipated Project and RFP Timeline**

Date	Milestone
September 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	IESO released Final LT1 RFP and Contract
December 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Proposal submission deadline
May 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	IESO’s target date for notification to Selected Proponents
2027	Anticipated Year for Commercial Operations Dates (COD)

For the various stages of planning, development, construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning of the Project, the approaches to community engagement are described below.

## 1.5 Project Planning Phase

EDPR has and continues to place a strong emphasis on clear and ongoing communication throughout the entire planning process. As various aspects of the Project change throughout the development of the Project, it is important that the preliminary nature of the Project planning stage be emphasized and clearly conveyed to the community.

To date, engagement tools that have been used to introduce the Project to stakeholders include a Municipal Council presentation, the planning of a Public Community Meeting and the creation of a Project Website.

Open houses (or Public Community Meetings) are a key component of the planning phase that allow for stakeholder feedback to be received and incorporated into future Project planning. Display boards and information showing the Project location and additional information regarding the proposed Project including contact information for EDPR will be presented to the public at the event(s).

## 1.6 Development/Permitting

Building upon the significant planning and development work completed to date, should an IESO contract be awarded, the Project will proceed into the final development stage. This stage includes the completion of Project design and acquiring of all associated permits based on the finalized design and requires thorough data collection and analysis of technical, social, cultural, environmental, and financial information.

## 1.7 Construction

During construction, it is necessary to continue communication on the activities which may have direct effects on the community, such as improvement and construction of roads, transportation of project components, construction traffic, and use of heavy equipment on-site for the Project.

## 1.8 Operations and Maintenance

Once commissioning of the Project is complete, it is expected that EDPR will be responsible for the Project throughout both the operational and decommissioning phases. Where a commitment is made in the development or construction phase, EDPR will be the entity required to carry it out during the Project's lifetime. Project information will also be maintained on the publicly accessible website and will be communicated directly to stakeholders, as deemed necessary. Frequency of communication will be adjusted according to stakeholder needs. Members of the public will be able to contact EDPR at any time with questions or comments about the Project, via mail, phone, or email.

Public consultation and community engagement activities will continue throughout the life of the Project.

## 1.9 Decommissioning

EDPR will endeavor to notify the community prior to commencing decommissioning activities once the active service-life of the Project is complete. The successful engagement tools used during construction and operations will be employed to respond to the community interests and concerns during decommissioning. EDPR will fulfill any regulatory requirements applicable at the time of decommissioning.

## 2 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

### 2.1 Stakeholder Identification

The Proponent is committed to consult and engage with stakeholders throughout the Project’s lifecycle and utilizing the methods outlined in this document.

The Project has developed a list of stakeholders and stakeholder groups that may have an interest in or may be impacted by the Project (see Appendix A). This stakeholder and stakeholder group list will be updated, as necessary, throughout the planning, construction, operation, and decommissioning stages of the Project based on ongoing interactions and discussions with the community.

The stakeholder groups are described in greater detail below. For each of the stakeholder groups, the Proponent will utilize a number of communication mediums to consult on the proposed Project including mail, phone, email, and in-person meetings.

#### 2.1.1 Participating Landowners

The Project is proposed to be sited on a 170-acre agricultural parcel and therefore there is one participating landowner at this time.

#### 2.1.2 Non-Participating Landowner (including Adjacent Property Landowners)

Non-participating stakeholders include those individuals and entities who are not hosting infrastructure for the Project but may have interest in or be impacted by the Project. These stakeholders will be identified by obtaining title documents for the lands which are adjacent to the Project. Mailing information obtained by the title documentation will allow for notification and sharing of information regarding the Project. The non-participating landowners or adjacent property landowners will be given notice of the Community Meeting which is planned to take place on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. In addition, EDPR will be sending notices of the Public Community Meeting to landowners located within a 500m radius of the Project.

#### 2.1.3 Municipal Government

All Project lands are located within the Municipality of South Dundas, ON. The Municipality has administrators that support day-to-day activities and elected councils that make decisions and establish local by-laws. With their experience working with and representing constituents, municipal governments offer valuable insight into the local community.

The Proponent understands the importance of working closely with the municipal government and will continue to build on the established relationships with it throughout the development of the Project.

The Proponent will be requesting Municipal Support from the Municipality of South Dundas as part of the RFP process.



### 2.1.4 Provincial Government

As part of the regulatory process, the Proponent will engage with a number of provincial agencies to ensure compliance with all requirements applicable to the Project. These agencies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ontario Ministry of Energy
- Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
- Ontario Conservation Authorities
- Ontario Ministry of Transportation

### 2.1.5 Federal Government

EDPR will consult with and subsequently obtain any necessary permits and approvals from federal regulatory agencies for the Project, including but not limited to: Indigenous Services Canada, Transport Canada, and NAV CANADA and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

### 2.1.6 Indigenous Communities

The Project site is not proposed to be in whole or on part on Indigenous Lands. However, EDPR acknowledges that consultation with Indigenous communities is a critical component of developing a battery energy project. EDPR is committed to engaging with Indigenous communities during the development, construction, and operation of the Project.

## 2.2 Activity Plan & Engagements

EDPR understands the importance of having a detailed engagement activity plan to ensure overall Project success. The methods identified in the below subsections were selected to optimize two-way dialogue between the Project Proponent and stakeholders. Methods associated with the Activity Plan were designed to encourage continual feedback and promote information sharing activities.

Broad outreach is also a key characteristic of EDPR's community engagement approach. The array of engagement activities and the Proponent's commitment to notification and information sharing described within this CIEP will provide facilitation of meaningful dialogue. The intent is to provide accurate and timely information about the Project and answer questions in an open and transparent fashion. Stakeholders have different interests, impacts and preferred modes of communication. As such, the CIEP proposes utilizing different activities to accommodate these preferences; where possible we are mindful to engage with stakeholders via their preferred engagement method. This approach helps provide information in a way that is easily understood for each individual stakeholder.

### 2.2.1 Project Website and Other Media

Use of a Project Website and other media (newspapers, press releases, radio, etc.) can be an efficient way to inform the public about a proposed development. As the Project progresses through

development, local newspaper postings will be utilized to communicate Project open houses and Public Community Meeting notices.

EDPR launched a publicly available website for the Project (<https://www.edpr.com/north-america/south-branch-battery-storage>) to provide the public and Project community information on the proposed Project, a screenshot of this website can be found in Appendix C. Should the Project be awarded a contract in the IESO RFP, the website will be used as a tool to share information throughout the lifecycle of the Project. Website content will be developed further as the Project progresses; updates will include some, or all the following items:

- Posting of this Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan;
- Descriptions of Public Engagement Activities and Opportunities
- Posting of the following info: Proponents Name, Nameplate Capacity, Project Technology
- Notices for Public Community Meetings or open houses;
- Mapping and photos of the Project location (showing boundaries of Project Site, Connection Point, and approximate Connection Line);
- Contact information of the Proponent
- Project permits and approvals;
- Project update notices
- Educational and media related material;
- Additional information on EDPR;

### 2.2.2 Public Community Meetings

Public Community Meetings and open houses provide the Project Proponent the opportunity to meet, discuss, receive feedback, and inform the community about a proposed development and in doing so, gauge the overall community interest in and perception towards that development. Open houses and Public Community Meetings provide an informal setting that effectively allows members of the public to more comfortably bring up any questions or concerns that they may have via one-on-one discussions with Project representatives.

EDPR's open houses and Public Community Meetings involve information boards and displays showing the location of the proposed Project in relation to the community, information pertaining to energy storage, and updates on the status and progress of development activities.

EDPR has plans to host a Public Community Meeting for the Project with EDPR representatives present. The Public Community Meeting will take place at the Matilda Hall (4421 County Road 16/Brinston Road, Dixon's Corners, ON KOE 1C0) on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm EST.

Notice of the Community Meeting was provided to adjacent property owners, the Municipality of South Dundas Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and Clerk. The notice has also been posted to the Project Website and will be published in a local newspaper.

This Notice of the Public Community Meeting has been included in Appendix B.

### 2.2.3 Other Engagement Tools

Individual follow-up can often resolve issues that other engagement techniques cannot. Where individuals or small groups of stakeholders have specific concerns, EDPR will commit to engage with them to understand the concerns and work to address them. Although there are many engagement tools, it is often individual discussions that facilitate the effective exchange of perspectives. EDPR will use this tool as deemed effective or appropriate when individual or small groups identify specific issues or concerns.

### 3 ENGAGEMENT DETAILS

The below subsections provide a summary of the engagement activities completed for the Project to-date. The CIEP will be updated as engagement activities occur.

#### 3.1 Landowners

The Project not only impacts the Participating Landowners but also Non-Participating Landowners. As mentioned previously, EDPR plans to host a Community Meeting where all landowners can attend. The Public Community Meeting is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Matilda Hall (4421 County Road 16/Brinston Road, Dixon's Corners, ON K0E 1C0) from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm EST.

#### 3.2 Municipalities

Local municipalities have a unique understanding of Project feasibility issues related to infrastructure and servicing. Elected councils, with their experience working with and representing constituents, offer valuable insight into the local community. Therefore, in order to foster a constructive working relationship, EDPR will continue to be active in discussions with the Municipality and regularly organize meetings to discuss the Project, as appropriate. These ongoing discussions will provide both EDPR and the Municipality the opportunity to identify benefits and review and proactively address any concerns.

All Project lands are located within the Municipality of South Dundas. A brief summary of the engagement to date is presented in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1 – Municipal Consultation for the South Branch Energy Storage Project**

Stakeholder	Date	Location	Consultation
Municipality of South Dundas	October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Municipality of South Dundas Office	1 <sup>st</sup> Delegation to the Municipality of South Dundas Council

#### 3.3 Indigenous Communities

Consultation with Indigenous communities is a critical component of developing a battery storage project. A summary of engagement will be provided in the table below.

**Table 3-2 – First Nations Consultation for the South Branch Energy Storage Project**

Stakeholder	Date	Location	Consultation

## 4 CONCLUSION

The South Branch Energy Storage Project Community Engagement Plan provides a framework for engagement, consultation and for open communication, transparent information, timely notification, and ample opportunities for feedback to the public, landowners, Indigenous communities, municipalities, government, and other agencies potentially impacted by the Project. It outlines the importance of facilitating an open and ongoing dialogue with all Project stakeholders throughout the various phases of the Project and provides detail on the engagement activities undertaken to date. EDPR will continue to utilize various engagement tools as the Project progresses and will modify its community engagement approach based on the feedback received from the community.

## APPENDIX A – LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS AND STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Stakeholders	Stakeholder Group
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Federal Government
Indigenous Services Canada	Federal Government
Ontario Conservation Authorities	Provincial Government
Ontario Ministry of Energy	Provincial Government
Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks	Provincial Government
Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	Provincial Government
Ontario Ministry of Transportation	Provincial Government
NAV CANADA	Federal Government
Non-Participating Landowners	Landowners
Project Participating Landowners	Landowners
Transport Canada	Federal Government

\*List will be updated as additional stakeholders are identified



# APPENDIX B – NOTICE OF NOVEMBER 2023 PUBLIC COMMUNITY MEETING



October 31, 2023

## RE: Notice of South Branch Battery Storage Project- Public Community Meeting

Dear Stakeholder:

EDP Renewables Canada Ltd. (the "Qualified Applicant") is pleased to invite you to a public community information meeting to present the proposed **South Branch Battery Storage Project (the "Project")**. The proposed Project is being developed in answer to the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Long-Term Request for Proposals (LT1 RFP) for the procurement of capacity services to meet system reliability needs.

The proposed Project is a battery energy storage facility sized to provide up to 200 MW over at least four (4) consecutive hours (800 MWh). It occupies approximately 25 acres of land within a parcel located on the south side of Branch Road, between Byker Road and New Ross Road, in the Municipality of South Dundas. A map of the Project area is attached.

### Date of the Public Meeting

Thursday, 16 November 2023, 6 pm to 8 pm

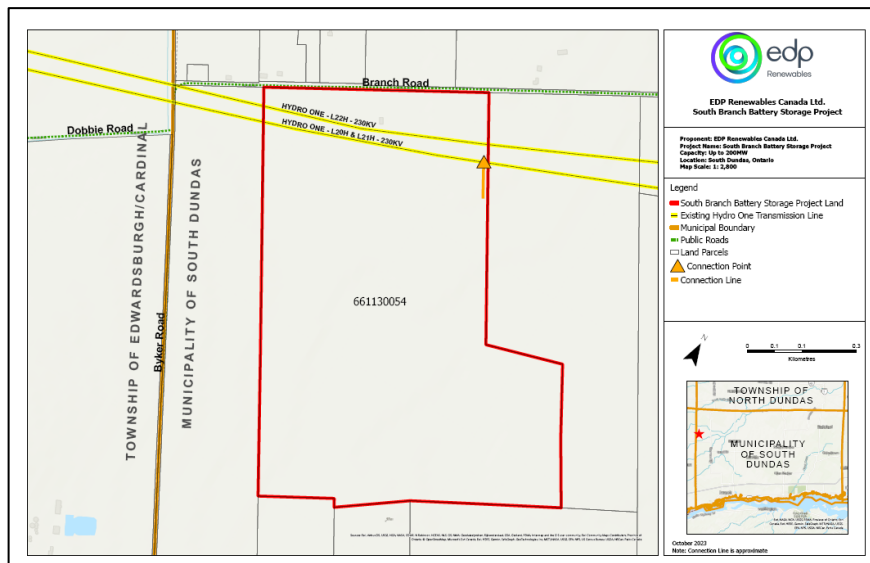
### Address

Matilda Hall, 4421 County Road 16/Brinston Road, Dixon's Corners, ON K0E 1C0

We hope you will be able to join us to meet our team, learn more about the Project, and provide your feedback. Please contact me for any questions regarding the meeting or the Project.

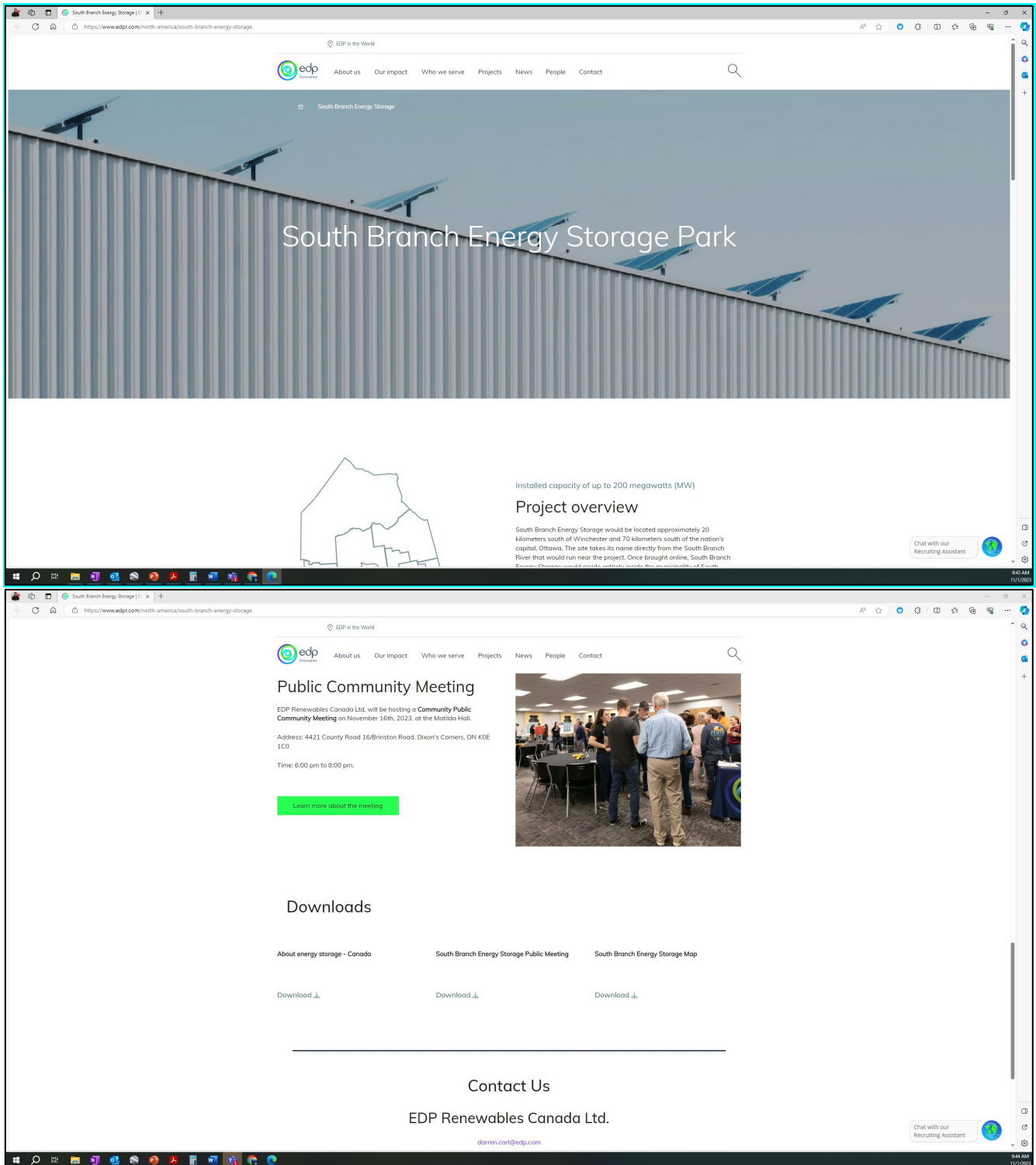
Sincerely,

Darren Carl  
Sr. Development Project Manager  
darren.carl@edp.com  
416-988-9198



Notice of November 2023 Public Community Meeting.

# APPENDIX C – PROJECT WEBSITE SCREEN CAPTURES



South Branch Storage Project Website Screen Captures from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.