

**City Council, Standing Committee and Commission
Conseil, comités permanents et commission**

Motion

Meeting date / Date de la réunion : 28 May 2025 / 28 mai 2025

Agenda No. / Ordre du jour n° :

Item Title / Titre du point de l'ordre du jour :

ACS File No. / Dossier n° (ACS) :

Item No. on Agenda / Point n° de l'ordre du jour :

Re / Objet : Providing clarity on the MSR Process

Moved by / Motion de : Councillor L. Dudas

Seconded by / Appuyée par : Councillor D. Brown

That the Rules of Procedure be suspended to consider the request for a support resolution for the South March BESS project and the following Motion so that the project proponent can provide proof of municipal support to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to provide greater certainty to the proponent that they will meet their contractual obligations with the IESO and to provide the necessary certainty to the Province and local hydro utilities that the City recognizes the crucial role battery storage systems play in meeting the city and province's future electricity needs.

WHEREAS two BESS projects located within Ottawa were awarded contracts through the LT1 RFP in 2024; and

WHEREAS Council granted a Municipal Support Resolution (MSR) to the Trail Road BESS in 2023, but declined an MSR for the Fitzroy BESS due to site suitability and consultation concerns; and

WHEREAS the proponent has since conducted extensive consultation and relocated the project approximately 13 kilometres, now referred to as the South March BESS; and

WHEREAS these changes significantly alter the project's character, prompting the proponent to request Council's consideration of the new project via a letter dated May 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS the IESO requires proof of municipal support by February 2026 to maintain the project's contractual standing; and

WHEREAS Council's current MSR process requires concurrent submission with zoning and site plan applications; and

WHEREAS given the project's long history, early Council direction is warranted to provide clarity on municipal support irrespective of planning approvals, which remain required; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, IESO, and local utilities have recognized the essential role of BESS in supporting Ottawa's growing energy needs, providing grid resilience and boosting economic development; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Energy has directly affirmed the priority of the South March BESS project to Mayor Sutcliffe and Ottawa City Council;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- 1. an item be added to the agenda for the June 5 meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee for committee to provide a recommendation for the June 11, 2025 meeting of Council to either accept or deny a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project; and**
- 2. that Ottawa City Council authorize the City Clerk to sign the MSR on behalf of Council, in accordance with the requirements of the IESO for the South March BESS project, if Council provides approval of a Municipal Support Resolution.**