

Thorold Peaking Project – In-Person Community Meeting Minutes

Meeting Summary

Date: July 6, 2023
Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm EST
Location: John Michael's Banquet and Event Centre – 1368 Upper's Lane, Thorold

Northland Power hosted an open house style meeting where attendees could view easel boards detailing the most up-to-date Thorold Peaking Project information available at the time, consistent with Northland Power's [Community and Indigenous Engagement Plan](#), while allowing attendees to pose questions to Northland Power representatives. Following the meeting, attendee questions and feedback were discussed and synthesized, contributing to the [Question and Answer Document](#) available on the [Project Website](#) (this is a living document used to summarize and address key questions and concerns across the engagement process).

Approximately 30 community members attended the meeting, with four deciding to fill in a comment sheet before leaving. Feedback from those in attendance was mostly positive, finding the event informative, with some expressing environmental concerns. Considering the environmental concerns shared at this meeting and other engagements, Northland Power has devised a Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) strategy to offset emissions, with further information available in the [RNG Brief Document](#) on the Project Website.

Please see Appendices A through D for Attendee Sign-In Sheets, Comments Sheets, Easel Boards and the Notice of In-Person Community Meeting (issued June 12, 2023), respectively.

Northland Power Representatives

- Northland Power
 - Arman Saedi, Benjamin Hall, Jim Mulvale, Kyle Smyth, Mark Airhart, Martha Epp, Salvatore Providenza, Shahid Khan, Steve Collings and Tim Richardson
- Black & Veatch – Engineering Consultant
 - Justin Buchhop
- General Electric – Primary Component Vendor
 - Justin Seymour
- Hatch – Environmental and Community Engagement Consultant
 - Christopher Sehl and Kathleen Vukovics

Appendix A – Attendee Sign-In Sheets

Thorold Peaking Project		Visitor Sign-In
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Name	Address	Phone#	E-Mail
Sol Providenza			
Arman Gadi			
Ben Hall			
Martha Epp			
UDO EPP			
Matthew Baucher			
Gordia Chelaf			
Justin Buchtop			
Tim Frederickson			
Stephen Yonick			
Tim O'Hare			
HERB SAWATYK			
Fiona McMurran			
Doan Draper			

Thorold Peaking
Project



Visitor Sign-In

Name	Address	Phone#	E-Mail
Christian			
DESMOND SEQUEIRA			
Victoria WITK			
Chris Sehl			
Mark Freeman			
Kathleen Lukovic			
David deHeer			
Burt R. [Signature]			
PATRICIA WILSON			
Timothy Healy			
John Wilson			
Luigi Emishi			
Rahman Isamy			
Godwin Mgadi			



Thorold Peaking
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Visitor Sign-In

Name	Address	Phone#	E-Mail
Ken Sentance			
Ahmad Khan			
Abdus Rahman Khan			
Wes Schroeder			
Mohsen Alghazali			
ANTHONY LONSDON			
Ron Walker			



Appendix B – Comments Sheets**Thorold Peaking Project**

Public Community Meeting

July 6, 2023 – John Michael's Event Centre

COMMENT SHEET**Contact Information:**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Comments:

I came in with a very basic awareness about this project but I'm leaving well-informed. I have a very good feeling about this project and believe it would go a long way to making our beautiful Niagara Region more thriving and prosperous.
My best wishes!

Please note: Information will be collected and used in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act, and solely for the purpose of assisting Northland Power in meeting the IESO's LT1 RFP requirements. Material from the Public Community Meeting will be maintained on the project website for the Thorold Peaking Project for use during the IESO's LT1 RFP and as required during the project lifecycle, with the exception of personal information. All comments will become part of the public record.

Thorold Peaking Project

Public Community Meeting

July 6, 2023 – John Michael's Event Centre

COMMENT SHEET

Contact Information:

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Comments:

Nice try. But I am not convinced by your arguments. We need instead to aggressively promote the use of devices like heat pumps and other means of conservation.
The accelerating climate crisis demands immediate action in response and your proposal represents the opposite.

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Appendix C – Easel Boards

Welcome to the **Thorold Peaker Project Public Community Meeting**

July 6th, 2023, 5:30PM to 7:30PM at John Michael's Event Centre 1368 Upper's Lane, Thorold, L2V 3Y7

Northland Power is pleased to welcome you to our open house. Meet the team, learn more about the Project and find answers to your questions!

If you haven't already done so, please complete the sign in sheet.



Northland Overview

- Northland is proud to be a **Canadian firm and a leading global power producer** at the forefront of the **global energy transition**.
- **Over 35 years of success** developing, constructing and operating power projects across a range of technologies.
- **Significant depth of management experience** across a number of disciplines including renewable power project development, project finance, construction and operations.
- **Strong environmental and health & safety record.**
- Building and operating **efficient natural gas facilities since 1990**. Located in Ontario and Saskatchewan, our gas turbines **generate 3,308 GWh annually**.
- Our four facilities – **Kirkland Lake, North Battleford, Spy Hill and Thorold** – use turbines to produce electricity in an efficient, reliable and environmentally responsible manner.
- In addition to our Efficient Natural Gas assets, Northland owns and operates **4 onshore wind farms, 13 ground mount solar sites, and 4 rooftop solar sites** in North America.



Growing Demand for Electricity in Ontario



Ontario continues to require, as identified by the IESO*, a robust supply of energy from natural gas to maintain cost-effective reliability, as capacity gaps emerge and to support existing and new clean technologies.

The IESO is running a series of procurements, targeting 1,500 MW of new natural gas capacity*, including a Long-Term (LT1) RFP that seeks resources to be in-service between 2026 and 2028 to address provincial and regional needs.

A key partner in Ontario's energy sector, Northland is answering this call with plans to bid a new Peaker, up to 200 MW, at Thorold into the IESO's LT1 RFP – enough to power over 100,000 homes at peak.



Adding Capacity

The power contract from the IESO is for capacity only, not energy – meaning that the Peaker project will only operate during high-demand times when electrical energy is most needed, or during emergencies.

*IESO's Resource Eligibility Interim Report

The Role of Natural Gas in the Short Term



Northland's bid for a new simple cycle peaking plant beside the **Thorold Cogeneration Station will add up to 200 MW of capacity**, not energy, with IESO's expectation that it will act as a back-up resource to support and stabilize the regional energy grid, producing little energy and emissions*.

- Natural gas provides Ontario's electricity system with **flexibility, reliability and security** as population and economic growth across the province continues to drive demand for electricity.
- **Thermal is necessary to balance out the province's renewable portfolio** and is used in times of variability when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining
- New natural gas capacity fills gaps in the short-term, **preventing emergency actions such as rolling blackouts to stabilize the grid.**
- Adding capacity near load centres or existing sites **reduces the need for large transmission upgrades.**
- Continuing to use natural gas in a limited way will **allow businesses and consumers to continue with their electrification plans and decarbonize the electricity system** without risking reliability or economic growth.



*IESO's Resource Eligibility Interim Report

IESO's Pathways to Decarbonization Report

Benefits of the Project



Local Employment

Thorold will continue to support **19 full time positions until 2040**. The new Peaker will also extend the life of employment for contractors and add up to **200 new opportunities** for construction contract employment in 2025 and 2026.



Economic Boost

Local businesses will experience increased activity due to the spin-off opportunities created by the new Peaker during development, construction, and operations. **This project will inject an estimated \$200M into the area.**



Property Taxes

Thorold's property tax contribution will be **secured until at least 2040** and will increase with the construction of the new Peaker project.



Reliable Grid Capacity

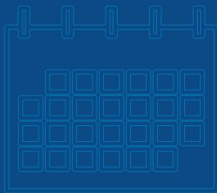
Provincial and regional capacity/reliability will increase up to 200 MW – enough to **power over 100,000 homes at peak**.

Plant Specifications and Considerations

- The current design includes a new 198 MW 7F.04 simple cycle peaking plant that will have enough capacity to **power over 100,000 homes at peak**.
- Emissions from the new high-efficiency gas turbine will be **compliant with government standards**.
- The power contract from the IESO is for **capacity only, not energy** – meaning that the expansion project will only operate during high demand times when electrical energy is most needed.
- This gas turbine is **designed to ramp up and down very quickly** to balance the load of Ontario's renewable generation portfolio.
- The new simple cycle peaking plant will be capable of burning a natural gas and hydrogen blend, and **with modifications could run on 80% hydrogen in the future** as we look to transition to further clean energy solutions.



Niagara Region's 10-Year Strategy



Green development and sustainability is one of the 9 key themes identified as critical to the Niagara Region's 10-year plan. Niagara's economic strategy includes promoting and leveraging this region's strength as one of North America's largest green energy providers to accommodate increased investment.*

Niagara Falls will be the first Ontario site for large-scale hydrogen production, positioning Niagara at the forefront of the hydrogen economy. Our new simple cycle peaking plant will be capable of burning a natural gas and hydrogen blend, and **with modifications could run on 80% hydrogen** in the future** as we look to transition to further clean energy solutions, aligning with the clean energy goals for the Niagara region.



Green Development and Sustainability

"Niagara Region supports new and innovative uses of new technologies that will lower our carbon footprint as demonstrated in this Economic Development Strategy and the new Official Plan.**"

*Niagara Economic Development Strategy
**GE 7F Heavy Duty Gas Turbine Fact Sheet

Community Investment

Building strong relationships with local communities is rooted in Northland's values. We are happy to share that this project will inject an estimated \$200M into the community. Northland Power has been active and contributing members of the City of Thorold for more than 10 years. Over this time, we have provided funding for various locally-inspired programs and initiatives including:

- McAdam Park Thorold Community Splash Pad
- Endangered species plantation
- Wildflowers and shrubs plantation
- Rain Garden & Native tree infilling



A few of our supported organizations:

Niagara United Soccer Club	Alzheimer Society Canada
Canadian Cancer Society	Niagara Health Foundation
Make a Wish Canada	

Community Engagement Planning



Northland will be running community engagement prior to formally asking the municipality for a letter of endorsement, including:

- A project website where viewers can learn more about the project: www.thoroldpeakingproject.com
- Contact information to ask questions about the project
- Two town hall meetings (one in person, refreshments provided, and one virtual)
- Notification of the project sent to our neighbors

Formal request for endorsement will be made at the Council meeting on August 1.

Project timelines:

Milestone	Timing
Community Engagement	June through August 2023
Formal Endorsement Request	August 1, 2023
Project Bid Due	October/November 2023
Bid Award	Q1/Q2 2024
Project In-service	May 1, 2027

Draft - Site Plan



Appendix D – Notice of In-Person Community Meeting



Notice of Public Community Meeting Thorold Peaking Project

RE: Notice of Public Community Meeting for the Thorold Peaking Project
Date: July 6th, 2023, from 5:30PM to 7:30PM at the John Michael’s Event Centre

[Insert Name]

[Address]

Northland Power Inc. (NPI) is intending to bid a new 198 MW peaking plant located in Thorold in response to a request for proposals (“LT1 RFP”) issued by the Government of Ontario through the Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”). After more than a decade of strong electricity supply, Ontario continues to require a robust supply of energy from natural gas to compensate for capacity gaps and increases in demand. To address these needs, the IESO is running a series of procurements, targeting 1,500 MW of new natural gas capacity to be in service between 2026 and 2028 to address provincial and regional needs.

About the Project



The proposed peaking plant will add 198 MW of new installed capacity, with IESO’s expectation that it will act primarily as a back-up resource to support and stabilize the regional energy grid, producing little energy and emissions. The proposed facility is planned to be located within the boundaries of the red border as shown on the map, adjacent to the existing Thorold Cogeneration Station site located at 90 Allanburg Rd, Thorold, Ontario. The new simple cycle peaker is intended to be a GE 7FA natural gas turbine that is designed to ramp up and down very quickly. At its peak, the turbine will have enough capacity to power over 100,000 homes. The Project will be subject to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Environmental Screening Process for Electrical Projects under *Ontario Regulation 116/01*.

To learn more about the project, visit thoroldpeakingproject.com

Public Community Meeting Information:

Northland is hosting a Public Community Meeting to provide stakeholders and rights holders the opportunity to review details of the proposed project and to provide comments to the project team. Refreshments will be provided.

Date: Wednesday, July 6th, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: John Michael’s Event Centre – 1368 Upper’s Ln, Thorold, L2V 3Y7

Proponent: Northland Power

Representatives: Shahid Khan | Kyle Smyth

For those unable to attend, you can contact our project team at ThoroldPeakingProject@northlandpower.com. An additional townhall has been tentatively schedule for August. Further details will be made available on thoroldpeakingproject.com.

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