



Selkirk learns more about solar plant

For Immediate Release – Selkirk, MB - Oct. 21, 2022 – About 65 people living in and around Selkirk attended a public information session hosted by Canadian Premium Sand (CPS) last night, to learn more about a proposal to build Canada’s first solar glass manufacturing plant in Selkirk.

“We were really pleased with the turnout last night and the range of questions from residents were smart and thoughtful and showed that everyone from local doctors to owners of small businesses to local and provincial politicians and regulators were making the link between this project and the health and growth of the community,” said CPS CEO Glenn Leroux.

For example, residents were interested in things like where the water supply will come from to operate the plant, said Leroux.

“Fortunately, the City of Selkirk has planned for just this kind of investment and has an advanced wastewater treatment plant. We will use the recycled water from that plant in the glass manufacturing process, primarily as a coolant,” said Leroux.

“We can see from exit surveys that people want to learn more about job opportunities for themselves, their children and grandchildren,” he added. It will likely take 700 people to build the plant and around 300 operate it. To put that in perspective, the Gerdau steel mill in Selkirk, has an average of 550 employees. The City of Selkirk has said that the solar glass plant would be the largest industrial investment in Selkirk in over 100 years.

A similar public information session was also held in May in Seymourville, Manitoba focusing on the company’s plan to extract silica sand in that region for use in the Selkirk plant. These public meetings are an important part of the Manitoba Environment Act Licence process.

In early September, the City of Selkirk Council approved an option to purchase agreement for a parcel of land after months of working with the CPS to ensure the location was a good fit for both the community and CPS. The option to purchase is for a 121-acre parcel located off Hwy. 9 in the city’s original industrial park. The City said the land purchase option secures the property for CPS and allows the city to put conditions on the purchase that will protect the city and its citizens.

A list of common questions and answers about the project are listed in the FAQ’s.

For more information

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