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## Proposed microFIT connection rule amendment

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**December 8, 2010**

Please note that the comment period for making submissions about the rule change has now closed. Thank you to all who made submissions. We are now reviewing the submissions and expect to post the final rule change in the coming weeks.

**The OPA strongly encourages microFIT applicants to speak to their local distribution company about connecting to the grid.**

The OPA is proposing that all new microFIT applications submitted on or after December 8, 2010, would need an offer to connect from their local distribution company before the OPA issues a microFIT conditional offer of contract. View the [proposed rule change](#).

The OPA will accept comments on this proposed rule change for a period ending January 7, 2011. Comments can be emailed to [submissions@powerauthority.on.ca](mailto:submissions@powerauthority.on.ca).

The response to the microFIT program and the FIT program for capacity allocation exempt projects has been tremendous. As a result of this success, applications for these project types are outpacing upgrades needed to enable more connections in some areas. As described in the Long-Term Energy Plan, Ontario will continue to invest in upgrades to the transmission and distribution systems to accommodate renewable energy supply in an efficient and cost-effective way.

In areas where technical challenges are identified, the OPA, Hydro One and local distribution companies will continue to work with proponents that have already submitted applications for microFIT and capacity allocation exempt FIT projects.

For more information about connecting your microFIT project, please speak to your local distribution company. If you still have questions, you can send an email to [microfit@powerauthority.on.ca](mailto:microfit@powerauthority.on.ca) (please put "connection" in the subject line), or you can call 1-888-387-3403.

Thank you for your interest in the microFIT Program.

## microFIT domestic content deadlines

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**November 8, 2010**

### **Extension for ground-mounted solar PV microFIT applications**

As previously announced on August 13, ground-mounted solar PV microFIT applications submitted before noon on July 2, 2010 – whether or not they had a conditional offer – will be eligible for the 40 percent domestic content level until May 31, 2011, provided the following three requirements have been met:

1. the project is installed
2. an Electrical Safety Authority connection authorization has been issued
3. a connection request has been made to the local distribution company by that date.

Those applicants who received a conditional offer before May 31, 2010, will be granted an extension on the conditional offer to May 31, 2011.

### **For ground-mounted solar PV applications submitted after noon on July 2, 2010 and for all rooftop applications**

In recognition of potential delays in getting projects connected during the month of December 2010, microFIT solar PV projects will be eligible for the 40 percent domestic content level if either of the following requirements is met:

1. the project is connected to the distribution system by December 31, 2010  
OR
2. the project is installed and has been issued a connection authorization by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) by December 1, 2010.

The ESA inspection is the step that must occur before your local distribution company will connect your project. Under normal circumstances, projects that have received ESA approval are expected to connect within one month.

Please contact your local distribution company and the Electrical Safety Authority as early as possible to make sure you understand all their requirements and to ensure that your project timelines and requirements are met.

If you have any questions, please contact [microFIT@powerauthority.on.ca](mailto:microFIT@powerauthority.on.ca) and include your microFIT reference number in the subject line.



## Applications for microFIT solar PV projects - update

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### **October 8, 2010**

As a result of the significant uptake in the microFIT Program, the OPA does not expect to be able to review applications submitted after October 8, 2010 and issue conditional offers until early in the New Year. These projects are therefore not expected to be able to be connected before the end of this year. Projects connected after December 31, 2010 will be required to meet a 60 percent minimum domestic content level.

Applicants are strongly advised to contact their local distribution company to discuss the costs and requirements of connecting a project as early as possible in the process before making any investments.

## microFIT program advisory panel

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**September 14, 2010**

A microFIT Program advisory panel has been established to ensure an efficient and sustainable microFIT Program, improve communication and increase transparency. A similar panel is under development for the FIT Program.

### Goals

The goals of the advisory panel are to:

- identify ongoing and emerging microFIT Program issues
- identify opportunities for improved two-way communication and communication processes
- provide advice on the future of the program, including the two-year review process
- identify ways to make the program more efficient, effective and sustainable
- help strike an appropriate balance between the interests of ratepayers and developers.

### Membership

The panel is composed of the following members:

OPA (co-chair )  
Ministry of Energy (co-chair)  
Agri-Energy Producers of Ontario (APAO)  
Canadian Solar Industries Association (CanSIA)  
Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA)  
Chatham-Kent Hydro  
Community Power Fund (CPF)  
Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)  
Electricity Distributors Association (EDA)  
Environmental Defence  
First Nations Energy Alliance  
Hydro One  
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)  
Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC)  
Ontario Co-op Association  
Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)  
Ontario Solar Network  
Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA)  
Ontario Waterpower Association (OWA)  
Powerstream  
York University professor

### Advisory Panel Recommendations

The advisory panel will make recommendations on a number of program policy and implementation matters. Priority items to be addressed by the panel on an expedited basis may include:

- the definition of a commercial aggregator
- procurement approach for micro-generation with commercial aggregators
  - application, contracting and administration options
  - specific terms, conditions and prices
- the definitions of rooftop facility and existing building.

The projected timeline for the completion of these high-priority items is the end of September 2010.

The [terms of reference](#) are available.

## Connection configurations

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### Measurement Canada in-series connection update

August 27, 2010

The OPA has received a response from Measurement Canada to its proposal to address in-series connection configurations. The OPA proposal has been assessed by Measurement Canada and was determined to be capable of complying with the *Electricity and Gas Inspection Act*.

For more information on Measurement Canada's decision on in-series connected projects, please refer to <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/mc-mc.nsf/eng/lm04345.html>.

The OPA is undertaking an assessment of a possible implementation plan for the in-series connections proposal in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and the Ontario Energy Board.

For load customers who have in-series connections to FIT or microFIT projects, charges must demonstrate four distinct trade transactions from the two bi-directional meters used to calculate the customer's electricity usage. Bill presentation is regulated by Ontario Regulation 275/04 and changes to billing systems can be costly. Therefore, more information will need to be collected to understand the full cost of implementing the proposal.

Upon completion, if the implementation plan is justifiable, the plan will be presented to Measurement Canada and the Ontario Energy Board for final review.

The connection of new projects using an in-series configuration will not be permitted until local distribution companies are able to connect in-series customers in compliance with the requirements set out in the accepted proposal.

Please note that if your project is already connected in-series and you have a FIT or microFIT contract, your contract will be honoured by the OPA.

[Measurement Canada in-series connection background](#)

[Measurement Canada in-series connection past updates](#)

### Types of Connections

Your microFIT project can either be "directly connected" to the electricity distribution system or "indirectly connected".

An indirect connection is where your project is connected to an existing building that is connected to the distribution system. Indirectly connected projects are connected either "in-series" or "in-parallel" to the existing building.

A direct connection is where your project is connected to the grid separately from any other building.

Click on the links below to learn more about the different connection configurations and their advantages and disadvantages.

[Indirectly connected in series](#)

[Indirectly connected in parallel](#)

[Directly connected](#)

Please note that if you are planning to install a battery backup system, it must be located "downstream" of the microFIT project generation meter. Battery backup systems will not be permitted on projects that are directly connected.

## New criteria developed to better define microFIT Program eligibility

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**August 25, 2010**

The Ontario Power Authority announced changes to the microFIT Program on August 13 that included the exclusion of commercial aggregators from the program. This will ensure that the program is focused on its original purpose of encouraging homeowners, farmers, co-operatives and institutions such as schools to own and develop small renewable energy projects.

Effective immediately, eligibility to submit an application to the microFIT Program is limited only to those individuals (natural persons) who are the registered owner of the property on which the facility is to be located and certain other entities, which include:

- farmers
- renewable energy cooperatives
- local distribution companies
- municipalities
- universities and colleges
- schools
- hospitals.

In these cases, the applicant must also be the registered owner of the property on which the microFIT facility is to be located.

Other eligible participants will be discussed by the Advisory Panel, and the list of eligible participants will be updated based on its recommendations.



[Revised microFIT Rules \(version 1.5\)](#)



[New eligible participant schedule](#)



[Revised microFIT contract \(version 1.5\)](#)



[Summary of program changes - version 1.5 to 1.4](#)

## Instructions to microFIT Program applicants for applications made before noon on July 2, 2010

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**August 25, 2010**

 Instructions to microFIT Program applicants for applications submitted before 12 p.m. on July 2, 2010





## Final price for microFIT ground-mounted solar PV projects

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### August 13, 2010

On August 13, the Ontario Power Authority announced that it has finalized the price for the new microFIT ground-mounted solar price category at 64.2 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). This price applies to eligible microFIT ground-mounted solar applications submitted after noon on July 2, when a new price category was proposed.

The finalized price reflects input received during a 30-day consultation period and incorporates a wider variation of cost inputs and project configurations, including higher operating and maintenance costs for ground-mounted solar tracking equipment. The price strikes the right balance between providing a reasonable rate of return to electricity generators and protecting ratepayers from higher than necessary electricity prices.

Eligible ground-mounted solar applications submitted prior to noon on July 2, 2010, will receive the original price of 80.2 cents/kWh whether or not they have received a contract or conditional offer. These applicants will also have until May 31, 2011, to install and request a connection for their projects before higher domestic content requirements are required. Ground-mounted solar microFIT contracts signed and conditional offers received before July 2 will continue to be eligible for the original price of 80.2 cents/kWh.

During the 30-day consultation period, the OPA held three web-enabled teleconferences with 1,665 participants and received 1,645 written submissions about the proposed price. Based on this input, the OPA also made the following announcements:

- To improve communication and increase transparency, the OPA is establishing a microFIT program advisory panel that will provide advice on program evolution, including the two-year review process. The panel will be made up of industry, consumer and academic representatives.
- Commercial aggregators (e.g., businesses that lease land or rooftops from individuals for multiple renewable energy projects) will no longer be allowed to participate in the microFIT program. This will ensure that the microFIT program is focused on its original purpose – encouraging homeowners, farmers, farm co-operatives, Ontario's Aboriginal communities, small businesses and institutions such as schools to own and develop small renewable projects.
- The panel will make recommendations, on an expedited basis, about appropriate contracting provisions for aggregators to reflect the unique nature of commercial micro projects. This will help ensure that commercial aggregators can continue to participate in the clean energy economy but do so outside of the microFIT program structure.

To implement these changes, the OPA is updating the microFIT application form, and new applications will be accepted beginning on Friday, August 20. Applications will then be open to individuals who are the registered owner of the property on which the generating facility is to be located and certain other entities. Other eligible participants will be discussed by the microFIT advisory panel. Existing applications can continue to be managed and resubmitted during this time.

The OPA is working to respond quickly to microFIT applicants. Most ground-mounted applications that have been submitted will be processed by the end of September.

 [July 23, 2010 - Ground-mounted solar PV questions and answers](#)

 [July 2, 2010 - New Price Category Proposed for microFIT Ground-Mounted Solar PV Projects](#)

 [July 2, 2010 - Nouvelle classification tarifaire proposée pour installations solaires PV montées au sol](#)

## Deadline extended to resubmit microFIT applications

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### August 4, 2010

Thank you to all microFIT applicants who submitted feedback during the recent 30-day consultation period on the new price category for ground-mounted solar PV projects. The microFIT team will make an announcement about the new price category as soon as possible following review of the materials and information received.

On July 2, microFIT applicants received a notice advising that their application had been unlocked, with instructions to resubmit their application with additional information.

**The deadline to resubmit microFIT applications has been extended to Tuesday, September 7 at 5 p.m.** This extension will provide applicants with more time, if needed, to assess their project under the new category for ground-mounted solar PV projects.

Resubmitted applications for ground-mounted projects will be offered the price that is to be finalized after the consultation period.

In the meantime, the OPA is processing resubmitted applications so that conditional offers for ground-mounted solar PV projects can be made as quickly as possible following the announcement. Applicants are encouraged to resubmit their application as soon as possible if they have decided to go ahead with their project.

Applications that have not been resubmitted by September 7 will be withdrawn from the program. A new application can be submitted at any time.

## Details of proposed ground-mounted solar PV rate calculation

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July 23, 2010

The OPA has received a significant response to the request for stakeholder feedback on the proposed new price category for ground-mounted solar PV projects under the microFIT program.

The OPA has also received a number of questions asking for more detail on the calculations and the assumptions made in deriving the new proposed price, as well as the methodology for calculating the return on equity for the typical project. The rationale for the proposed price was posted on the microFIT website on July 14, including the assumptions used. The OPA is now providing further detail for the proposal.

### Background

Project cost information was developed from a range of sources using best available information. The OPA's financial model was developed with the assistance of Power Advisory LLC and the initial cost assumptions were developed with the assistance of Navigant Consulting Inc. Cost and performance data were updated on the basis of more recent Ontario market information and reflected a range of cost and performance data. All costs and other specific assumptions are derived from a range of possible numbers, and represent a typical project. Of course, not all projects will match the typical project assumptions, and some project-specific data would either result in a higher or lower FIT price. The microFIT Program is a standard offer program, intended to provide a straightforward way to contract for renewable energy generation. As such, it provides standardized program rules, prices and contracts, and will not match every project's specific circumstances.

This is a *simplified* explanation and example, for the purpose of illustrating how the FIT and microFIT prices are derived.

For all technologies, the OPA makes the following financial assumptions for a typical renewable energy project.

### Financial assumptions for a typical renewable energy project

Assumption	Percentage
Percentage of project cost as equity investment	30 percent
Percentage of project cost as debt, borrowed from bank	70 percent
After tax return on equity from investment	11 percent
Cost of debt, repaid to bank	7 percent
Income tax rate on profit from equity investment	30.5 percent
Inflation rate	2.25 percent

The following is a detailed example of a ground-mounted, dual-axis, tracker-based solar PV project. These projects typically cost more than fixed ground-mounted systems, however the electricity production from these projects generates more electricity and money. Fixed ground-mounted solar PV systems are less expensive than tracker based systems, and typically more cost effective than rooftop projects. Rooftop projects are typically smaller, between three and five kilowatts, than fixed ground-mounted projects and ground-mounted projects can benefit from this increase in economy of scale. As well, fixed ground-mounted solar PV projects have the advantage of being able to be located facing south, to optimize electricity production.

The capital cost for a 10 kilowatt solar PV ground-mounted, dual-axis, tracker-based project is assumed to be \$90,000. Therefore, for a 10-kilowatt ground-mounted solar PV project under microFIT:

$$\begin{aligned} \$90,000 \times 70 \text{ percent} &= \$63,000 \text{ (debt, borrowed from bank)} \\ \$90,000 \times 30 \text{ percent} &= \$27,000 \text{ (equity invested from savings)} \end{aligned}$$

Payments on borrowed amount are repaid to the bank at 7 percent interest. Assuming annuity payments (i.e., constant) over a 20-year period, the cost of debt would be approximately \$370 per month.

$$\text{e.g., } \$63,000 @ 7 \text{ percent} = \$370 \text{ per month or } \$4,440 \text{ per year}$$

Return on the equity investment is paid monthly at 11 percent to the contract holder, the supplier. Assuming annuity payments (i.e., constant) over a 20-year period, the

payments to the equity investor would be approximately \$245 per month.

e.g., \$27,000 @ 11 percent = \$245 per month or \$2,940 per year

On the basis of this simplified example, this would represent an annual profit of \$2,940 per year on an initial \$27,000 equity investment.

e.g., \$2,940 / \$27,000 = 11 percent return on equity

Please note that the return on equity calculation is much more complicated than described above, because it includes factors such as inflation, compounding interest, taxes and O&M costs. However, the example above is for illustrative purposes to explain the basic approach taken by the OPA. Again, these financial assumptions are used for all FIT and microFIT program technologies.

Additional detail on the OPA's assumptions for the proposed ground-mounted price of 58.8 c/kWh.

	<b>Tracking (10 kW)</b>
Cost to install	\$90,000
Annual O&M costs	\$100
Capacity factor	19 percent
Annual production	16,600 kWh
Annual revenue	\$9,800
Simple payback	nine years

The proposed rate is derived to ensure that the total payments made are based on the expected output from the renewable energy project. The expected output of a facility is based on the efficiency of the renewable energy technology and the amount of time that it is producing electricity – known as the capacity factor.

In Ontario, the capacity factor of solar PV projects will vary regionally and depends on solar irradiation. For example, the capacity factor of a solar PV project with a two-axis tracking system in Toronto may be approximately 17 percent, while the capacity factor of the same system may be approximately 21 percent in Thunder Bay. The OPA assumed a capacity factor that is consistent with a range of capacity factors that are typical for Ontario. The capacity factors chosen are an average of the expected capacity factor of the system over its expected 20-year life, and take into account expected module performance degradation.

For the purpose of deriving the proposed microFIT rate, the capacity factor of a 10-kW solar PV ground-mounted, dual-axis, tracker system is assumed to be 19 percent. Over the course of one year, the project would produce approximately 16,600 kWh.

e.g., 10 kW x 8,760 hours per year x 19 percent = 16,600 kWh per year

The proposed rate reflects the revenue requirements and the expected output of typical projects.

A fulsome explanation of the model used by the OPA was provided to stakeholders during the FIT Program consultation on April 7, 2009. The FIT and microFIT program prices are developed using a discounted cash flow model, which are commonly used in project finance. This model calculates the prices required to:

- cover the cost of investment
- cover ongoing operating expenses
- earn a reasonable rate of return over a 20-year contact term

The discounted cash flow model uses a seven-step process to calculate prices:

1. annual generation output is estimated for a given project based on the project capacity and assumed capacity factor
2. operating expenses estimated and include variable operation and maintenance cost, fixed operation and maintenance cost, and property tax
3. annual depreciation calculated using an appropriate capital cost allowance rate
4. operating expenses, depreciation, interests, and income taxes deducted from revenue to arrive at net income
5. depreciation added back to net income to estimate actual cash flow
6. capital investment, debt borrowing, and debt repayment added to calculate free cash flow for each year
7. free cash flows are then discounted using the target return on equity.

## Rationale for new ground-mounted microFIT and FIT program price category

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July 14, 2010

Thousands of Ontarians are taking part in a brand new and unique program by becoming renewable electricity generators in their backyards, on their roofs and around their farms while earning a reasonable rate of return on equity over the life of the contract. We are fixing a glitch in the programs that was highlighted because of the unexpected popularity of ground-mounted solar projects. We are now creating a separate price category for ground-mounted solar to ensure the microFIT program remains sustainable and electricity ratepayers – Ontario families – receive good value for new renewable energy.

FIT and microFIT Program rates for all project types are set to cover costs, plus provide a reasonable rate of return on equity to the developer - roughly an 11 percent return on equity over the 20 years of the project contract.

In setting FIT and microFIT rates, OPA took into account typical project capital costs, operating and maintenance costs, financing costs and expected electricity production over the life of the project. A 70/30 debt/equity split was assumed and debt borrowing costs were assumed at 7 percent.

Projects can come in many different configurations. Project costs and capacity factor - that is the amount of energy a project produces - are BOTH key elements in determining a project's rate of return on equity.

Upfront capital costs of ground-mount projects depend on whether they are on tracking or non-tracking systems. Higher revenues offset the higher project costs and mean the lower rate of 58.8 cents/kWh provides developers of ground-mounted projects with a return on equity comparable to the one rooftop generators receive at 80.2 cents/kWh.

Ground-mounted projects with tracking systems (panels that turn to follow the sun) have higher upfront capital costs but produce more energy (higher capacity factor) and therefore generate more revenue. At 58.8 cents/KWh, the higher revenue offsets the higher capital costs and results in a rate of return on equity that is comparable to rooftop solar projects as well as other projects.

Ground-mounted projects without tracking systems have lower capital costs but also generate less energy and therefore less revenue. In this case, the lower upfront cost offsets the lower revenue, still enabling a reasonable rate of return on equity from the same 58.8 cent rate. The costs of these projects in particular have come down relative to rooftop installations since the program was introduced, enabling a reduction in the tariff rate.

The new price category levels the playing field with other program categories. The OPA is conducting a 30-day consultation period on the new price category and invites proponents to submit feedback.

### Typical Ground-Mounted Project at 58.8 cents/kWh

	Tracking (10 kW)	Fixed - No Tracking (10 kW)
<b>Cost to Install</b>	\$90,000	\$60,000
<b>Capacity Factor</b>	19%	13%
<b>Annual Production</b>	16,600 kWh	11,300 kWh
<b>Annual Revenue</b>	\$9,800	\$6,700
<b>Simple Payback</b>	9 years	9 years
<b>Return on Equity*</b>	11%	11%

### Typical Ground-Mounted Project at 80.2 cents/kWh

Tracking (10 kW)	Fixed – No Tracking (10 kW)
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<b>Cost to Install</b>	\$90,000	\$60,000
<b>Capacity Factor</b>	19%	13%
<b>Annual Production</b>	16,600 kWh	11,300 kWh
<b>Annual Revenue</b>	\$13,300	\$9,100
<b>Simple Payback</b>	7 years	7 years
<b>Return on Equity*</b>	23%	24%

\* Return on Equity = Annual Revenue – Annual Debt Repayment (70 percent of project cost) / Equity Investment (30 percent of project cost over 20 years)

## OPA creates a proposed new price category for ground-mounted solar PV projects 10 kilowatts or less in size

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July 2, 2010

### Proposed New Price for microFIT Ground-Mounted Solar PV Projects

The Ontario Power Authority has created a new price category for microFIT ground-mounted solar PV projects. Ground-mounted solar PV projects of 10 kilowatts or less will be eligible to receive a proposed price of 58.8 cents per kilowatt-hour (¢/kWh). Rooftop solar PV projects, as defined in the microFIT Rules, version 1.4, will continue to be eligible for 80.2 ¢/kWh.

There will be a 30-day comment period on the proposed the new price category. microFIT application intake will continue during this time.

The microFIT Program is based on the principle of a reasonable rate of return. Program uptake to date has surpassed what the OPA had anticipated when it launched the program. More than 16,000 applications have been submitted to date. Virtually all of the projects are for solar PV, and the size of the projects indicates that the majority of applications are for ground-mounted projects, rather than for rooftop installations.

The cost to install a ground-mounted solar PV project is lower than the cost to install a rooftop project. This new price category will provide ground-mounted solar generators with the same reasonable rate of return of approximately 11 percent that other generators will receive over the 20-year term of their contracts. The OPA believes the proposed new price for groundmount solar PV projects is fair, reasonable and more accurately reflects the costs associated with ground-mounted projects. It will help maintain the long-term stability of the program.

Consistent with version 1.4 of the microFIT Rules, microFIT applicants with ground-mounted microFIT projects who already have an executed a contract or who have received a conditional contract offer from the OPA will continue to be eligible for the original price of 80.2 ¢/kWh. All other ground-mounted microFIT projects, including those for which an application has been submitted but have not yet received a contract or conditional contract offer, will be eligible to receive the proposed new price of 58.8 ¢/kWh. Rooftop solar PV projects, as defined in the microFIT Rules, version 1.4, will continue to be eligible for 80.2 ¢/kWh.

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure supports this decision because it ensures that the microFIT Program meets the original program goals and provides proper value to generators and ratepayers. The OPA believes that introducing this new price category now is in the best interests of the program, generators, manufacturers, lenders and ratepayers, as it will allow the program to realize the value it was intended to deliver on a long-term and sustainable basis.

The OPA will be holding webinars on July 6 and July 8, 2010 to discuss the introduction of this new price category and answer questions. The OPA will also accept comments by email and regular mail.

 [July 2, 2010 Ground-mount news release](#)

## Past measurement Canada in-series connection updates

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### May 28, 2010

The OPA has received a response from Measurement Canada to its proposal to address in-series connection configurations. The OPA is now working with the Ontario Energy Board to implement a solution for in-series connections.

Although progress has been made, the OPA will not issue microFIT contracts for projects connecting in-series until a solution is in place and local distribution companies are permitted to connect these projects. At this time, we are not able to predict whether in-series connected projects will be permitted at a future date.

### May 19, 2010

On May 19, 2010, Ontario Energy Board sent a letter to local distribution companies instructing them to stop in-series connections for FIT and microFIT projects because Measurement Canada will not recognize or support the in-series metering configuration.

As a result, in-series connections are no longer permitted under the FIT and microFIT Programs. FIT contract holders and applicants and microFIT applicants therefore must pursue other permitted options – in parallel and direct – for connecting their projects to the distribution system.

If you have already connected your contract facility using an in-series connection, stay tuned for further communication on this issue. The OPA is continuing to work with Measurement Canada to find a solution for existing in-series connections.

The OPA will agree to any contract termination request from FIT suppliers who determine that their project is not feasible or economic with an alternative connection scenario. The OPA will also agree to return any completion and performance security for contracts terminated under this circumstance.

 [May 19, 2010, letter from Ontario Energy Board to local distribution companies](#)



## Domestic content

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The OPA and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MEI) continue to receive questions related to the domestic content requirements of the microFIT Program.

In an effort to provide greater clarity on what constitutes compliance, the OPA will work with the MEI to provide clarifications and interpretations through a transparent process. This process will ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to comment on the interpretations provided by the OPA before they are finalized. The process will include the following steps:

- stakeholder feedback/questions relating to designated activities for domestic content
- OPA/MEI review of feedback and questions
- draft interpretation produced by the MEI/OPA and posted on the microFIT Program website
- stakeholder feedback on the draft interpretation
- OPA/MEI review of feedback
- posting of the final interpretation on the microFIT Program website.

Once the final interpretations are posted, developers and manufacturers should have greater clarity on the contractual requirements for domestic content.

### **How will the OPA/MEI invite comments?**

The OPA/MEI will notify stakeholders of new draft interpretations for comment by email and this website. To subscribe to the microFIT Program updates, please enter your email address in the Subscribe box in the left column menu.

[Click here to view draft interpretations and submit comments.](#)

[Click here to view the table of final interpretations.](#)