

July 31/09

Six Nations and Samsung Corporation talk wind power

On Friday, July 24, representatives of Six Nations Elected Council and Samsung Corporation took a tour of farmland in South Cayuga where the company is suggesting development of a wind farm on Crown land.

How this mutual exploration came to be was gratifying for Six Nations Elected Chief William Montour.

Earlier this year, through Aboriginal Affairs Deputy Minister Doug Carr, the Ontario government relayed an expression of interest by the international corporation.

"I commend Ontario for respecting our policy in bringing this initiative to us at the idea stage where nothing has actually been put together," stated Chief Montour.

The idea is erecting 55 wind turbines on farmland located in southern Haldimand County near Dunnville.

The government's approach is in line with the

Six Nations Land Use Consultation and Accommodation Policy, noted Chief Montour.

Under the policy finalized in June, developers and others who want to build on lands of interest to or under the jurisdiction of Six Nations are directed to inform Six Nations at the concept stage of their project.

The South Cayuga lands are in the Grand River Tract and are part of a claim encompassing lands on the south side of the river from Brantford to Dunn.

Responding to invitations earlier this year, Chief Montour and SN Councillor Claudine VanEvery-Albert attended two meetings with the company and made it clear that Six Nations was not interested in a royalty agreement.

"We wanted to be part of the development," Chief Montour said of employment for Six Nations community members.

Samsung responded with

interest and wanted to look at using Six Nations' skilled workers to manufacture and erect the wind turbines and to operate and maintain them, continued Chief Montour.

"So if there's further interest, we'll be meeting again to develop more concrete ideas of how this wind power project is going to roll out," he said.

What Chief Montour wants to see is access to wind-generated power to reduce electricity bills in the Six Nations community.

On July 24, Chief Montour and SN Councillors Barb Harris, Melba Thomas and Claudine VanEvery-Albert along with Six Nations Lands and Resources Director Lonny Bomberry joined representatives of Samsung Corporation and their Canadian subsidiaries at Chiefwood Park for a woods edge ceremony to welcome them to the territory and to give them an understanding of Haudenosaunee people.

They were joined by Doug Carr of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Richard Ogden, senior advisor for the Ontario Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure.

Chief Montour said the Samsung representatives have a keen interest in Six Nations culture.

They scheduled their tour for Friday because they wanted to attend the "Champions of Champions" Grand River Pow Wow on Saturday.

Later Chief Montour said the company based out of Korea has a world wide reputation and has interests in power generation, oil, natural gas and manufacturing.

The company is also known for advanced construction technology it has built into skyscrapers, power plants and other structures.

*submitted by
the Six Nations Council*