



Corporation of the County of Essex
Office of the County Engineer

Thomas R. Bateman, P. Eng.
County Engineer

February 14, 2012

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
138 West Road 8, R.R. 1
Essex, ON N8M 2X5

Attention: Mr. Dan Taylor
Light Pollution Abatement Director

RE: County of Essex Roadway Illumination

Dear Mr. Taylor

We have had an opportunity to review your correspondence dated January 17, 2012 and the attached information. The County recognizes and appreciates your concerns related to roadway illumination and its impacts on "light pollution".

The sole purpose of providing roadway illumination is to improve road safety. Three types of illumination can be found on the County Road Network, linear installations in urban areas, installations at signalized intersections and isolated rural intersections. In terms of improved road safety the provision of illumination at the isolated rural intersections provides the greatest benefit. The illumination at these intersections provides advanced warning of the intersection and illumination of the intersection and vehicles at the stop sign.

The County has been utilizing the "Full Cut Off" (FCO) fixtures for the three types of installations noted above, while the County has been pleased with the performance of the FCO's for linear illumination and at signalized intersections the performance at the isolated rural intersections has been less than desirable. FCO's in the rural installations will provide direct illumination at the intersection however they do not provide any advance warning to motorists. Based on these factors the County is no longer installing FCO's in the rural setting.

Attached you will find specification sheets for the fixture we are currently using. The OVF Flat Glass are used at intersections and linear installations, where as the OYV Low Profile Drop Prismatic are used for the rural intersections. Although a Deep Prismatic unit is available we believe that the Low Profile Prismatic provides a good balance between providing illumination and controlling light trespass.

County Council recognized the benefits of providing illumination to the rural intersection and adopted a policy and program that will provide illumination at all intersections on the County road Network. The program has been in place for several years and is installing lighting incrementally working towards the goal of illuminating all the intersections.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you require any additional information.

Yours truly,



Thomas R. Bateman, P. Eng.,
County Engineer

TRB:mc