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Calgary, AB T2P 3G6

January 2, 2024

PROJECT UPDATE

Westbridge Renewable Energy Corporation ("Westbridge") is proposing the Eastervale Solar + Energy Storage Project to be developed under the name Eastervale Solar Inc. The Project is located near Hughendon, Alberta, within the Municipal District of Provost encompassing portions of Sections 25, 35 & 36, Township 39, Range 8 W4M and Sections 2 & 11, Township 40, Range 8 W4M.

The development team would like to share updates on the project with you in the enclosed newsletter. These updates include details about:

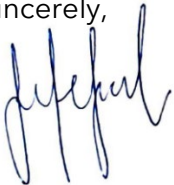
- Information on the AUC Pause on Renewable Energy Projects and AUC application
- Stakeholder updates
- Community Investment Program
- Project schedule
- Updates to technical and environmental studies
- Project layout

We anticipate filing the Project's application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) by the end of February 2024. Once the application has been submitted, the AUC will provide stakeholders with a written notification, including a schedule for stakeholders to join the proceeding.

You are welcome to contact us anytime by phone (587) 997-4602 or email eastervalesolar@ascentpartners.ca with questions or concerns. We will continue to update the Project website (www.eastervalesolar.com) so please do visit the site for new content and project updates.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Traichel
Development Project Manager, ASCENT Energy Partners Ltd.
(587) 997-4602 | eastervalesolar@ascentpartners.ca

Eastervale

Solar + Energy Storage Project Update

In This Newsletter:

- * AUC Moratorium
- * Stakeholder Update
- * Community Benefits
- * Municipal Application
- * Project Studies Update
- * Project Plans & Permitting
- * Project Schedule Update
- * Contact Information
- * Project Layout

300 MW_{AC}

Solar Power Plant Capacity

200 MW / 400 MWh

Battery Energy Storage Capacity

Municipal District of Provost

16 km south of Hughenden

AUC Moratorium on Approvals for Renewable Energy Projects:

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) paused approvals for renewable electricity generation of new power plants over one megawatt beginning August 03, 2023, and ending February 29th, 2024. The AUC is currently holding an Inquiry into the development of renewable energy projects in Alberta including considerations for agricultural land, viewscales, reclamation requirements, and the potential for development of projects on Crown land.

This moratorium does not impact Eastervale Solar Inc's (Eastervale) decision to move forward with the Project. We are committed to the Project and will continue consultation and preparing our application for submission to the AUC.

Once the Inquiry has been completed, Eastervale will follow any new guidelines and requirements as required by the AUC that are additional to the materials provided in our AUC application. For more information visit the AUC website at: <https://www.auc.ab.ca>.

Stakeholder Consultation Update:

A Project newsletter was mailed out to stakeholders in December 2022, and open houses were held during April and July 2023. A municipal public consultation meeting was held in October 2023 and one-on-one consultations are ongoing.

Eastervale would like to thank all those who attended the open houses and provided valuable feedback. We appreciate all the comments & concerns that have been raised by stakeholders as they are helpful in the Project planning process.

Community Benefits

Eastervale is dedicated to strengthening the bond with the communities where we operate. Embedded in our core values is a commitment to ensuring that these communities actively participate in and benefit from the value generated by our Project. Annually, Eastervale will actively contribute to specific charitable organizations, institutions, and initiatives that enhance the well-being of the local community. We invite your valuable feedback to deepen our understanding of the needs and aspirations of the communities surrounding our Project. Your insights will play a crucial role in shaping our annual contributions, ensuring they align with the priorities of the residents. Together, let's build a sustainable and thriving community.



Municipal Development Application Update:

The Municipal Development Permit applications were submitted to the M.D. of Provost on September 20, 2023. The M.D. of Provost held a public consultation on October 26, 2023 during which statements of opposition were heard from stakeholders and the M.D. of Provost denied the applications.

The Eastervale Project Team has been busy incorporating comments and concerns cited by stakeholders and the M.D. into its development plans in preparation for the AUC application in February 2024 and re-application to the M.D. of Provost in late 2024.

Solar Glare Hazard Analysis:

The potential for glint and glare from the Project's solar modules on the surrounding roads and residential properties were fully considered during development and design. Eastervale undertook a **Solar Glare Hazard Analysis (SGHA)**. Glare was assessed along Highway 884, Township Road 400, Range Road 81 and for nine dwellings within 800 metres of the Project.

Based on the assessment results, glare from Eastervale Solar Project is not expected to present a hazard to drivers along nearby roads or have an adverse effect on a resident's use of their home.

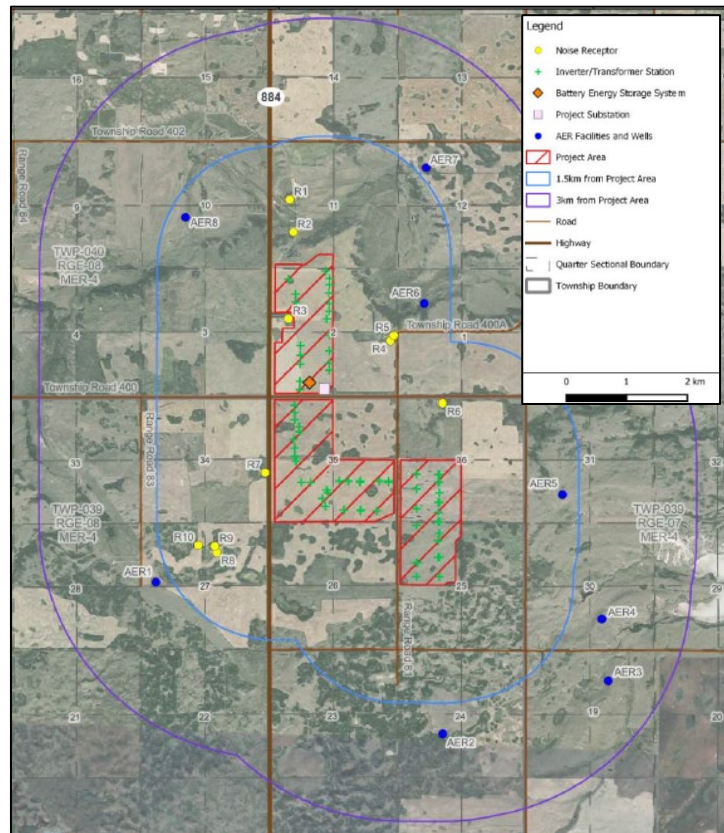
Noise Impact Assessment:

Noise from the Project is regulated by the AUC through *Rule 012: Noise Control*. A **Noise Impact Assessment** was completed for the Project that considered noise for 10 potential receptors (dwellings). The inverters, transformers, BESS units, and the Project substation are expected to be the only significant noise producing Project elements. For purposes of the noise assessment, the noise producing Project elements are assumed to operate at full load at all times of the day. This produces a conservative assessment as the power plant would rarely operate at full load and would not operate during the night.

The Project is compliant with Rule 012 when considering cumulative levels of the solar PV portion of noise-producing components. The BESS components will be added to the Project at a later stage, and Eastervale is committed to undertaking additional modelling that incorporates on-site noise measurements before the BESS is constructed; and, if necessary, operational mitigation to ensure compliance at all receptors.

The detailed results of the SGHA and NIA have been posted on the Project website: www.easterval solar.com.

Assessment Area Map:



Project-Specific Environmental Plans:

Additional wildlife and habitat field studies were completed between May and August 2023. These studies informed the updated Project design, layout, and schedule in consideration of mitigating potential adverse effects to environmental features. An **Environmental Protection Plan (EPP)** has been completed for the Project to guide construction and operations activities for the long-term maintenance and preservation of environmental features.

The preparation of a **Conservation and Reclamation Plan (C&R)** per the *Conservation and Reclamation Directive for Renewable Energy Operations* has been completed. This plan will ensure the appropriate pre- and post-disturbance assessments are completed to guide interim and progressive reclamation, track the progress of reclamation, and ensure that the reclamation meets the appropriate criteria at the end of the Project's life.

A project-specific **Agrivoltaic Plan** is underway that will assess the potential for high value agricultural activities to coexist within the solar project. In addition to sheep grazing, Eastervale is investigating certain crops and horticultural activities as legitimate and productive agricultural uses for high value agricultural lands.

Permitting Update:

The AUC regulates the construction and operation of all electrical infrastructure in the province. We anticipate filing the Project power plant and substation application to the AUC in February 2024. The application to interconnect the Project to the electric grid will be submitted at a later date as part of AltaLink's Facility Application. Once filed, the power plant application will contain comprehensive Project information and will be available for public review at: www.auc.ab.ca.

Project Schedule Update:

Development activities are progressing, and the Eastervale Project Team would like to provide you with updates and additional information about the Project.

Environmental Studies	Complete
Technical Studies (e.g. Noise, Glare)	Complete
AUC Application	February 2024
MD of Provost Application	August/September 2024
Interconnection Process	Q4 2021 – Q4 2025
Construction	2026-2028
Commercial Operations Date	2028

Contact Us:

Details about the Project, including mapping, technical studies, reports, and consultation materials are available on our website: www.eastervalesolar.com

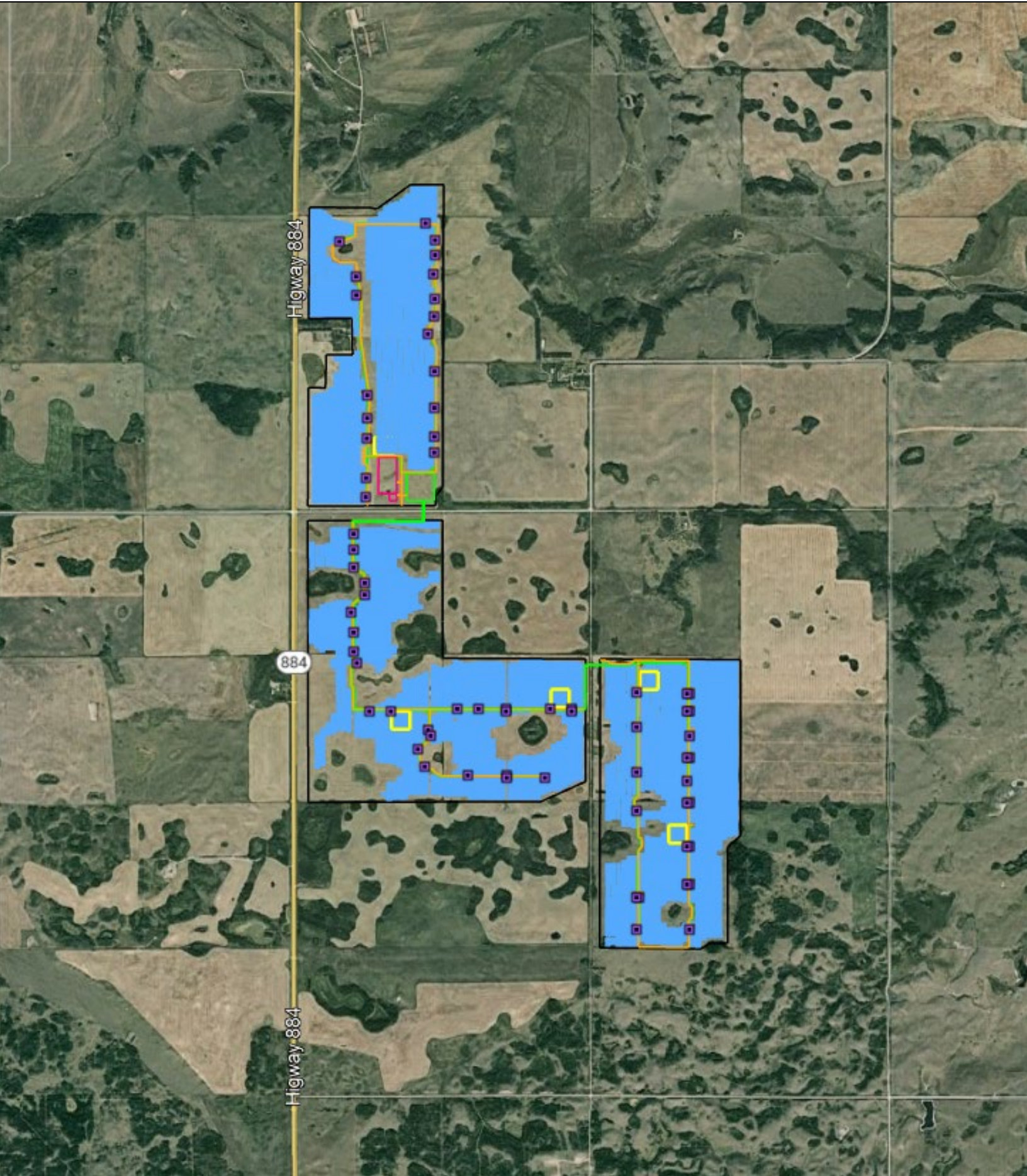
Please feel free to contact us:

T: (587) 997-4602 E: eastervalesolar@ascentpartners.ca

Eastervale Solar Inc.

Participant Involvement Program Mailbox
P.O. Box 406 203-304 Main Street SE Airdrie, AB T4B 3C3

Privacy Statement: We are committed to protecting your privacy. Collected information will be protected under the provincial Personal Information Protection Act. As part of the regulatory process for new generation projects we may be required to provide your personal information to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). For more information on how information will be protected please contact us.



- Perimeter Fence
- Underground Collector System
- Internal Access Roads
- Collector Substation
- Battery Energy Storage System
- Temporary Laydown Yard
- Inverter
- Solar PV Tables





Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications

The AUC regulatory review process to consider facility applications for utility projects



The AUC uses an established process to review social, economic and environmental impacts of facility projects to decide if approval of a project is in the public interest.

The AUC considers applications requesting approval of the need for transmission development and facilities applications seeking approval to construct, operate, alter and decommission electric and natural gas facilities. Applications, as specified in AUC Rule 007, are required for:

- The need for transmission upgrades.
- The route and location of transmission facilities.
- The siting of power plants.
- The construction of a battery storage system.
- The designation of an industrial system.
- The need for and siting of natural gas utility pipelines.

Sometimes the Alberta Electric System Operator's needs identification document application is considered together with a facility application in a single proceeding; sometimes separate proceedings are held to consider each application.

Application review process



- Step 1: Public consultation prior to applying to the AUC
- Step 2: Application filed to the AUC
- Step 3: Public notice
- Step 4: Public submissions to the AUC
- Step 5: Consultation and negotiation
- Step 6: The public hearing process
- Step 7: The decision
- Step 8: Opportunity to appeal
- Step 9: Construction, operation and compliance

Application review process

Step 1: Public consultation prior to applying to the AUC



An applicant seeking approval of a proposed utility development project is required to engage in a participant involvement program prior to filing an application with the AUC. The public involvement program involves consultation with persons whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by the proposed project so that concerns may be raised, addressed and, if possible, resolved.

The application guidelines and requirements for facility applications can be found in AUC Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*.

Potentially affected parties are strongly encouraged to participate in the public consultation, also called a participant involvement program. Early, active and ongoing discussions with an applicant may lead to greater influence on project planning and what is submitted to the AUC for approval.

Step 2: Application filed to the AUC



When the applicant has concluded its consultation with potentially affected parties and the participant involvement requirements have been completed, the applicant files its application through the AUC online public filing system, called the eFiling System.

AUC staff members review each application submitted to verify that all of the application requirements in Rule 007 have been met before an application is deemed complete. If all of the required information is not provided, the application may be closed or missing information will be requested of the applicant. Rule 007 specifies, among other requirements, that applicants must submit the results of a public involvement program in its application that includes information about how applicants consulted and notified stakeholders and Indigenous groups and identifies any unresolved objections and concerns about the project.

Step 3: Public notice



When the AUC receives an application it is assigned a proceeding number and the AUC generally mails a notice of application directly to those who live, operate a business or occupy land in the project area who may be directly and adversely affected if the AUC approves the application. The notice initiates the opportunity for formal intervention in the proceeding to consider an application or applications. The notice of application will also set out important dates and information about where to find the application and other items being considered. The five-digit eFiling System proceeding number in the notice is the most efficient way to find information about a proposed project through the AUC website.

Step 4: Public submissions to the AUC



Prior to the submission deadline provided in the notice, formal submissions of outstanding concerns and unresolved objections about a project may be submitted to the AUC. To submit a concern, participants will need to register to participate in the proceeding, which involves providing a brief written statement called a statement of intent to participate. Submissions are filed electronically through the eFiling System. The information filed becomes part of the public record and is an important part of the process to ensure that outstanding concerns are heard, understood and considered.

The AUC uses the information gathered through statement of intent to participate submissions to decide whether to hold a hearing on the application(s). The AUC must hold a hearing if a concerned person can demonstrate that they have rights that may be directly or adversely affected by the AUC's decision on the application. Such a person is said to have standing before the AUC. If the AUC decides to hold a hearing, the AUC will provide further opportunities for participants with standing to ask the applicant questions on the public record and present their position on the application either in writing or in person. Hearings may

be held in writing, in person or virtually through web-conference software.

AUC eFiling System

The eFiling System is the online tool that the AUC uses to manage applications and submissions in its proceeding-based review. The eFiling System gives access to all public documents associated with an application. The system is also used to submit your concerns and provide input to the AUC and can be used to monitor related proceeding filings. Those who do not have access to the internet can send submissions, evidence and other material by mail and the AUC will upload the submission on their behalf.

Step 5: Consultation and negotiation (if applicable)



The AUC supports efforts to reach a mutually agreeable outcome among the applicant and affected parties. The AUC encourages the applicant and those who have filed a statement of intent to participate to continue to attempt to resolve any outstanding issues. If all concerns can be satisfactorily resolved this may eliminate the need for a formal hearing. However, if there continues to be unresolved issues, those matters will typically be addressed in an AUC hearing.

Step 6: The public hearing process



The AUC will issue a notice of hearing if a person with standing continues to have legitimate unresolved concerns with the application. The notice of hearing will provide a hearing date and location, or specify if the hearing will be held in writing or virtually. When the AUC holds a public hearing, registered parties are given the opportunity to express their views directly to a panel of Commission members. Any member of the public can listen to an in-person or virtual oral hearing. An oral public hearing operates similar to a court proceeding.

Participants in a hearing can either represent themselves or be represented by a lawyer. In addition, participants may hire experts to assist in preparing and presenting evidence to support their position.

Cost assistance



A person determined by the AUC to have standing or a local intervener can apply for reimbursement of reasonable costs. Those who hire a lawyer or technical experts must be aware that while reimbursement for the costs of legal and technical assistance is available under AUC Rule 009: *Rules on Local Intervener Costs*, recovery of costs is subject to the AUC's assessment of the value of the contribution provided by the lawyer and technical experts in assisting the AUC to understand the specifics of the case. It is also subject to the AUC's published scale of costs.

People with similar interests and positions are expected and encouraged to work together to ensure that expenditures for legal or technical assistance are minimized and costs are not duplicated.

Step 7: The decision



The AUC's goal is to issue its written decision no more than 90 days after the close of record. The AUC can approve, or deny an application and can also make its approval conditional upon terms or conditions. AUC decisions are publicly available through the AUC website at www.auc.ab.ca.

Step 8: Opportunity to appeal



An applicant or participant in a proceeding may formally ask the Court of Appeal of Alberta for permission to appeal an AUC decision. An application for permission to appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date the decision is issued.

An applicant or participant in a proceeding can also ask the AUC to review its decision. An application to review a decision must be filed within 60 days from the date the decision is issued and satisfy the limited grounds described in AUC Rule 016: *Review of Commission Decisions*.

Step 9: Construction, operation and compliance



An applicant that receives approval to build and operate a facility from the AUC is expected to follow through on any commitments it has made to parties and must adhere to any conditions that were set out in that approval. If concerns about compliance with approval conditions and post-construction operations cannot be resolved with the applicant, they can be brought to the AUC's attention for consideration. The AUC has significant compliance and enforcement powers for all approved applications. Additional information is available on the AUC website.



The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the government of Alberta that ensures the delivery of Alberta's utility services take place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public interest.

We are committed to ensuring that Albertans whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by a utility development project are informed of the application and have the opportunity to have their concerns heard, understood and considered.

Contact us

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