on behalf of Enterprise Solar LP #508-5605 avenue de Gaspé Montréal, Québec H2T 2A4, Canada

March 29, 2021

Dear Stakeholder,

I hope this letter finds you well. Enterprise Solar GP Inc., on behalf of Enterprise Solar LP, owned by Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc., continues to develop the Enterprise Solar Power Project (the Project) in Vulcan County. As mentioned in previous correspondence, a new, short 138kV tie-line would be required to connect the proposed Project substation to AltaLink's 138kV existing 161L power line. The substation and new tie-line are being proposed on the SW-26-16-25-W4 and will connect to AltaLink line 161L on the same quarter section, within Township Road 164, an undeveloped County Road Allowance.

As you have been identified as having a land interest within 800 metres of the interconnection facilities, we are sending you this letter to further inform you regarding the interconnection and transmission component of the Project and to provide you with the following information:

- Map of the Proposed Facilities, including a 3D rendering of interconnection facilities;
- Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) Need Overview; and
- Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) public involvement brochure: *Participating in the AUC's independent review process.*

We have chosen the AESO's Market Participant Choice (MPC) option to undertake the majority of the interconnection work, including the facility design and construction of the interconnection between the Project and AltaLink's line 161L. AltaLink, who must consult on their scope of work within the same facilities, will also be sending you an information package. We are maintaining the same schedule as outlined in previous mailings. We submitted the Power Plant Facility Application to the AUC in mid-February 2021 and intend to submit the Interconnection Facility Application in May 2021. We anticipate having an approval by the AUC in Q3 2021 and commence construction on the facilities between Q3 2021 and Q4 2022 in a staggered fashion.

Consultation is not over. We will continue to work to refine the Project and advance discussions with the Community. Your questions, comments and feedback are always welcome. We work to incorporate as much local knowledge and input into the Project as possible.

For more information please visit the Project website <u>www.Enterprise-Solar.com</u>. We will keep updating the website regularly so keep checking back every once in a while for new content and Project updates.

Renewable Energy Systems (RES) is the world's largest independent renewable energy company. We are family owned and operated. RES has been developing, constructing and operating renewable energy projects for 38 years and has a 19-Gigawatt (GW) Project portfolio. Please visit <u>www.res-group.com</u> to learn more about our company and values.



**Contact us** In the meantime, you are welcome to contact the following:

For any questions or concerns relating to the Project, substation or interconnection Projects:

#### Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc. Rebecca Crump, Project Manager T: 647-880-7473 E: <u>rebecca.crump@res-group.com</u>

For any questions or concerns relating to AltaLink's interconnection work:

#### AltaLink

T: 1-877-269-5903 (toll free) E: <u>stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca</u>

For any questions or to learn more about AESO and the need for the Project:

#### Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)

T: 1-888-866-2959 (toll-free) E: <u>stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca</u>

The AESO is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for the safe, reliable and economic planning and operation of the provincial transmission grid. For more information about why this project is needed, please refer to the AESO's Need Overview included with this package or visit <u>www.aeso.ca</u>.

If you have any questions or concerns about the need for this project or the proposed transmission development to meet the need you may contact the AESO directly. You can make your questions or concerns known to a RES representative who will collect your personal information for the purpose of addressing your questions and/or concerns to the AESO. This process may include disclosure of your personal information to the AESO.

To learn more about the application and review process, you can contact:

#### Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)

T:780-427-4903 (toll-free by dialing 310-0000 before the number) E: <u>consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca</u>

Sincerely,

Rebecca Crump Senior Project Manager Enterprise Solar GP Inc. on behalf of Enterprise Solar LP



# Need for the Enterprise Solar Project Connection in the Vulcan area

Enterprise Solar GP Inc., on behalf of Enterprise Solar LP, owned by Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc. (Enterprise Solar), has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its proposed Enterprise Solar Project (Facility) in the Vulcan area. Enterprise Solar's request can be met by the following solution:

#### **PROPOSED SOLUTION**

- Add one 138 kV transmission line to connect the Facility to the existing 138 kV transmission line 161L in a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- The AESO intends to apply to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of the need in mid-2021.
- The AESO's needs identification document (NID) application will be available on the AESO's website at **www.aeso.ca/grid/projects** at the time of its application to the AUC.

# The following organizations have key roles and responsibilities in providing access to the transmission system:

#### THE AESO

- Must plan the transmission system and enable access to it for generators and other qualified customers.
- Is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its NID.

#### **ENTERPRISE SOLAR**

- Has requested transmission system access to connect the Facility.
- Is responsible for detailed siting and routing, and constructing the new 138 kV transmission line to connect the Facility.
- Must apply to the AUC for approval of its transmission facilities applications.

#### ALTALINK

- Is the transmission facility owner in the Vulcan area.
- Is responsible for operating and maintaining the new 138 kV transmission line, and constructing, operating and maintaining the transmission facilities associated with the addition of the new 138 kV transmission line.
- Is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its transmission facilities applications.

#### WHO IS THE AESO?

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) plans and operates Alberta's electricity grid and wholesale electricity market safely, reliably and in the public interest of all Albertans. We are a not-for-profit organization with no financial interest or investment of any kind in the power industry.

We appreciate your views, both on the need for transmission system development and proposed transmission plans. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us directly.

#### **CONTACT US**

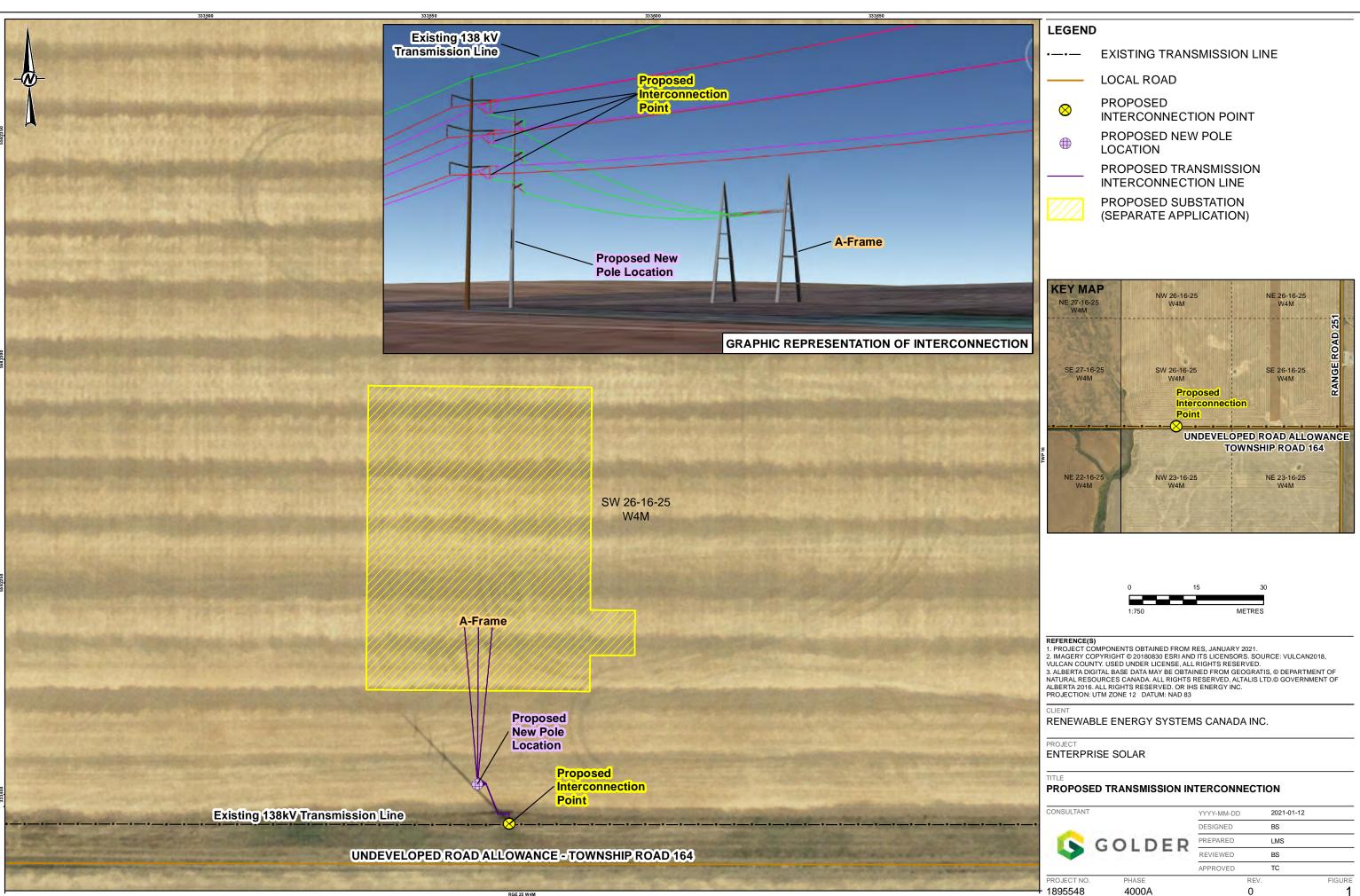
#### Alberta Electric System Operator

AESO Stakeholder Relations stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca 1-888-866-2959

2500, 330-5th Avenue SW Calgary, AB T2P 0L4 Phone: 403-539-2450

www.aeso.ca | y @theaeso

The feedback, comments and contact information you choose to submit is being collected by the AESO to respond to your inquiries and/or to provide you with further information. This information is collected in accordance with Section 33(c) of the FOIP Act. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information, please contact the Manager, FOIP and Records Management, 2500, 330 - 5th Ave SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 0L4 or by telephone at 403-539-2528. If you choose to communicate by email, please note that email is not a secure form of communication. Security of your communication while in transit cannot be guaranteed.



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# Step 5: Consultation and negotiation (if applicable)\*

The Commission supports ongoing efforts to reach an agreeable outcome for the applicant and all affected parties. The Commission encourages the applicant and those who have filed a statement 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 at an AUC hearing.

### Step 6: The public hearing process\*

The AUC will issue a notice of hearing if there continues to be legitimate unresolved concerns with the application. The notice of hearing will provide a hearing date and location in addition to a process schedule. The AUC conducts public hearings in its Edmonton and Calgary hearing rooms and, where suitable venues exist, in communities closer to the proposed project area.

The public hearing process allows persons with standing that have unresolved concerns about the application, to express their views directly to a panel of Commission members.

An AUC hearing is a formal, evidence-based, court-like proceeding. The public can attend the hearing in person or listen to hearings online through the AUC's website.

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 Commission to be 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: *Local Intervener Funding*, recovery of costs is subject to the Commission assessing the value of the contribution provided by the lawyer and technical experts. People with similar interests and positions are expected 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 application decision no more than 90 days after the hearing is complete. The Commission can approve, or deny an application and can also make its approval conditional upon terms or conditions. All AUC decision reports are available to any member of the public on the AUC's website or by obtaining a printed copy from the AUC.

# Step 8: Opportunity to appeal

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

An applicant or dissatisfied participant can also ask the Commission to review its decision. An application to review a Commission 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 and Variance of Commission Decisions*.

## Step 9: Construction, operation and compliance

An applicant that receives approval to build and operate a facility from the Commission 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 under "Compliance and enforcement."

\*Opportunity for public involvement

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.

# **Contact us**

Phone: 310-4AUC (310-4282 in Alberta) 1-833-511-4AUC (1-833-511-4282 outside Alberta) Email: info@auc.ab.ca

Eau Claire Tower106 Street Building1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W.10th Floor, 10055 106 StreetCalgary, Alberta T2P 0G5Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2Y2

The Alberta Utilities Commission is 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.

# Alberta Utilities Commission

# Participating in the AUC's independent review process

# Application review process

Step 1: Public consultation prior to application by proponent

Step 2: Application filed with the AUC

Step 3: Public notice issued by the AUC

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

www.auc.ab.ca

The AUC's regulatory role in needs and facility applications and its independent review and hearing process:

The AUC uses an established process, outlined in this brochure, to review social, economic and environmental impacts of facility projects to decide if approval is in the public interest. Approvals from the AUC are required for the construction, operation, alteration and decommissioning of transmission lines and electric substations. Approvals are required for:

- The need for transmission upgrades.
- The route and location of transmission facilities.
- The siting of power plants, including renewables such as wind and solar more than five megawatts.

Sometimes a needs application is considered together with a facility application in a single hearing; sometimes separate hearings may be held to consider each application.

## Step 1: Public consultation prior to application\*

Prior to filing an application with the AUC for the approval of a proposed utility development, the applicant must engage in a public consultation program in the area of 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 and Hydro Developments,* and AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines.* 

Potentially affected parties are strongly encouraged to participate in the initial public consultation, as early involvement in discussions with an applicant may lead to greater influence on project planning and what is submitted to the AUC for approval.

The Alberta Electric System Operator, as the system planner, will notify potentially affected stakeholders of applications on the need for transmission development.

# Step 2: Application filed with the AUC

When the participant involvement requirements have been completed, the applicant files its application with the AUC through a public filing system, called the eFiling System, on the AUC website.

The application is then reviewed to ensure the information required by the Commission is included. If the required information is not provided, the AUC may close the application or request more information from the applicant. In the application, any issues that were raised during the public consultation and any related amendments to the proposal should be identified. All unresolved objections or concerns identified during the public consultation must be described in the application.

## Step 3: Public notice

The AUC generally issues a notice by mail directly to those who live, operate a business or occupy land in the project area who may be affected by the Commission's decision on the proposed project. The notice for larger facility projects with potentially greater impacts may also be published in local newspapers.

The notice will specify a submission deadline. The information required by this deadline is general in nature as outlined in Step 4. Additional opportunities to provide evidence and additional information will arise after this deadline.

# Step 4: Public submissions to the AUC\*

The AUC review process is referred to as a proceeding. Anyone with unresolved objections or concerns about the application can file a brief written statement with the AUC on the proceeding. The easiest way to file a statement is to fill out the form through the eFiling System found on the AUC website. The statement must include your contact information, where you reside or own property in relation to the proposed facility, your concern or interest in the application, an explanation of your position and what you feel the AUC should decide. The AUC uses the information it gathers through the forms to decide whether to hold a hearing on the application(s). The Commission must hold a hearing if a person can demonstrate that he or she has rights that may be directly or adversely affected by the Commission's decision on the application. Such a person is said to have standing before the Commission. If the AUC decides to hold a hearing, the AUC will provide further opportunities for participants with standing to understand the application and present their position on the application either in writing or in person.

Subject to some limited exceptions, all information and materials provided as part of an AUC proceeding will become part of the public record and will be available through the eFiling System. The AUC's treatment of some types of information as confidential is rare and only available under limited circumstances to ensure that the AUC's process is open and transparent.

# AUC eFiling System

The eFiling System is the 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 and is how to provide your input to the AUC and monitor the 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.