



January 12, 2021

### Dear Stakeholder,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the Enterprise Solar Project. Since initiating consultation with the local community in August 2020, there have been quite a few viable questions and concerns raised which I have been working through with neighbours of the proposed project. We have also received excellent feedback on the proposed solar project. I have been working to address and incorporate the concerns and feedback into the overall development, construction and operations plan for the Project. Based on these consultations, I now have a site plan that I would like to present to the community, which incorporates the interests I've discussed with community members over the last while.

Enclosed please find the Site Plan for the 100MWac solar project. A few details:

- Solar panels and trackers are situated as far from homes as possible, well beyond the regulated setback;
- The substation would be located at the southern edge of the site, away from homes, adjacent to Township Road 164 (undeveloped County Road Allowance);
- No transmission line would be required to connect the Project as the Project would tap AltaLink's existing 161L 138kV transmission line within the undeveloped Township Road 164;
- The access to the Project would be at the southeastern part of the site off of Range Road 251; there is a year-round County road ban on the Airport Road (RR 253). The access road would be on private land;
- The entire facility would be fenced for both security and safety.

#### Schedule

I plan on submitting an application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) in mid-February 2021. This schedule would support a potential construction start in fall 2021 and a commercial operations date at the end of 2022.

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



I have also enclosed the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) Public Involvement Brochure. This is a required handout according to the AUC for every project that files an application with them, and it outlines the consultation process and the process for a hearing (court-like proceeding) if issues have been unable to be resolved during the consultation process.

There is more information available on the Project website <a href="www.Enterprise-Solar.com">www.Enterprise-Solar.com</a>. We have added some visual simulations of the proposed Project from some local vantage points to provide the community of images of what the solar project would look like from homes and public roadways. We will keep updating the website regularly so keep checking back every once and awhile 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 <a href="https://www.res-group.com">www.res-group.com</a> to learn more about our company and values.

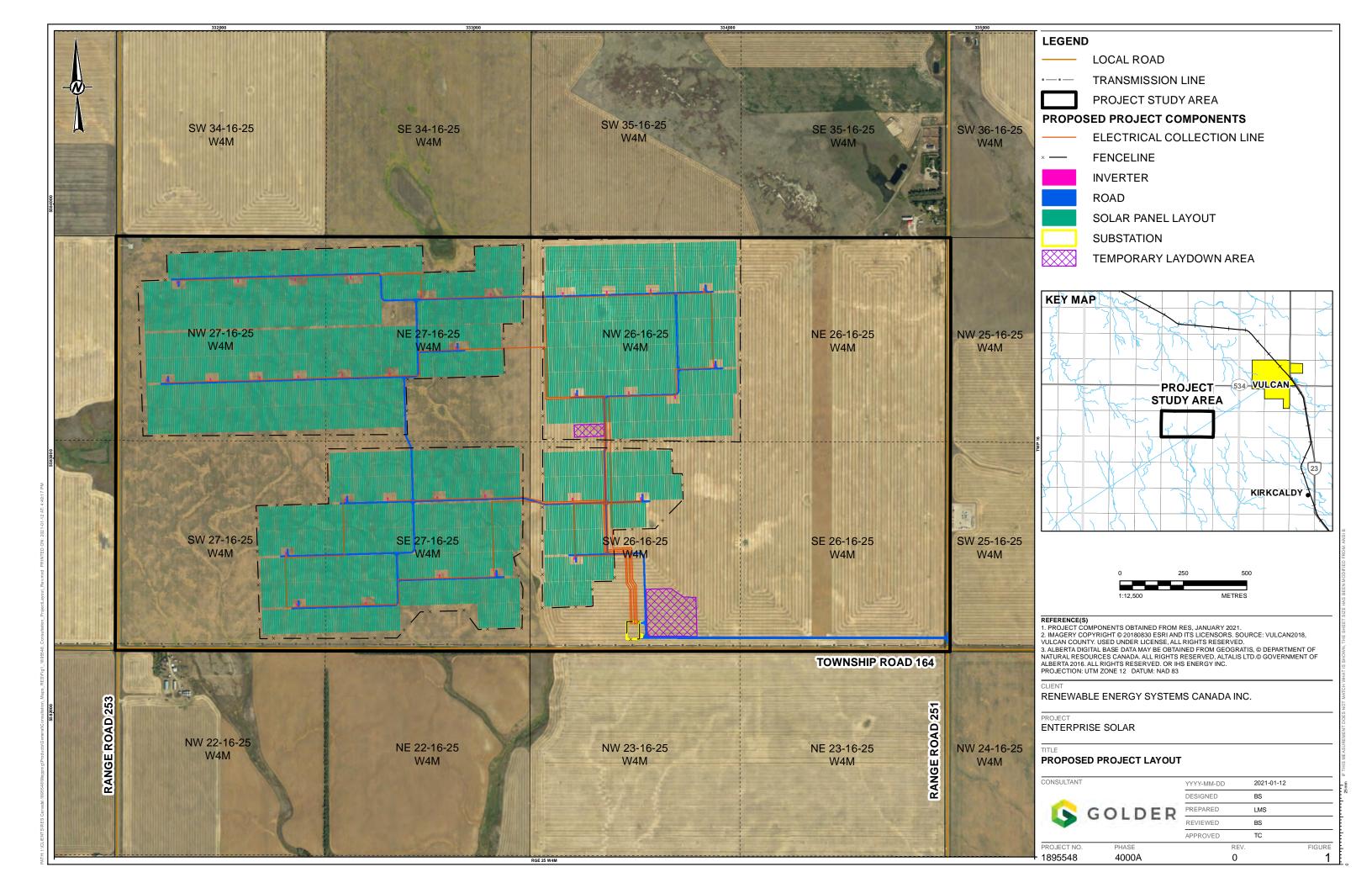
Ron Galbraith, RES' land agent and I have made every attempt to contact each and every household within 2 km of the proposed project to obtain feedback. We will be making more phone calls later this month. I do encourage you to reach out to me if you do have any questions or concerns. My contact information is 647-880-7473 or <a href="mailto:rebecca.crump@res-qroup.com">rebecca.crump@res-qroup.com</a>.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Crump

Senior Project Manager

Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc.



# 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

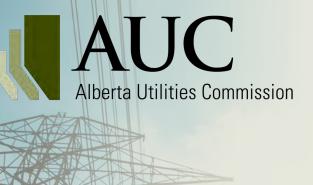
The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the Government of Alberta that ensures the delivery of Alberta's utility services take place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public interest.

### **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 Tower 106 Street Building 1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W. 10th Floor, 10055 106 Street Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5 Edmonton, 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.



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.

# \*Opportunity for public involvement