EDP Renewables Canada Ltd.
1320B – 396 11 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2R 0C5
Toll-free: 1-844-624-0330
www.sharphillswindfarm.com
www.edpr.com

November 26, 2018

Dear Stakeholder,

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the Sharp Hills Wind Farm. On September 21, 2018, we received the Alberta Utilities Commission's approval to construct and operate the Sharp Hills Wind Farm and a permit and licence for the substation. We also recently received the Special Areas Development Permit.

As a result of further technical and economic evaluations, EDP Renewables Canada Ltd. is proposing to modify the Project by reducing the number of turbine locations, reducing the number of turbines, and changing the turbine model.

We have reduced the number of turbine locations from 83 to 73. These turbine locations represent a subset of the previously approved turbine locations. We have identified two potential alternate turbine locations (T72 and T89), resulting in a reduction of the number of turbines from 83 to 71 for the final Project layout.

We have also modified the turbine model to the Enercon E-138 EP3 E2 turbine, with a capacity of 4.2 MW, a hub height of 128 metres, and a rotor diameter of 138.6 metres. The total tip height of the turbine has been reduced by 2.7 metres compared to the previous turbine choice. The total Project size will therefore reduce slightly from 298.8 MW to 298.2 MW.

The Project is now incorporating two phases, Sharp Hills I and II:

- Sharp Hills I will move forward with 59 turbines (247.8 MW).
- Sharp Hills II will incorporate 12 preferred turbine locations, two potential alternate turbine locations, and 12 turbines (50.4 MW).

Accompanying this letter are five documents that provide more detailed information about the proposed Project modifications and our Participant Involvement Program:

- Project Update Newsletter, which describes the proposed Project modifications, turbine updates, and corresponding evaluation updates;
- Project Infrastructure and Noise Map, which shows the updated layout and noise impact assessment results;
- Shadow Flicker Map, which shows the updated shadow flicker contours from the proposed Project modifications;
- Visual Simulations from four locations along public roads and near residences in the Project area; and
- Alberta Utilities Commission Brochure, *Public involvement in a proposed utility development*.



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Additional visual simulations reflecting these changes are also available on our website at **www.sharphillswindfarm.com**.

We believe these changes improve the overall Project. We will continue to engage with the community, landowners, and local government over the coming weeks, and we look forward to receiving your feedback about the Project and these changes.

**Contact us**

For additional information on the Project, please visit our website at **www.sharphillswindfarm.com**. If you have questions or comments, please contact us directly at **1-844-624-0330** or canada.ab@edpr.com.

Kind regards,

Ryan O'Connor
Project Manager, EDP Renewables Canada Ltd.
Toll-free: 1-844-624-0330
Email: canada.ab@edpr.com

## NEXT STEPS

As we continue this next phase in the regulatory and permitting updates, EDPR will continue the dialogue with community stakeholders, government officials, and local businesses throughout the course of the Project. EDPR is interested in hearing from all stakeholders and will consider your feedback for this Project. Your input will help to ensure that the local environment is respected and that the local community is a part of the development process.

**We will include a summary of all stakeholder comments in our amendment application to the AUC.**

To learn more about the AUC application and review process and how you can be involved, please review the brochure included in this package titled "Public Involvement in a Proposed Utility Development." Or please contact the AUC by phone at **780-427-4903** (call toll-free by dialling **310-0000** before the number) or by email at **consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca**. You can access AUC's website at **www.auc.ab.ca**.

## WHO IS EDPR?

EDPR is headquartered in Toronto, Ontario and has a development office in Calgary, Alberta. The EDPR team commissioned its first Canadian project, the South Branch Wind Farm, in 2014 near Brinston, Ontario. EDPR operates under EDP Renewables North America LLC (EDPR NA). EPDR NA and its subsidiaries develop, construct, own, and operate wind farms and solar parks throughout North America. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, EDPR NA has 45 wind farms, two solar parks, and 13 regional and development offices across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. EDPR NA operates more than 5,600 MW of renewable energy projects.

EDPR NA is owned by EDP Renováveis, S.A., a global leader in the renewable energy sector that develops, constructs, owns, and operates renewable generation facilities. The company operates in the United States, Spain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and the United Kingdom. The company is listed on the Euronext Lisbon Stock Exchange (NYSE Euronext: EDPR).

SHARP HILLS WIND FARM
November 2018

**MEET THE TEAM**
**For more information about the Project, please contact:**

**Ryan O'Connor**
**Project Manager**
403.263.7345

**Darren Carl**
**Project Developer**
416.502.9463

Or visit our website at:
**sharphillswindfarm.com**

**Or you can contact us at:**

EDP Renewables Canada Ltd.
396 11th Avenue SW, Suite 1320B,
Calgary, AB T2R 0C5

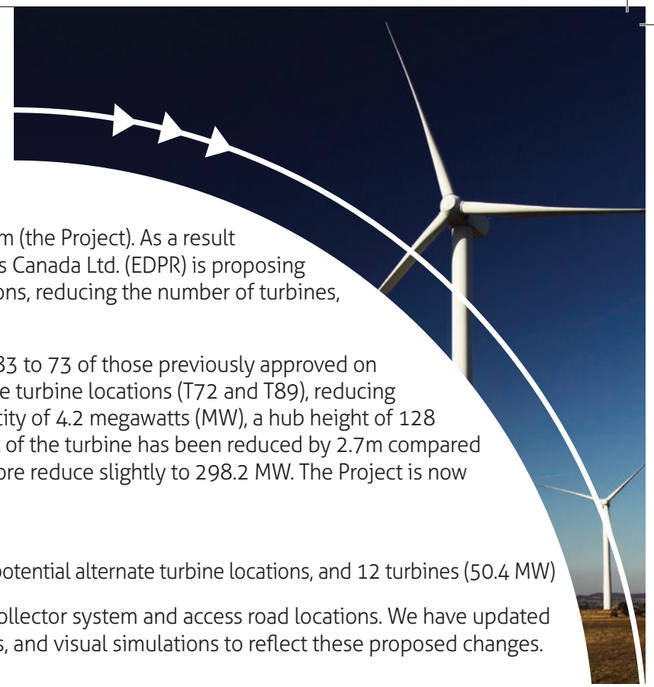
**Phone:** 403-263-7345
**Toll Free:** 1-844-624-0330
**Email:** canada.ab@edpr.com



renewables
powered by nature

# SHARP HILLS WIND FARM

November 2018



Thank you for your ongoing interest in the Sharp Hills Wind Farm (the Project). As a result of further technical and economic evaluations, EDP Renewables Canada Ltd. (EDPR) is proposing to modify the Project by reducing the number of turbine locations, reducing the number of turbines, and changing the turbine model.

The Project has reduced the number of turbine locations from 83 to 73 of those previously approved on September 21, 2018. We have identified two potential alternate turbine locations (T72 and T89), reducing the number of turbines from 83 to 71. Each turbine has a capacity of 4.2 megawatts (MW), a hub height of 128 metres (m), and a rotor diameter of 138.6m. The total tip height of the turbine has been reduced by 2.7m compared to the previous turbine choice. The total Project size will therefore reduce slightly to 298.2 MW. The Project is now incorporating two phases, Sharp Hills I and II.

- Sharp Hills I will move forward with 59 turbines (247.8 MW)
- Sharp Hills II will incorporate 12 preferred turbine locations, 2 potential alternate turbine locations, and 12 turbines (50.4 MW)

We have proposed modifications to the Project layout for the collector system and access road locations. We have updated environmental reporting, noise analysis, shadow flicker analysis, and visual simulations to reflect these proposed changes.

**ABOUT THE PROJECT:** EDP Renewables SH Project Limited Partnership, a subsidiary of EDPR, is developing the Project. The Project was previously approved at 298.8 MW and is now proposed at 298.2 MW. It will be located near Sedalia and New Brigden, Alberta, in Special Areas 3 and Special Areas 4 on approximately 35,000 acres of private land. The Project is bounded by Township Road 340 and Township Road 310 to the north and south, respectively, and is between Range Road 40 and Range Road 63 to the east and west, respectively. More information on the proposed Project changes are included under "Updates to the Project" in this newsletter. EDPR previously received all necessary sign-offs from the Special Areas Board (SAB) and Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), as well as approval from the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for the Project. In the coming months, EDPR will reach out to these agencies with the proposed Project changes for the necessary sign-offs and for an updated AUC approval.

**AUC DECISION:** On September 21, 2018, the AUC provided regulatory approval to construct and operate the power plant (22665-D02-2018) and a permit and licence (22665-D03-2018) to construct and operate the substation.

**Environmental:** We are continuing to honour our commitments to AEP and AUC to site Project infrastructure primarily on cultivated land and minimize disturbance to native prairie, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. We will complete additional post-construction surveys for wildlife, and complete reclamation monitoring surveys. We will send updated Project information to AEP for review.

**Noise:** We have revised the noise modelling for the E138 turbine. We have also integrated additional direction from the AUC's previous decision in the revised noise impact assessment. The proposed Project changes continue to be noise compliant for all residences. We have included the modelled cumulative noise contour for review on the Project map in this package.

**Visual Simulations:** We have updated the visual simulations for the Project to illustrate how this change in turbine technology will appear in the local landscape. We have provided four visual simulations in this package and 20 additional simulations on the Project website, for a total of 24 visual simulations, including the foreground, midground, and background images.

### SAB DECISION

On August 7, 2018, EDPR received the SAB Municipal Development Permit for the Project. On November 7, 2018, the SAB issued their decision to uphold the approved Development Permit following the municipal appeal hearing. We will meet the conditions of the SAB permit, including providing a reclamation and decommissioning plan for the SAB's review. EDPR will also honour the regulatory requirements at the time of decommissioning.

We have confirmed that the proposed Project updates abide by the noise setback requirements from the SAB. We will submit the proposed updates to the SAB for review and issuance of an updated Development Permit.

## NEED FOR THE PROJECT

Through the Alberta Electric System Operator's (AESO) Renewable Electricity Program, Alberta is changing its mix of power generation to include a larger percentage of renewable energy. Wind power is low-cost, emissions-free electricity, and it can help Alberta diversify its power sources and reduce emissions from the electricity sector.

In 2016, EDPR successfully bid into Round One of the AESO's Renewable Electricity Program (REP) and was awarded a Renewable Electricity Support Agreement. REP Round One was solely based on the cost of electricity. For more information on the REP, please visit: **www.aeso.ca/market/renewable-electricity-program.**

## UPDATES TO THE PROJECT

The proposed Project will use a different turbine technology. The turbine selected is the Enercon E-138 EP3 E2 / 4.2 MW on a 128-metre tower. Enercon turbines are painted white and characteristically have green stripes painted on the turbine base; however, in an effort to minimize the visual impact, this Project will not include the green stripes.

Enercon, based in Germany, is one of the oldest turbine manufacturers globally. Enercon turbines have been deployed in 49 countries, including Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Enercon has supplied over 1,100 MW of turbines for EDPR's projects in Portugal, Brazil, and France. The 73 selected turbine locations are a subset of the 83 locations previously approved by the AUC; the locations are available for your review on the map included in this package. The proposed changes to the Project are described in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed Project Modifications

| | OCTOBER 2017 LAYOUT | NOVEMBER 2018 LAYOUT | CHANGES |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Turbine type** | Vestas V136 3.6 MW | Enercon E138 4.2 MW | Different turbine technology |
| **Turbine nameplate capacity** | 3.6 MW | 4.2 MW | Increase in turbine capacity |
| **Number of turbine locations** | 83 | 73 | Reduced by 10 locations. Two potential alternate locations (T72 and T89) are identified |
| **Number of turbines** | 83 submitted to AUC | 71 to be submitted to AUC | Reduced by 12 turbines |
| **Tower hub height** | 132 metres | 128 metres | Shorter tower |
| **Rotor diameter** | 136 metres | 138.6 metres | Small increase in rotor diameter |
| **Total proposed Project size** | 298.8 MW | 298.2 MW | Slightly reduced Project capacity |
| **Phases** | One phase for all 83 turbines | Two phases for the 71 turbines: Phase I: 59 turbines Phase II: 12 turbines from 14 turbine locations | Identified two phases |
| **Noise level and noise compliance** | 105.5 dBA | 106 dBA | The Project continues to be in compliance with AUC Rule 012: Noise Control. |
| **Transformer Location** | Up-tower transformer | Up-tower transformer | No change |

The Project now includes two phases, Sharp Hills I and II, which are anticipated to reach commercial operations in 2020. We have honoured all setbacks identified in our original AUC approval, and the proposed Project modifications continue to be noise compliant.



## EXPECTED PROJECT SCHEDULE *

We expect the Project phases to have the following timelines:

Consultation will continue throughout the development, construction, and operational phases.

| TIMELINE | PROJECT MILESTONE |
|---|---|
| September 21, 2018 | AUC approval received |
| Q3–Q4 2018 | Final Project engineering complete |
| Q4 2018 | Consultation for proposed modifications |
| Q4 2018–January 2019 | Notification of the final layout |
| January 2019 | Submission to AUC for proposed modifications |
| Q2 2019 | Site mobilization |
| Q4 2020 | Anticipated commercial operation date for Sharp Hills I and II |

* Project schedule subject to change

## UPDATES TO THE PROJECT BOUNDARY & OTHER PROJECT DETAILS

All proposed changes to Project infrastructure are available for review in the Project map within this package.

**Project boundary:** We have expanded the Project boundary to include one additional quarter section (NW-25-31-4-W4M). This proposed expansion is to accommodate a short collector line of approximately 800 metres. The environmental baseline surveys previously included this quarter section.

**Collector system and access roads:** We have proposed minor changes to the collector line and access road routing. We made these changes as a result of detailed engineering studies. The proposed locations honour the AEP-approved setbacks.

**Permanent meteorological towers:** We have three previously approved permanent meteorological tower locations. One additional location is proposed (NW-16-31-4-W4M), for a total of four permanent meteorological towers.

**Schedule:** We have updated the schedule to reflect the latest construction timeline. We anticipate Sharp Hills I and II commercial operations will be achieved in Q4 2020.

## ONGOING DEVELOPMENT WORK

In the coming weeks, EDPR will continue public consultation on the proposed changes. We will update and submit a number of studies to regulatory agencies, including AEP and Alberta Culture and Tourism. EDPR will also complete detailed design engineering and construction planning. Once we have completed consultation with stakeholders and regulatory agencies, EDPR will apply to the AUC for approval of the proposed modifications.

## LOCAL BENEFITS

The Sharp Hills Wind Farm will benefit the local community in a variety of ways, including the following:

- Creation of up to 300 construction and 15–20 permanent local jobs in operations and maintenance;
- Contract opportunities during construction in excavation and civil works, aggregate supply, etc.;
- Contract opportunities for local businesses in snow clearing, road maintenance, fencing, reclamation, etc.;
- Increased local spending on goods & services during the Project's development, construction, & operational phases;
- Road Use Agreement, with potential for upgrades to public roads;
- Property tax payments;
- Neighbour agreements for landowners in proximity to the Project; and
- Landowner lease payments and Setback Waiver agreements.

# SHARP HILLS WIND FARM

Project Infrastructure and Noise Map for 298.2 MW Wind Farm

edp renewables

## Legend

**Proposed Turbine Locations (73)**
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 2 - Alternate Turbine Location
- Removed Turbine
- Current Project Boundary
- Visual Representation Points

**Land Use**
- Operations & Maintenance Facility
- Proposed Laydown Yard Location
- Proposed Substation Location

**Proposed Meteorological Towers**
- Phase 1
- Phase 2

- Participating House
- Non-Participating House

**Oil & Gas Facility Type**
- Compressor Station
- Crude Oil Multiwell Proration Battery
- Crude Oil Single-Well Battery
- Field Meter Station
- Gas Gathering System
- Gas Plant Acid Gas Flaring
- Gas Plant Sweet
- Gas Single-Well Battery
- Pumping Well

- 40 dBA Noise Contours
- Potential Overhead Collector System
- Proposed Turbine Access Roads
- Proposed Underground Collector System

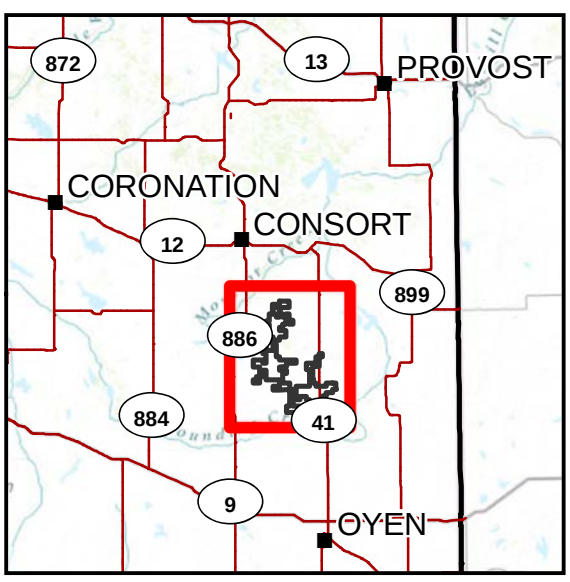
**Transmission Line Voltage**
- Existing 240kV (Single Circuit)
- 2km Notification Zone
- Phase 1 Former Project Area
- Phase 2 Former Project Area
- AUC Sept 2017 Submission Former Project Area
- Special Areas 3 & 4
- Visual Simulation Photo Orientation & Extent
- Numbered Highways
- Municipal Roads
- Hydrography
- Class 3 - 5 Waterbodies
- Township

**Author:** Solas Energy Consulting Inc.
**Date / Time:** 23 November 2018 / 12:05 PM
**Version:** REV 2.0
**Datum:** North American 1983
**Projection:** NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
**Scale:** 1:110,000
**Sources:** EDPR, ESRI, AER, Ventyx, AltaLIS, RWDI.

## Notes

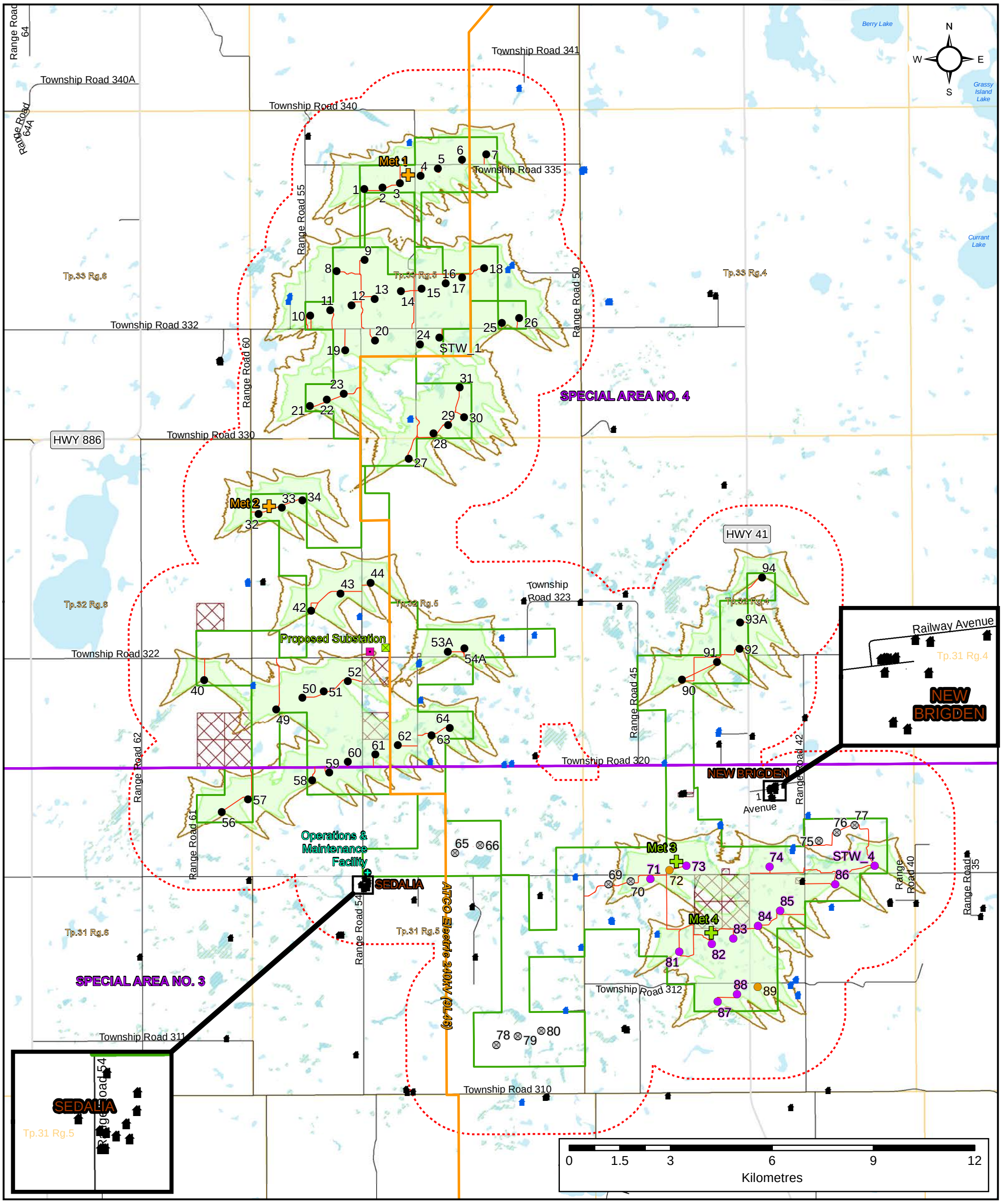
Turbine labels with "STW" refer to those turbines that are "Subject to Waiver" from adjoining non-project landowners.

The Project boundary is not representative of the entire leased land base.



# SHARP HILLS WIND FARM

## Shadow Flicker Map for 298.2 MW Wind Farm




### Legend

**Proposed Turbine Locations (73)**
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 2 - Alternate Turbine Location
- Removed Turbine
- Proposed Project Boundary

**Land Use**
- Operations & Maintenance Facility
- Proposed Laydown Yard Location
- Proposed Substation Location

**Proposed Meteorological Towers**
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Participating House
- Non-Participating House

**Shadow Flicker - Adjusted Case**
- Shadow Flicker (15 hours per year)
- Shadow Flicker (8 hours per year)
- Proposed Turbine Access Roads

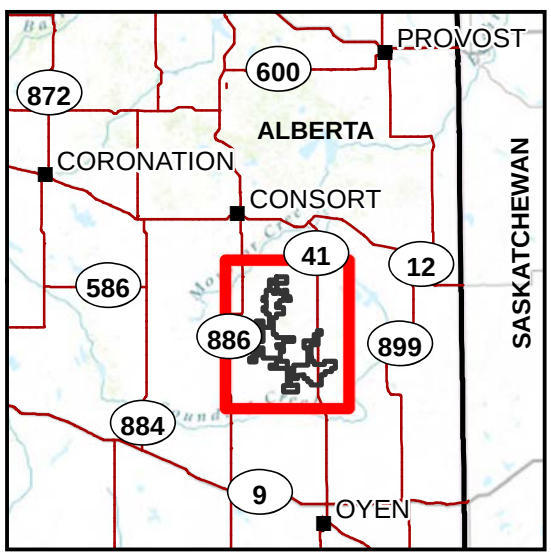
**Transmission Line Voltage**
- Existing 240kV (Single Circuit)
- Non-Project Land
- 2km Notification Zone
- Special Areas 3 & 4
- Numbered Highways
- Municipal Roads
- Hydrography
- Class 3 - 5 Waterbodies
- Township

**Author:** Solas Energy Consulting Inc.
**Date / Time:** 23 November 2018 / 10:07 AM
**Version:** REV.4
**Datum:** North American 1983
**Projection:** NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
**Scale:** 1:109,000
**Sources:** EDPR, ESRI, AER, Ventyx, AltaLIS, RWDI.

### Notes

Turbine labels with "STW" refer to those turbines that are "Subject to Waiver" from adjoining non-project landowners. Setback waiver agreements will be required.

The Project boundary is not representative of the entire leased land base.





Title: Photomontage: Enercon E138 EP3 E2 4.2 MW
Location 3
New Brigden Looking South East

Project: Sharp Hills Wind Power Project

Datum: NAD 83
Projection: UTM Zone 12N

Scale: N.T.S.

Date: 2018-11-23

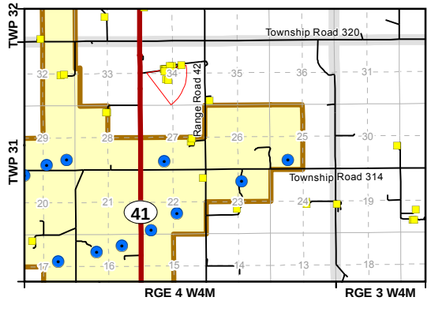
Version: 3

**Notes:**
Photographs taken July 28, 2018 with Nikon D60 DSLR camera and 35 mm lens. Photomontage simulated using Enercon E138 EP3 and with a hub height of 128 m using 73 turbine locations (Layout provided by EDPR on Nov 21, 2018).

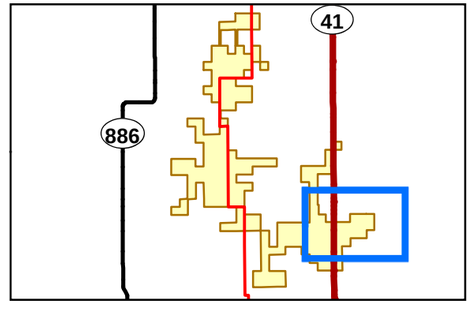
**Data Sources:**
Project lands provided by EDPR Nov 6, 2018.
Populated places, roads, Alberta Township System, and municipal boundaries from AltaLIS, licensed under the Open Government Licence – Alberta.

**Prepared By:** WSP Canada Inc.
**Author:** A. Medd
**Reviewed:** A. Louro
**Approved:** R. Istchenko






**Legend:**
- Residence
- Wind Turbine
- Photo Location and Field of View
- Transmission Line
- Major Highway
- Minor Highway
- Road
- Township Line
- Section Line
- Quarter-section Line
- Project Land





Title: Photomontage: Enercon E138 EP3 E2 4.2 MW
Location 5
Sedalia Looking North West

Project: Sharp Hills Wind Power Project

Datum: NAD 83
Projection: UTM Zone 12N

Scale: N.T.S.

Date: 2018-11-23

Version: 3

**Notes:**
Photographs taken July 28, 2018 with Nikon D60 DSLR camera and 35 mm lens. Photomontage simulated using Enercon E138 EP3 and with a hub height of 128 m using 73 turbine locations (Layout provided by EDPR on Nov 21, 2018).

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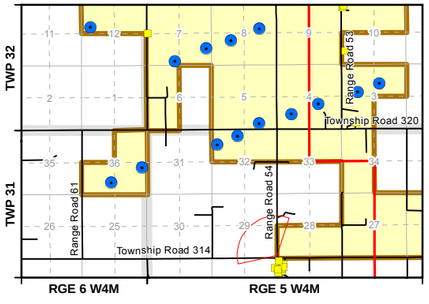
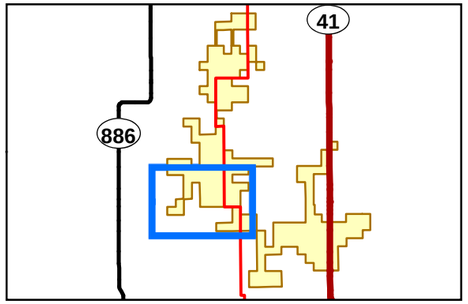
**Prepared By:** WSP Canada Inc.
**Author:** A. Medd
**Reviewed:** A. Louro
**Approved:** R. Istchenko






**Legend:**
- Residence
- Wind Turbine
- Photo Location and Field of View
- Transmission Line
- Major Highway
- Minor Highway
- Road
- Township Line
- Section Line
- Quarter-section Line
- Project Land





Title: Photomontage: Enercon E138 EP3 E2 4.2 MW
Location 13
Range Road 52 and TWP Road 314 Looking North

Project: Sharp Hills Wind Power Project

Datum: NAD 83
Projection: UTM Zone 12N

Scale: N.T.S.

Date: 2018-11-23

Version: 3

**Notes:**
Photographs taken on Oct 26, 2018 with Canon EOS Rebel SL1 DSLR camera and 35 mm lens. Photomontage simulated using Enercon E138 EP3 and with a hub height of 128 m using 73 turbine locations (Layout provided by EDPR on Nov 21, 2018).

**Data Sources:**
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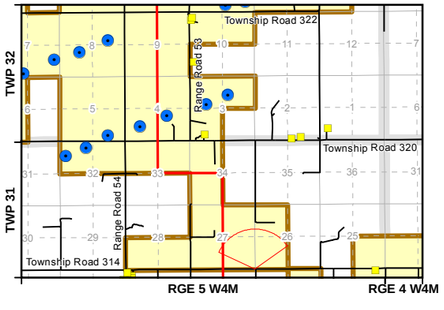
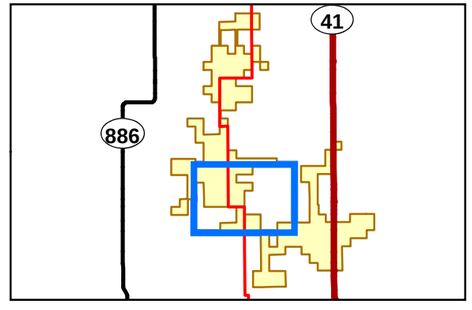
Populated places, roads, Alberta Township System, and municipal boundaries from AltaLIS, licensed under the Open Government Licence – Alberta.

**Prepared By:** WSP Canada Inc.
**Author:** A. Medd
**Reviewed:** A. Louro
**Approved:** R. Istchenko






**Legend:**
- Residence
- Wind Turbine
- Photo Location and Field of View
- Transmission Line
- Major Highway
- Minor Highway
- Road
- Township Line
- Section Line
- Quarter-section Line
- Project Land





| | |
|---|---|
| Title: | Photomontage: Enercon E138 EP3 E2 4.2 MW<br>Location 15<br>Range Road 54 and TWP Road 332 Looking North |
| Project: | Sharp Hills Wind Power Project |
| edp renewables<br>WSP | Datum: NAD 83<br>Projection: UTM Zone 12N |
| | Scale: N.T.S. |
| | Date: 2018-11-23 |
| | Version: 2 |

**Notes:**
Photographs taken on Oct 26, 2018 with Canon EOS Rebel SL1 DSLR camera and 35 mm lens. Photomontage simulated using Enercon E138 EP3 and with a hub height of 128 m using 73 turbine locations (Layout provided by EDPR on Nov 21, 2018).

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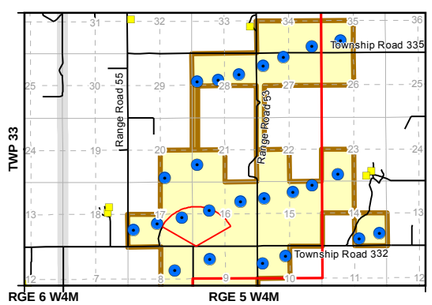


**Legend:**
- Residence
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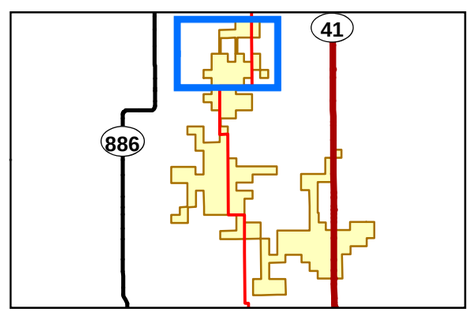

### Step 6: The public hearing process*

The public hearing process provides an opportunity for those who have been unable to resolve their concerns with the applicant and have made a filing, to express their views directly to a panel of Commission members. The panel reviews the initial filings and grants what is referred to as standing to those who may be directly and adversely affected by the proposed project. Standing is necessary to continue involvement as an intervener in the proceeding which may include the filing of evidence and participation in an oral or written hearing.

The AUC will issue a notice of hearing setting out the hearing date, location and additional process steps and deadlines. An AUC public hearing operates similarly to a court proceeding and is a quasi-judicial process. The general public is welcome to attend as an observer and the hearings are often broadcast online so that those interested can listen-in.

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

Persons who hire legal counsel or technical experts must be aware that while reimbursement for the costs of legal and technical assistance may be available under Rule 009, recovery of costs is subject to the Commission assessing the value of the contribution provided by counsel and technical experts. People with similar interests and positions are expected to work together to ensure that any expenditures for legal or technical assistance are minimized and costs are not duplicated.

### Step 7: The decision

For electric transmission facilities, the need for transmission development filed by the Alberta Electric System Operator to the AUC must be considered to be correct unless someone satisfies the Commission that the needs application is technically deficient, or that to approve it would be contrary to the public interest. For electric needs applications, the Commission can either approve, deny, or send the application back with suggestions for change.

Commission decisions made about applications filed for a specific utility development, including electric transmission lines, gas utility pipelines and power plants, may be approved, approved with conditions or denied. Decisions are typically released within 90 days from the close of the record as a written report. The decision, available on the AUC website, will summarize the Commission's findings and state its reasons for the decision with any conditions or approval time limits if applicable.

Sometimes needs and facility applications are considered together in a single proceeding.

### Step 8: Right to appeal

A participant in a hearing who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Commission may request that the Commission review and vary its decision. Such a request must follow the procedure set out in Rule 016: *Review of Commission Decisions*.

A dissatisfied participant may also file a leave to appeal motion in the Court of Appeal of Alberta within 30 days from the date the decision is issued.

### Step 9: Construction and operation

Any applicant that receives a permit to construct and licence to operate a facility from the Commission must adhere to any conditions that were set out in the decision. If you notice something during the construction or operational phases of a project that concerns you, bring this to the applicant's attention. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive, please bring your concerns to the attention of the AUC.

***Denotes opportunity for public involvement**

**The Alberta Utilities Commission is committed to ensuring that Albertans whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by utility development in Alberta have the opportunity to have their concerns heard, understood and considered. If you believe you may be directly and adversely affected, you can become involved in the AUC application and review process.**

## Contact information

Phone: 780-427-4903
Email: consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca

Dial 310-0000 prior to the 10-digit number and then press 1 for toll-free access anywhere in Alberta.

## Information session

It is our goal to ensure that you understand the process, and your opportunities for involvement in proceedings to consider utility development applications. For those interested in having an AUC staff member further explain the application and review process or answer questions you may have about your involvement in utility development proceedings, please contact us as we may schedule a formal information session for you. The virtual information session on our website, found under Involving Albertans, will also provide you with further details which could assist you in understanding the process and having your say in a utility development proceeding.

This brochure provides general information only. Specific participation opportunities may differ depending on the type of application.

AUC
Alberta Utilities Commission

# Public involvement in a proposed utility development

***Understanding your rights and options for participating in a proceeding to consider applications for a proposed project in your area***

**Updated October 2014**

**www.auc.ab.ca**

## Application process

**Step 1***
Public consultation by the applicant.

**Step 2**
Application filed with the AUC.

**Step 3**
The AUC issues a notice of application or notice of hearing.

**Step 4***
Interested parties submit filings to the AUC with any outstanding issues or objections.

If the AUC does not receive any submissions, the application will be reviewed and a decision may be made without a hearing.

**Step 5***
The AUC issues a notice of hearing, if it was not already issued in Step 3.

- Continued opportunity for consultation and negotiation with the applicant.

**Step 6***
Public hearing.

**Step 7**
The AUC issues its decision. Below are the options the AUC may consider for:

Needs applications from the Alberta Electric System Operator:

- Approval of application.
- Return to the Alberta Electric System Operator with suggestions.
- Denial of application.

Facilities applications:

- Approval of application.
- Approval of application with conditions.
- Denial of application.

**Step 8**
Option to appeal decision or ask the AUC to review its decision.

**Step 9**
Approvals, construction and operation of facility, if approved.

## Having your say

**Early discussions with the applicant about proposed utility developments will often result in greater influence on what is filed in the application for approval. Utility developments include natural gas pipelines, electric transmission lines and substations (including Alberta Electric System Operator needs identification documents), and power plants. Should you have concerns related to a proposed utility development, it is best to have early and ongoing discussions with the applicant.**

**If your objections cannot be resolved, or you have outstanding concerns upon the filing of an application with the AUC, you have an opportunity to submit an initial filing with your objections in writing to the AUC containing the following information:**

- **How you may be affected by the proposed project and the location of your land or residence in relation to it or any alternative proposed in the application.**
- **The potential effect the proposed project may have on your property or interest in the property .**
- **A description of the extent to which you may be affected, and how you may be affected in a different way or to a greater degree than other members of the general public.**

**Following this initial filing, you may be able to fully participate in the proceeding. This could include having legal representation and participation in a public hearing. It is important to note that any applied for routes and segments (preferred and alternate) could be chosen as the approved route in the AUC decision.**

### 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 is required to conduct public consultation in the area of the proposed project, so that concerns may be raised, addressed and if possible, resolved.

The requirements for consultation and notification, namely the participant involvement requirements, are set out in Rule 007 for electric facilities and Rule 020 for 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.

### Step 2: Application to the AUC

When the participant involvement requirements have been completed, the proponent of the utility development files an application with the AUC. The application must indicate the issues which came up during the public consultation and any amendments considered or made to the project. Any unresolved objections or concerns which arose from the public consultation must be identified in the application.

***Denotes opportunity for public involvement**

### Step 3: Public notification

The Commission will issue a notice when it receives an application that, in the Commission's opinion, may directly and adversely affect the rights of one or more people. The notice is typically sent by mail to residents in the project area and may also be published in local newspapers. The notice will provide key dates, contacts and participation information for those interested in becoming involved in the application process.

### Step 4: Public filings to the AUC*

If you have unresolved objections or concerns about the proposed project filed with the AUC for approval and wish to participate in an AUC proceeding, you must make an initial written filing. Your filing must include your contact information, concern or interest in the application, an explanation of your position and what you feel the AUC should decide. Please be aware that any information or materials filed with the AUC, except information granted confidentiality, is available to the public.

### Filing your concerns

The eFiling System is a web-based tool created to manage applications and filings made to the AUC through a proceeding-based review. This system gives access to all public documents associated with applications filed with the AUC and is the most efficient way to provide your input to the AUC and monitor the related proceeding filings.

Those who do not have access to the Internet can send filings, evidence and other material by mail or fax and the AUC will upload the submission on your behalf.

### Participant cost reimbursement

A person determined by the Commission to be a local intervener can apply for reimbursement of reasonable costs incurred while participating in an AUC proceeding. Details regarding recovery of participants' costs are described in Rule 009: *Rules on Local Intervener Costs*.

### Step 5: Consultation and negotiation*

The Commission supports ongoing efforts to reach a positive outcome for the applicant and all affected parties. The Commission encourages the applicant and those who have made filings 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, typically those matters will be addressed at an AUC public hearing.