

# RED WILLOW SOLAR + ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT

Westbridge Renewable Energy Corporation (Westbridge) is proposing the development of a 225 MWac solar energy generating facility and a 100 MW battery storage system (the “Project”) on privately held lands in Stettler County.

Once constructed and operational, the Project will connect to the Alberta Integrated Electric System (“AIES”) through an existing transmission line that runs through the site to support the ongoing energy needs of Albertans.

## Who is Westbridge Energy Corporation?

Westbridge is a Calgary-based renewable energy company focused on originating and developing utility-scale solar and energy storage projects, turning green fields and the power of the sun into a reliable, sustainable flow of energy.

Westbridge’s management team have collectively developed more than 2 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity across Europe and North America. In Alberta alone, Westbridge has projects in development totalling 1,674 MWp of solar generation and 653 MW of energy storage.

For more information on the company and its current projects, please visit [www.westbridge.energy](http://www.westbridge.energy).

## What are the benefits of the Project?

The development of this Project will provide local benefits to the community such as an increase in property tax payments to the county, local employment opportunities for construction and operation, and increased use of services (accommodations, restaurants) throughout the construction from our Project team.

## QUICK FACTS

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Solar energy generated  
**225 MWac**

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Battery Storage  
**100 MW**  
(200 megawatt hours (MWh))

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County:  
**Stettler**

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Regulatory filing  
**2023**

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Construction  
**2024**

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Operational  
**2026**

# Red Willow Solar Energy Generation Facility

Westbridge is proposing the construction of a 225 MWac fenced solar energy facility on privately owned lands in Stettler County.



# Red Willow Battery Energy Storage System

Westbridge is proposing a 100 MW lithium-ion battery energy storage system to be located within the fenced area directly adjacent to the collector substation to store power for distribution into the grid in times of high demand.



## What does the Project consist of?

The Project will consist of arrays of photovoltaic panels aligned to generate power. These rows of panels will be attached to inverters and transformers to allow for an onsite, underground collector system to bring the generated power to a collector substation. This collector substation will convert the 34.5 kilovolt (kV) power generated to 240 kV to connect to the AIES. The Project area will be fenced, have access trails, and a one-storey control building to monitor the operation of the facility.

## What type of panels are being used?

The panels being proposed for the Project will be bifacial solar panels due to their ability to receive and transform solar radiation from both the top and bottom sides. Bifacial panels are well suited to Alberta's climate as snow cover can actually boost solar production during the winter months as sunlight is reflected from the snow's surface allowing for electricity generation from the underside of the panel.

It is anticipated that there will be approximately 454,000 panels on site to generate the 225 MWac of power. The Project will provide enough electricity to power the equivalent of over 40,000 homes.

## Will the facility be bright?

The Project team is in process of completing a Glint and Glare study to be submitted to regulators as part of the facility application required to construct and operate the Project. The overall design of the Project will limit any excessive glare at local receptors including residences.

## Where is the collector substation?

The collector substation will be within the fenced area of NE 10-40-18 W4 on approximately 150x150 m area in the southeast corner adjacent to the proposed battery energy storage system.

## How are panels recycled and replaced?

Westbridge will replace panels as required and recycle any damaged or no longer useful panels according to the manufacturer. The Project is anticipated to be operational for 35 years.

## How will the energy generated get to Albertans?

Westbridge is working closely with ATCO Electric to connect the power generated to the ATCO transmission infrastructure that already exists on site.

## What are the batteries going to look like and where will they be?

At this time, the manufacturer of the battery packs has not been determined. The battery energy storage system (BESS) will be located on an area of approximately 100x100 m area with an operations building approximately 25x30 m in size. The BESS will be located within the southeastern fenced area of NE 10-40-18 W4.

## What is Westbridge doing about battery safety?

In accordance with the County's regulations and requirements, Westbridge battery energy storage systems development will be accompanied with a set of analysis, measures, and mitigations aimed at making the power plant a safe facility. For example, Westbridge will have an on-site Emergency Response Plan that will be developed through discussions with local emergency response providers. Westbridge will be installing onsite monitoring to allow for a quick response to any potential issues.

## Are these batteries loud?

The batteries generate sound from the fans installed within the battery pack to regulate internal temperature. Westbridge is undertaking a Noise Impact Assessment to implement any mitigation needed to meet regulatory guidelines for noise (Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) Rule 012). It is not anticipated that sounds will vary from what is currently heard today.

## What is Westbridge doing regarding potential environmental impacts?

Westbridge has been undertaking environmental desktop and field work over the past year, including conducting surveys for:

- Bird migration (fall and spring)
- Breeding birds
- Sharp-tail grouse
- Raptors
- Wetlands and watercourses

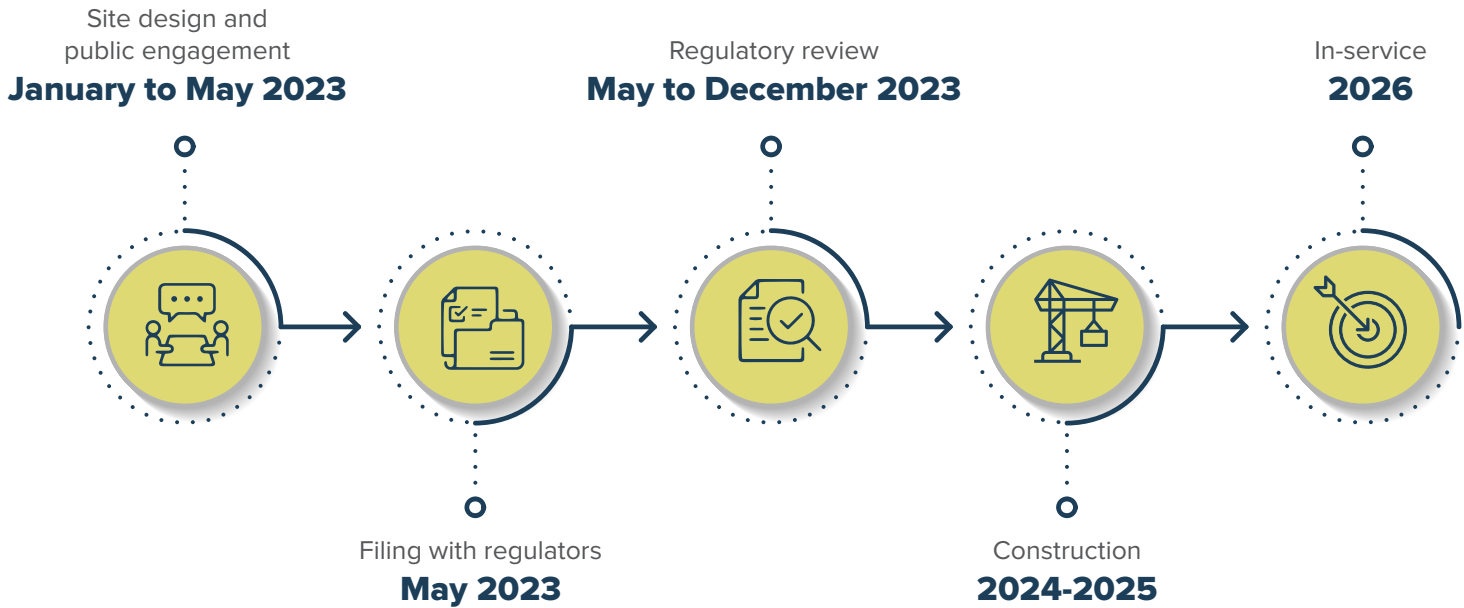
As the Project moves forward, there will be soil, wetland, and vegetation surveys to complete the Environmental Evaluation and associated Environmental Protection Plan to manage potential effects of the Project on the environment throughout the construction and operation.

# Who approves the Project?

Westbridge will be filing one facility application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) within the first half of 2023. The AUC will be the final decision maker on whether the Project should be approved and is in the public's interest. More information on the AUC's process can be found on their website at [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca)



## Timelines




*\*timelines subject to change*

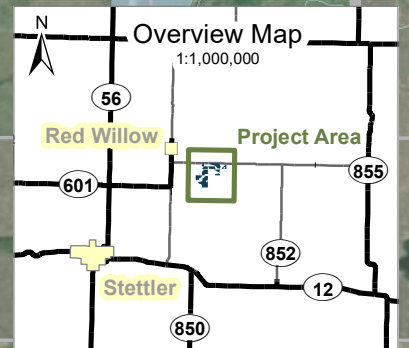
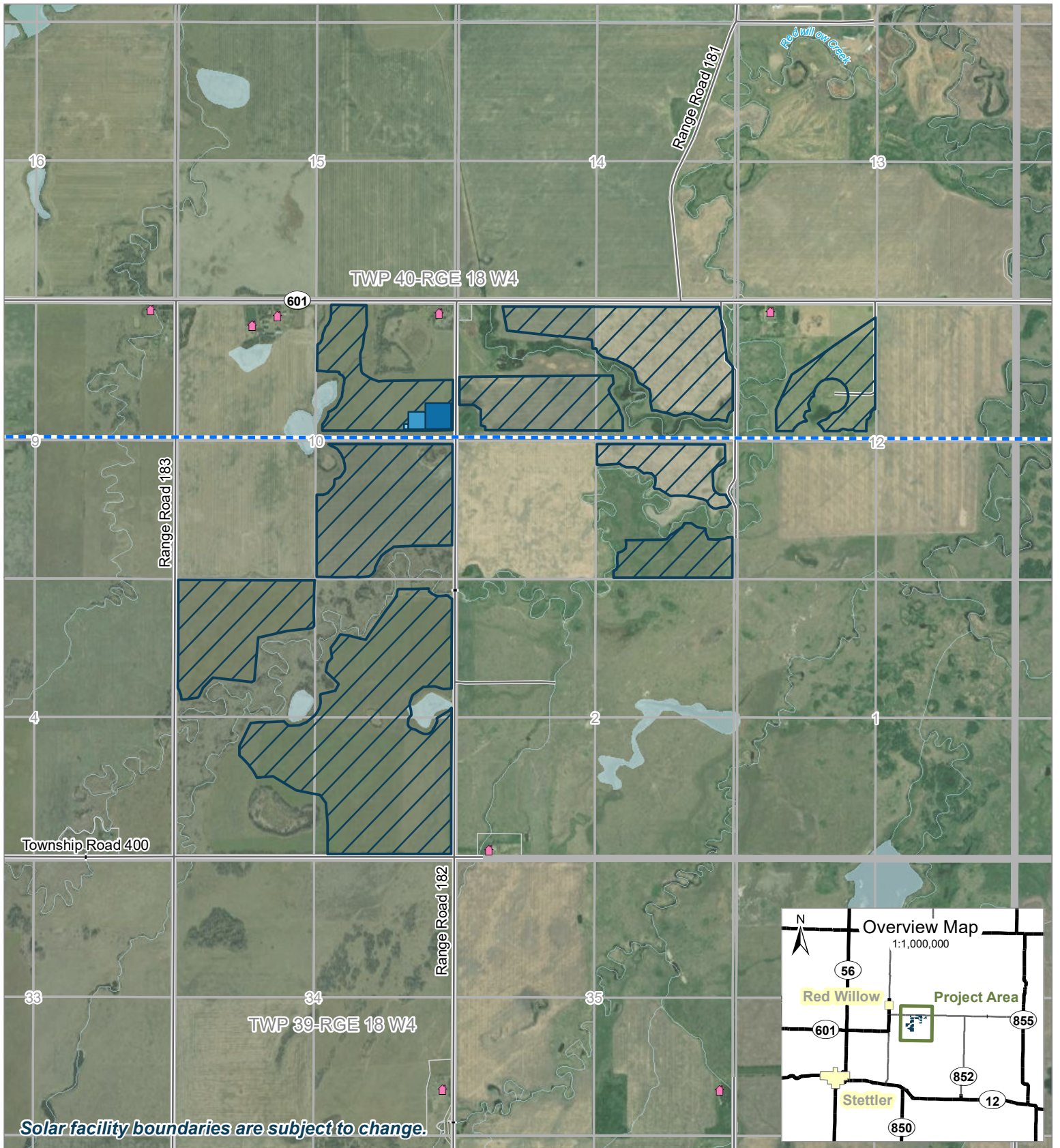
## Questions? Comments?

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the Project, please contact us directly.

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**WESTBRIDGE  
RENEWABLE**  
ENERGY CORPORATION









*Solar facility boundaries are subject to change.*





**WESTBRIDGE RENEWABLE**

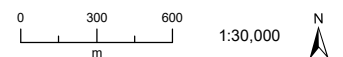
ENERGY CORPORATION

Red Willow Solar + Energy Storage Project

**Project Area**

-  Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
-  BESS Operations and Maintenance Facility
-  Collector Substation
-  Project Boundary
-  Residence
-  Existing Transmission Line

-  Paved Road
-  Unpaved Road
-  Watercourse
-  Water Body



Produced For: Westbridge Renewable Energy Produced By: W. Barr  
 Map Date: February 23, 2023 Map #: WBE22087-003 Rev. 0  
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# 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](http://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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