

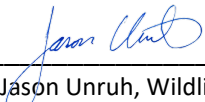
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas - Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Renewable Energy Referral Report


The NU-E Corp Lethbridge 2-3 Solar Power Project (the Project) proposed by NU-E Corp (the Proponent) was reviewed by the Alberta Environment and Protected Areas – Fish and Wildlife Stewardship (EPA-FWS) regional wildlife contact for renewable energy projects. EPA-FWS has reviewed the proposed location, mitigation strategies, including associated infrastructure and construction plans, and post-construction monitoring and mitigation program. Project information was presented by the Proponent in a submission dated March 2023 and accepted by EPA-FWS on March 20, 2023.

The EPA-FWS review of the NU-E Corp Lethbridge 2-3 Solar Power Project was guided by the EPA-FWS policy document, *Wildlife Directive for Alberta Solar Projects* (October 2017; hereafter called the *Directive*) and the *Post-Construction Survey Protocols for Wind and Solar Energy Projects* (January 2020; hereafter called the *PCMP Protocol*). The Proponent must follow the *Directive* and *PCMP Protocol* for requirements on siting, pre-construction surveys, construction, operation, and post-construction monitoring and mitigation plans.

This referral report summarizes the review undertaken by EPA-FWS that was restricted to reviewing information provided in the submitted documents, completed by Bear Tracks Environmental Services (2015) Ltd. And Keneco Environmental Inc. on behalf of the Proponent and applying the wildlife standards and best management practices for the siting, construction, and operation of the solar facility. This office undertook no independent on-site assessment. This Renewable Energy Referral Report is not intended to relieve any party from any liability if there are detrimental effects to wildlife or wildlife habitat during construction or operation that were not identified and mitigated for in the documents submitted. It is the responsibility of the Proponent to ensure compliance under all other policy and legislation, including but not limited to the *Alberta Wetland Policy*, *Water Act*, *Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossings*, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, *Alberta Wildlife Act*, *Migratory Bird Convention Act*, and *Species at Risk Act*. Federal requirements may differ from EPA-FWS policy, therefore additional consultation may be necessary. EPA-FWS review does not eliminate the need for review by other branches of the Department, Government of Canada, or other governing bodies. This referral report summarizes the potential risks to wildlife and wildlife habitat based on the information provided to EPA-FWS.

EPA-FWS has determined the NU-E Corp Lethbridge 2-3 Solar Power Project proposed by NU-E Corp, poses a **low risk** to wildlife and wildlife habitat, based on Project siting on cultivated land away from native habitat and wetlands, avoidance of sensitive wildlife features and setbacks, limited wildlife use in the area, and commitments made by the Proponent to mitigate and monitor wildlife impacts. This EPA-FWS Renewable Energy Referral Report expires on November 6, 2028.

Signature:  Date: November 6, 2023
Printed Name and Position: Jason Unruh, Wildlife Biologist, Red Deer – South Region

Signature:  Date: November 6, 2023
Printed Name and Position: Scott Stevens, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Red Deer – South Region

Signature:  Date: November 27, 2023
Printed Name and Position: Brandy Downey, Wildlife Program Manager – South Region, Lethbridge, AB