

January 10, 2022

#### **RE: Lethbridge One Solar Community Notification Letter**

Dear Neighbor and Stakeholder(s),

My name is Pamela Pelletier, I am the Development Manager for NU-E Corp. (NU-E). NU-E is a Canadian owned and operated solar development company proposing to construct and operate a solar farm in the City of Lethbridge. The solar farm, substation and connection are collectively called Lethbridge One.

Lethbridge One is proposed to be located on approximately 80 acres of privately owned agricultural land, south of Highway 3, west of Westside Drive, north of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West and east of 30<sup>th</sup> Street West, municipal address 2910 Westside Drive W Lethbridge Alberta (SW 10-9-22-W4M).

I have prepared this letter and the enclosed Project Information Newsletter to (1) notify and provide you with project specific information, and (2) invite you to be involved in the Project's public consultation process. The following information is included:

- A map of the Project site and surrounding areas
- The Project's expected development and construction timeline
- Information of community benefits and potential impacts

As part of a planned application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval to construct and operate the Lethbridge One facility, NU-E is providing a copy of the AUC brochure Public Involvement. The document has been prepared by the AUC to inform the public of the AUC application process and the means for public involvement. This document can also be viewed on the AUC website <u>www.auc.ab.ca</u>.

Development work is ongoing, including but not limited to, design of the project layout, public consultation, environmental assessments, and wildlife studies, and permitting activities. NU-E is committed to use best efforts to minimize the impact on the community, environment, and wildlife. NU-E is dedicated to consultation for the life of the project, providing all necessary project specific information in an honest, respectful, and timely manner to all stakeholders and Aboriginal groups potentially directly and adversely impacted by the project.

Further information will be circulated as the project progresses. Your feedback is encouraged for consideration of project development, design, and operation where applicable and practical. Project information can be found on our website <u>www.nu-ecorp.com</u>.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

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You are receiving this package because you live on, or own land near, the proposed Lethrbidge One

## **About the Project**

The proposed Lethbridge One Solar Power Project ("the "Project") is an approximately 9-megawatt (MW) solar farm to be located on approximately 80 acres of private cultivated land in the City of Lethbridge.

## About NU-E Corp.

NU-E is a Canadian owned and operated solar development company headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, with 60-megawatts of solar power installed and commissioned in Alberta.

As a future long-term owner and operator of solar power projects in Southern Alberta, NU-E is committed to building lasting partnerships and achieving positive social impacts for the communities in which we work, live and play.



The project is located on SW 10-9-22-W4M, municipal address 2910 Westside Drive W Lethbridge, Alberta.

## All included

- \* Location and Map
- \* Community Info
- \* Next Steps
- \* Estimated Project Timeline
- \* Project Details
- \* Project Layout
- \* Participant Involvement Program
- \* AUC Brochure
- \* Contact us



#### We want your input!

#### We welcome invitations to support local initiatives!

## **Community Benefits**

- \* Projected to create +50 locally sourced jobs during construction
- Field and supply chain service for local businesses

**Public Consultation** 

- \* Tax revenues throughout the life of the project to support municipal services and infrastructure.
- \* NU-E is committed to support local community organizations and charities

## **Community Involvement**

As part of our broad community consultation, NU-E will be meeting with the community and industrial operators near the Project to provide project specific information and seek feedback. Consultation is active throughout the development, construction and operation of the Project.

## **NEXT STEPS-** Public Consultation

As NU-E moves through the regulatory and permitting process, your feedback is encouraged for consideration of project development, design, and operation. We are enthusiastic to work with all landowners and stakeholders to mitigate potential directly and/or adversely impacts by the Project. NU-E pledges to respond to all questions and concerns in an honest and timely manner.

## **Estimated Project Timeline**

Lethbridge One Activity or Milestone	Timeline
Project Notification & Initial Consultation	January 2022
Submit Application to the Alberta Utilities Commission	October 2022
Submit Development Permit Application	November 2022
Anticipated Alberta Utilities Commission Approval	February 2023
Begin Construction	March 2023
Energization Date	June 2023
Expected Commercial Operations Date	July 2023

#### A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE WILL BE HELD IN LETHBRIDGE, AB IN EARLY 2022

Contact us to schedule a personal consultation meeting!



We want your input!

## **Project Details**

**Solar Panel:** Solar panels generate electricity when exposed to the sun's radiation. NU-E will source panels from a Tier 1 manufacturer.



**Inverter:** /nverters convert electricity produced by the solar panels from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) allowing the electricity to be transported for use in your home and/or business.



Access road: An access road will be constructed to access the project site. Additional gravels roads within the project boundary to construct, operate and maintain the Project.



## **Approval Process**

# **Project Influences**

Solar projects complete various environmental studies and fulfill reporting requirements as part of the regulatory and government review process.

**Noise:** A Noise Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the AUC application. Lethbridge One anticipates noise levels to be within permissible limits as outlined in the AUC Rule 012.

**Environment:** In acccordance with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) permitting guidelines, third party environment surveys are on going. Submissions will be made to AEP and the AUC for review.

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC), an independant, quasi-judicial agency of the Government of Alberta that ensures a fair and responsible delivery of utility service. The AUC uses an established process to review applications to protect social, economic and environmental interests of Alberta. The AUC is committed to ensure that Albertans whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by a project have an opportunity to have their concerns heard, understood and considered.

For more information on how you can participate, please refer to the enclosed AUC brochure *Public Involvement, Participating in the AUC's Independent Review Process* 

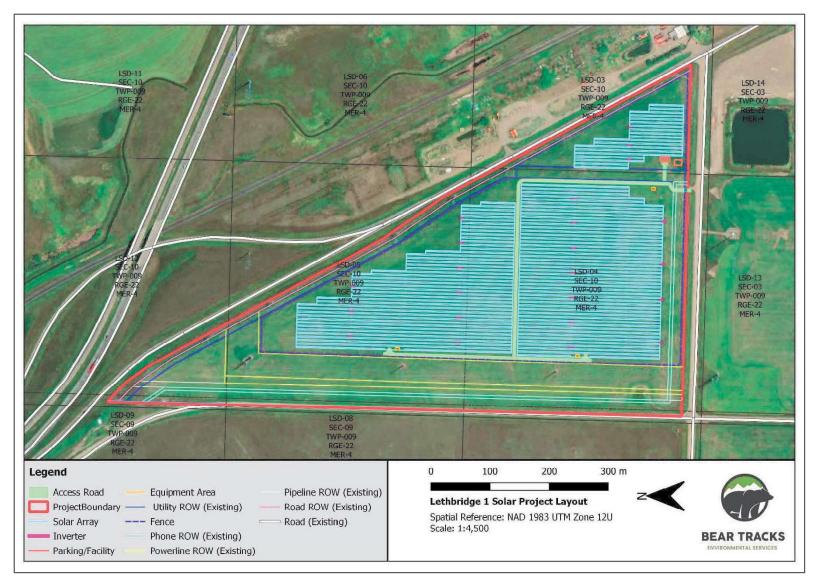
## **CONTACT US**

Please contact us for more information on the Lethbridge One Solar Power Project. Your comments and feedback are important to us.



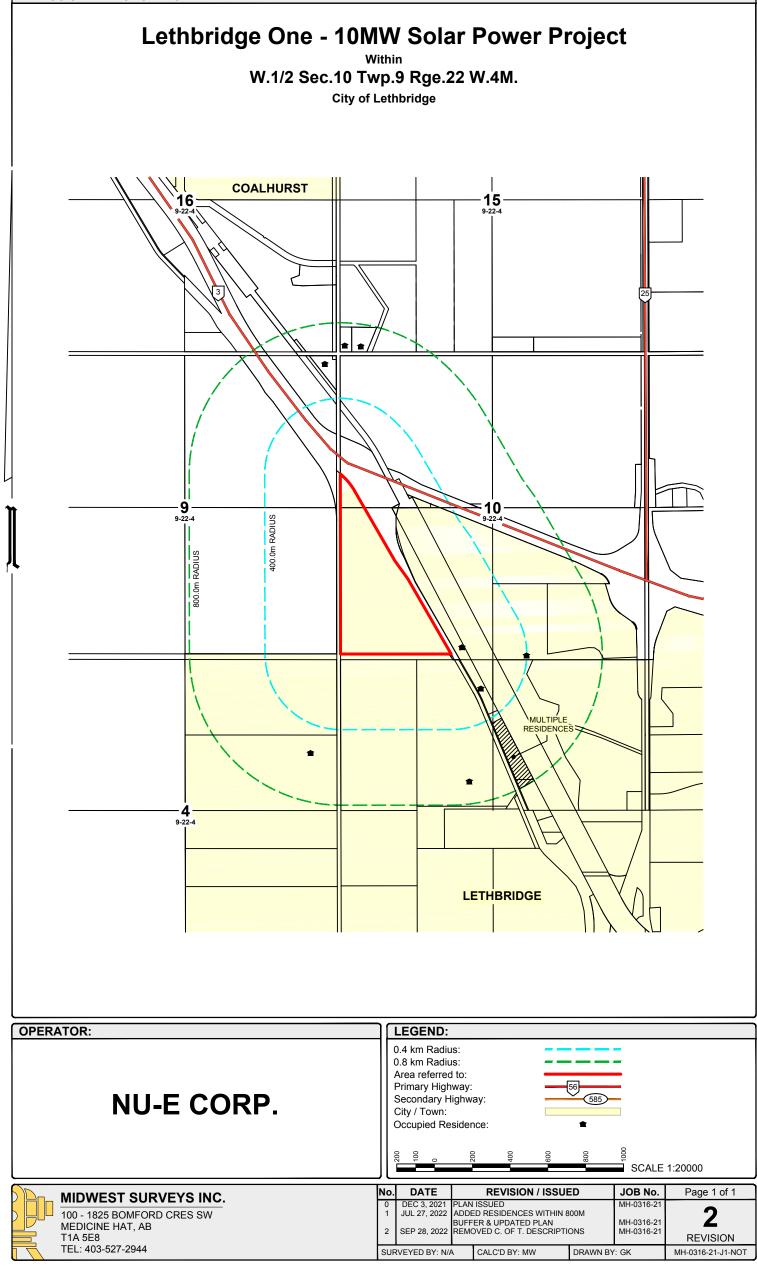
Phone Number:403-860-5685Email Address:Info@nu-ecorp.com

We want your input!



Map 7 – NU-E Corp L1S Layout









# **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**

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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.

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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

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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 proceedingbased 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**

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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.

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### 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.

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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** 

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

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