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# Rattlesnake Ridge Wind Power Project

Public Engagement Plan

*Updated July 2019*

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# Rattlesnake Ridge Wind Power Project

## Public Engagement Plan

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc. (RES) on behalf of BHEC-RES Alberta L.P., has developed this Public Engagement Plan (PEP) as a living document so stakeholders can review and comment on the Public Involvement Process (PIP) and ultimately on the proposed Rattlesnake Ridge Wind Power Project (the Project).

The Rattlesnake Ridge Wind Power Project is being permitting with 28 wind turbine locations and will generate up to 117.6 megawatts (MW) of electricity and is planned in The County of Forty Mile No. 8, Alberta. In order for this Project to be built, appropriate permits from various provincial bodies must be obtained, including the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC), which includes a referral letter from Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and a Permit and License from the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO). The Project will also require Development Permits from the County of Forty Mile.

This PEP provides an outline of the consultation activities that stakeholders can expect over the coming months. We will carry out the engagement plan with the intent of building trust, credibility and respectful relationships with those stakeholders and Aboriginal groups that might potentially be affected by or interested in this Project.

RES has outlined our main goals of public engagement activities:

1. Exceed the AUC Rule 007 requirements for public consultation
2. Develop open communication with the community, appropriately incorporating their feedback into the Project design, and continuing to develop a strong community relationship into the construction period and beyond
3. Be easily accessible to the public and transparent in all our dealings
4. To earn stakeholder support for the Project, enabling regulatory approval.

Within the PEP, RES will:

- Outline RES's consultation principles
- Identify stakeholders who might be impacted by or interested in the Project
- Identify and understand stakeholder and Aboriginal groups' concerns and issues, if any
- Provide an overview of the types of engagement activities we will carry out
- Provide a timeline of our engagement activities, including open houses and office hours.

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Different communities, stakeholders and Aboriginal groups have different expectations regarding the form, frequency and nature of consultation. As such, this PEP is intended to be a “living document” that outlines an upfront engagement process that will likely change in response to the feedback and expectations of the local community. By working closely with stakeholders, RES will develop the best possible Project plan. As this document is updated based on feedback from stakeholders, the latest version will be posted on the Project website.

### 2. PROJECT DETAILS

BHEC-RES Alberta L.P. is proposing to develop, construct and operate a 117.6MW wind power project in the vicinity of Whitla, in the County of Forty Mile No. 8. The Project is spread across 12,000 acres and will include 28 wind turbines, an underground collection system, a substation and a 30-50m tie line to t-tap AltaLink 879L, a 138kV transmission line running directly on land optioned for the Project. The Project will also include an Operations and Maintenance Building adjacent to the Substation.

BHEC-RES Alberta L.P. has chosen the Market Participant Choice (MPC) option provided by the AESO. The MPC option is a variation of a Connection Project, that allows market participants to develop and construct the transmission facility (or part thereof) and then transfer the asset to the designated Transmission Facility Owner (TFO), in this case AltaLink, upon its completion. In the MPC process it is the Proponents’ responsibility to consult, not only on the wind farm and ancillary infrastructure, but also on the interconnection to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES).

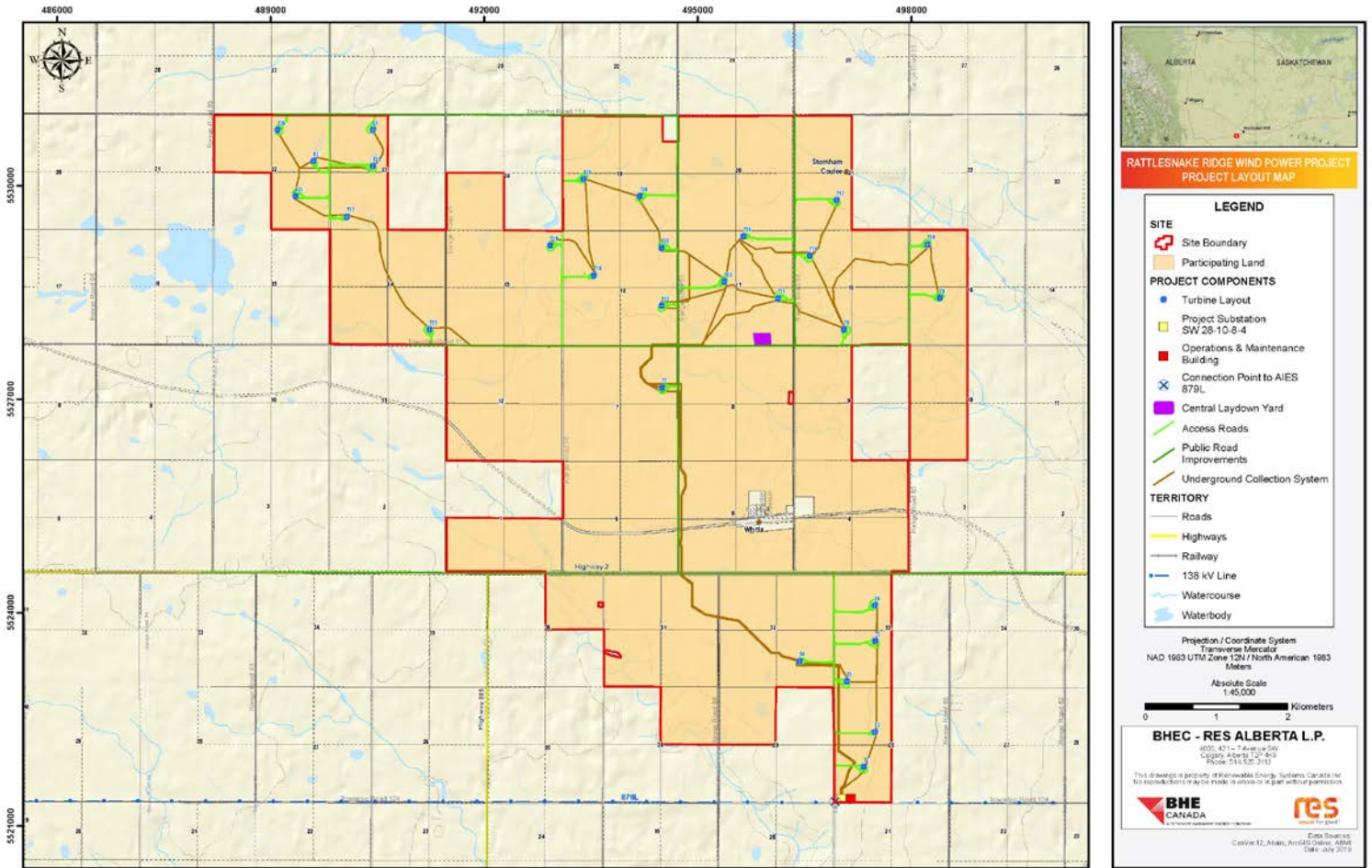
To interconnect the Rattlesnake Ridge Wind Project to the AIES, requires a proximately 30-50m of 138kV transmission line, from the Project substation to the t-tap point of 879L. The entire interconnection scope will occur on one privately-owned quarter section of land, that is participating in the Project.

The final wind turbine layout, illustrating all Project infrastructure is shown in Exhibit 1.

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Figure 1. Project Layout Map



### 3. THE PROPONENT

BHEC-RES Alberta L.P. is a partnership between Berkshire Hathaway Energy Canada (BHE Canada) and RES. BHE Canada is the long-term Project owner. RES is developing the Project and will construct the Project and offer asset management services to BHE Canada. RES is leading consultation with all stakeholders. An introduction to both companies is outlined below.



BHE Canada was established in 2015 after Berkshire Hathaway Energy (BHE) made its foray into the Canadian market with the purchase of AltaLink, Alberta’s largest independent transmission provider. BHE Canada is poised for growth in building a greener, more sustainable energy future for all Canadians.

BHE Canada is focused on business opportunities within all aspects of the energy infrastructure market across Canada, including electricity transmission and distribution, and oil and natural gas infrastructure. With a particular focus on renewable energy, BHE Canada will invest in power generation sources including wind, solar and natural gas. For more information please visit: [www.bhe-canada.ca](http://www.bhe-canada.ca)



RES is a family-owned business started in 1983 and owned by the McAlpine Family Trust, and is the World’s largest independent renewable energy company, with over 16GW (16,000MW) portfolio and the expertise to develop, engineer, construct, finance and operate projects around the globe. RES was conceived in 2003 and has been at the forefront of the Canadian renewables industry being involved, as either a developer or constructor of almost 20% of all renewable energy projects in the Country. RES’ culture and values, is dedicated to a low-carbon future for all Canadians and our focus is solely on renewable energy projects (wind, solar) and supporting enabling projects (energy storage, transmission). For more information please visit: [www.res-group.com](http://www.res-group.com)

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Contact information for RES, who is undertaking all Stakeholder Engagement on behalf of BHEC-RES Alberta L.P. is:

**Mailing Address:** 5605 avenue de Gaspé, Suite 508, Montreal, QC H2T 2A4

**Phone Number:** 403-596-3356

**Email:** [RattlesnakeRidgeWind@res-group.com](mailto:RattlesnakeRidgeWind@res-group.com)

**Project Website:** [www.RattlesnakeRidgewind.com](http://www.RattlesnakeRidgewind.com)

**Project Manager:** Rebecca Crump

**Mobile:** 647-880-7473/403-596-3356

**Email:** [Rebecca.crump@res-group.com](mailto:Rebecca.crump@res-group.com)

**Land Agent:** Ron Galbraith

**Mobile:** 403-866-6469

**Email:** [Ron.Galbraith@res-group.com](mailto:Ron.Galbraith@res-group.com)

Public questions and feedback on the Project are always welcome. There are various ways that you can get in touch with us to discuss any questions or concerns you have related to the Project. We encourage anyone to contact us at any time for information or with any questions or comments.

**4. SCHEDULE ASSUMPTIONS**

KEY PROJECT MILESTONE	ESTIMATED TIME FRAME
Project Announcement and Notification <i>(including first mail out)</i>	Completed in August 2018
First Project-Specific Open House	Completed in September 2018
Second Mail Out	Early July 2019
Second Project-Specific Open House	July 24, 2019
Preparation and Submission of PIP Summary	Mid-September 2019
Application Submission to AUC	Fall 2019
Regulatory Review and Approval	Spring/Summer 2020

**5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**

Effective and thorough stakeholder consultation is vital to the success of the Project and the local community. Through engagement and consultation activities, open discussion and transparent project planning, we hope to continue engaging in meaningful dialogue and discussion with all stakeholders.

Our goal is eliminating or mitigating to an acceptable degree any sincere concerns about the Project. The following concepts form the basis of our proposed engagement process. Additional details on other planned engagement activities are outlined in Section 8.

- Proactively inform everyone whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by the Project and its potential effects.
- Be transparent about the Project design, conveying technical information in plain language.
- Provide stakeholders with opportunities to ask questions and raise concerns about the Project and have those questions and comments addressed in a professional and timely manner.
- Facilitate the discussion of options, alternatives, and mitigation strategies, giving stakeholders the chance to influence the Project design and, if not possible, explain the reasons.



## 6. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR WIND PROJECTS IN ALBERTA

Wind power facilities are subject to a number of regulatory requirements and processes, including AUC requirements for public consultation.

### AUC Rule 007

*AUC Rule 007: Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments* (Rule 007) sets out specific guidelines regarding public consultation. The AUC requires that proponents undertake a Participant Involvement Program (PIP) for all projects, with the goal of:

- Informing all persons whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by the proposed project.
- Giving stakeholders an opportunity to voice their concerns and be heard, as well as to be involved in finding mitigating solutions for these issues.
- Ensuring all records of engagement are recorded, including responses, follow-up actions and commitments.

Further details regarding the AUC's PIP requirements, consultation record requirements and AESO consultation requirements are provided below or are available online at <http://www.auc.ab.ca/Pages/Rules/Rule007.aspx>

### 6.1.1. Participant Involvement Program and Summary

The PIP must be completed before an application is submitted to the AUC. The PIP helps to ensure that stakeholders (the public, local authorities, agencies, industry and governments) are adequately consulted and potential concerns are addressed, and if possible, resolved. This PEP is the first step in tracking the PIP for the Project.

The AUC sets out the following guidelines and requirements regarding the PIP and PIP summary:

- The proponent is expected to effectively communicate and interact with stakeholders whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by the nature and extent of the proposed Project. This strategy should be included in the written summary of the PIP. The proponent should also use the method of consultation preferred by the occupant, landowner or resident, which could include face-to-face meetings, phone calls, emails or other electronic media.
- A description of project-specific information given to stakeholders at project notification, open house(s), and any other mail-out and consultation activities is required. This information must be built into the written summary of the PIP, and the hard copies included in the appendices. Comprehensive project information must be developed and made available to all stakeholders included in the PIP, and can include, but is not limited to, website content, emails, and addressed

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or unaddressed postal mail. If the project is part of a larger project, the proponent is expected to discuss the entire project and how it complements other development in the area.

- If a stakeholder does not wish to receive the project-specific information or declines to consult with the proponent, the proponent is required to document the refusal for audit purposes.
- During the planning of a PIP, the proponent is expected to assess its need to reach the broader public and determine whether an information session or public open house is required. If the proponent does decide to hold an information session or open house, they are required to notify stakeholders of the event at least 14 calendar days prior.
- A written summary of outstanding objections or concerns, and responses to follow-up on objections and concerns are both required. The evidence of these consultation activities must also be included in a consultation log as part of the appendices of the application.
- A written description of discussion of options, alternatives and mitigation measures to address stakeholder concerns is required. The evidence of these consultation activities must be included in a consultation log as part of the appendices of the application.
- The proponent is expected to make reasonable attempts to communicate with stakeholders about their involvement, even if the application is withdrawn. Stakeholders included in the PIP should continue to be included in the correspondence and information updates should be made where reasonable.

### 6.1.2. Consultation and Notification Records

We have kept and are continuing to keep a detailed log containing information on the dates personal consultation occurred or was attempted, whether Project information was provided, and to whom the Project information was given. This is usually provided in table format to the AUC.

The AUC sets out the following guidelines and requirements regarding record-keeping:

- The proponent must conduct one-on-one consultation with occupants, residents and landowners located within 800 metres of the project boundary. Where there is more than one landowner or occupant at the address, additional consultation must be undertaken upon request of the additional stakeholder(s). All consultation must be recorded in the consultation log.
- The proponent is required to track all mail-out activities, including information sent out (project notification should be sent by trackable courier or registered mail) to all stakeholders with 2,000 metres of the project boundary.
- The proponent is required to record project-specific information given to stakeholders at: project notification (via mail), open house(s), and any other mail-out and consultation activities.
- The proponent is required to record reasonable attempts to contact all stakeholders.
- Questions raised during consultation should be addressed by the proponent and recorded in the consultation log. The proponent is expected to document commitments made during its PIP and have a process in place to follow up on those commitments.
- If an application is withdrawn, stakeholders outlined in the PIP should be notified, and the consultation tracked.

- When submitting an application, the proponent is required to indicate any outstanding objections or concerns that they are aware of. Outstanding concerns must be provided in the written PIP summary as well as the consultation log.

### 6.1.3. AESO Consultation

AUC Rule 007 indicates that the Independent System Operator (ISO), in this case the AESO, must distribute a Needs Identification Document (NID) to affected stakeholders for transmission lines and substations related to power generation facilities. The NID is anticipated to be distributed in Fall 2019.

The interconnection of this Project concerns only a small area of land, as the Project substation and point of interconnection to the Provincial grid system is only between 30- 50 metres, depending on final design and will require one new transmission line from the Project substation to the AltaLink line 879L. The entire interconnection facility will occur on one quarter section of land, that is also participating in the wind project. There is no need for a new long transmission line to connect this wind farm to the grid.

## 7. IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING STAKEHOLDERS

A variety of individuals and groups may be interested in this Project and consider themselves stakeholders. AUC Rule 007 outlines the importance of effective communications with stakeholders (the public, local authorities, agencies, industry and government) so that concerns may be raised, properly addressed, and if possible, resolved. All persons whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by a proposed development must be informed of the application, have an opportunity to voice their concerns and have an opportunity to be heard.

We have identified the following stakeholder groups within or adjacent to the Project area. We encourage anyone interested in the Project and wishing to become a stakeholder to contact us via our website or other means (see the contact section of this document) to stay informed about the Project.

We also would like to discuss the Project with both landowners and those who rent, either residences, or agricultural land. If you hold an interest in any land that will be affected by the Project, please contact us and we will be more than happy to answer any questions pertaining to the Project.

### Directly Affected Stakeholders

Directly affected stakeholders are defined as those persons residing or owning land within 800m of the Project boundary. The Project boundary includes all project infrastructure such as turbines, underground collector line, the Project substation and the point of interconnection to the AEIS. These stakeholders will be contacted again and will be personally consulted with by phone or through in-person discussions.

Although BHEC-RES Alberta L.P. has chosen to undertake the development, planning and construction of the interconnection line, and will be personally consulting those residing within 800m of these facilities, AltaLink, the TFO, has a small scope in the interconnection process and is required to consult on their scope of the Project. Residents and owners within 800m of the interconnection facility, will also be contacted by AltaLink so they can fulfill their obligations under the rules and regulations of the AUC.



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### **Nearby/Adjacent Stakeholders**

Adjacent stakeholders include those persons who are between 800m and 2,000m from the Project boundary. In an effort to exceed the AUC requirements, the proponent has extended these boundaries to 850m and 2,050m. These stakeholders will be notified of all Project updates and will have the ability to be personally consulted with if they so choose. If there are populated areas just outside of the 2,050m distance, we will include those areas in the public notification as well.

### Governments

Various contacts at different tiers of government will also be included in our stakeholder list. The following table lays out the relevant jurisdictions for each level of government.

LEVEL	SUMMARY
<b>Federal</b>	Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner Federal electoral district
<b>Provincial</b>	Taber-Warner Provincial electoral district
<b>Municipal</b>	County of Forty Mile, No. 8

Other government agencies that form part of the stakeholder list are:

- › Alberta Government, including:
  - Alberta Culture and Tourism
  - Alberta Energy
  - Alberta Environment and Parks
  - Alberta Transportation
  - Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Alberta as Represented by Minister of Municipal Affairs
- › Federal Government, including:
  - Transport Canada
  - Nav Canada
  - Royal Canadian Mounted Police
  - Canadian Armed Forces
  - Parliament of Canada
  - Environment and Climate Change Canada
- › County of Forty Mile, No. 8 Government, including:
  - County of Forty Mile Emergency Services

**Other Stakeholders and Interest Groups**

Several other entities, stakeholders and local business development groups will also be added to the consultation list. The groups identified for this Project are listed in the table below. We request that you contact us if you wish your group to be added to our consultation list.

BHEC-RES Alberta L.P. is focused on maintaining long-term relationships with host communities and stakeholders. When identified, we will engage closely with other stakeholders in an attempt to identify any concerns or questions and as much as possible incorporate feedback into the evolving Project design.

LEVEL	GROUP
Federal	Ducks Unlimited
Federal	Canadian Aerial Applicators Association
Provincial	Economic Development Alliance of Southeast Alberta
Local	Halo Rescue
Local	Palliser Economic Partnership
Local	School districts including: Medicine Hat Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 20, Prairie Rose School District No. 8
Local	STARS Air Ambulance
Local	Local airports, including Bow Island, Medicine Hat, Schlenker
Local	Other flying associations in the Area

**Crown Disposition Holders**

There are a handful of quarter sections within and adjacent to the Project area that are held by the Crown. Both the County of Forty Mile and the individual(s) who lease the land will be part of the consultation process.

**Aboriginal Communities**

RES has initiated a formal consultation process through the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO). RES has historically engaged with the Blackfoot Confederation of First Nations in Alberta, comprised of the Siksika, the Blood and the Piikani bands from Southern Alberta and the Blackfeet Nation in Montana. Discussions with the Blood, Piikani, Siksika and the Blackfeet Nations regarding the initial Project area began in June

2016. At that time the Rattlesnake Ridge Project formed a part of RES's larger Forty Mile Wind Project. A site visit was conducted on December 14, 2016 with the abovementioned Nations.

A follow-up meeting was held in January 2017 and the representatives did identify an interest in the potential requirement to conduct an Historic Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) if one was required by Alberta Culture and Tourism.

RES is re-engaging each Nation to provide an update on the Rattlesnake Ridge Wind Project, as a separate and distinct project and determine the current level of interest in participating in Project development.

### **8. MEDIA - THE BOW ISLAND COMMENTATOR**

The Bow Island Commentator reaches a large number of interested stakeholders in the area of the Project and is used extensively to notify the public of major Project events such as open houses. The Commentator is published weekly with a distribution of close to 6,000 readers in the Counties of Forty Mile, and Cypress, and the towns of Bow Island, Redcliff, Burdett, Foremost and other south-east Alberta Hamlets.

### **9. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

We aim to respond to each and every need and concern raised by all stakeholders. Every comment is important to us. In some cases, adjustments to the Project design can be implemented, or mitigation of impacts can be achieved. Our current wind turbine layout is a testament to this, as we have made changes through consultation with the County, local residents and our participating landowners. Our focus will always be on open and transparent communication with all stakeholders to collaboratively review and assess the Project. Listed below are some examples of the strategies that RES often uses to effectively engage with stakeholders throughout the Project.

#### **Municipal Meetings**

Representatives from RES will provide regular updates and presentations to the County of Forty Mile and will provide this information to any interested members of the public. In these meetings, County officials will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers so that they are informed about the Project when talking with their constituents.

#### **Drop-In office hours**

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Representatives from RES will be available for public drop-in discussions throughout July, August and September, 2019 so as to be available to each and every member of the Community who has a question or concern. Please visit us at: **137, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave E, Bow Island:**

### **July, August, September Office Hours:**

Tuesday: 4 pm – 7 pm

Thursday: 8 am – 11 am

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday: 10 am – 1 pm

(July 13 & 27, August 10 & 24, September 7 & 21)

### **Mail-outs and Public Announcements**

Project-specific information packages are being sent to stakeholders and are a good way to provide short-term updates to local residents and stakeholders who want to know more. Public announcements and advertisements in the local paper will also be used to provide updates on community events, Project updates or participation opportunities.

### **Information Sessions/Open Houses**

An open house provides the best opportunity to share detailed Project information and for direct interaction with stakeholders. Experts in varying aspects of wind energy may be brought in to converse with everyone who wishes to be engaged or has a question regarding a specific project issue or concern. Follow ups are scheduled in the event that people request further opportunities to learn more about and discuss the Project. Feedback forms are available for attendees, and people will be encouraged to take the time to communicate and express any comments or concerns they have about the Project. Information presented at such events often takes the form of poster displays (i.e. posters, maps, charts, etc.), audio-visual (movie) presentations and information packages and handouts that people can take home.

**Our next open house will be at the Whitla Community Centre on July 24, 2019 from 5-8pm.**

### **Round Tables/Coffee Meetings/One-on-One Meetings**

A round table or coffee meeting provides the opportunity for direct interaction and discussion with stakeholders in an informal setting, and with a smaller group of people. Some people prefer this as a better opportunity to ask questions versus a larger public meeting. One-on-one meetings at home or in a public place are also available if anyone wants this specific type of consultation. A variety of good Project information can also be shared in these types of meetings including maps, information sheets, and in some cases audio-visual (movie) presentations.

### **Project Specific Website**



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A project-specific website gives stakeholders the opportunity to obtain additional project information or download information that was presented at previous events but that they may have lost or forgotten.

The website commonly includes topics such as:

- Project updates
- Project schedule
- Project documents (open house materials, maps, brochures, etc.)
- Upcoming events
- Contact information

Please visit [www.RattlesnakeRidgeWind.com](http://www.RattlesnakeRidgeWind.com) for the information listed above.

### **Targeted Briefings and Field Visits (by request)**

A targeted briefing usually consists of an oral or audio-visual presentation to a selected audience. It allows for a more detailed explanation and exploration of concerns or implications unique to a particular group. In many cases, nothing can substitute for seeing a real project in person. A complementary tour of a wind farm may be set for stakeholders and local residents who want to experience a project for themselves, firsthand, if they have never seen one in person.

### **Phone Calls and Emails**

Having the opportunity for a brief discussion by email or phone can also be a powerful way to discuss and share information on the Project. We encourage stakeholders to reach out as this is the best way to get questions and concerns addressed in a timely manner. Our contact information can be found on all Project documentation. Please contact us anytime.

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### 10. TIMELINE OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Although we will attempt to follow the anticipated Project schedule, it is subject to change. We will continue to provide you with updated schedule information, if required, as the Project progresses.

ESTIMATED TIME FRAME	MILESTONE
<b>2016-2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Informal community consultation initiated</li><li>› Field studies</li><li>› Interconnection studies</li><li>› Project Planning</li></ul>
<b>September 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› First Project information package was mailed out to affected stakeholders.</li><li>› First public open house</li></ul>
<b>July 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Second Project information package and formal notification of second open house will be mailed out to directly affected stakeholders by courier and neighborhood mail-drop</li></ul>
<b>July 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Second public open house</li><li>› Permitting layout presented and discussed</li></ul>
<b>August – September 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Continuation and documentation of consultation activities</li></ul>
<b>Fall 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› PIP and Project application is completed and submitted to the AUC for review and approval.</li></ul>

### 11. SUMMARY

BHEC-RES Alberta L.P. is dedicated to thorough consultation for the Rattlesnake Ridge Wind Power Project. The engagement is planned so that clear and transparent Project information is shared with the public. Project events are designed to ensure that engagement activities exceed the minimum mandated consultation requirements as outlined by the AUC (Rule 007). The consultation activities will remain ongoing as the Project is developed, allowing all interested parties time to provide feedback and learn about the Project. The plan is designed to engage all stakeholders in a more dynamic way than is typically done in the AUC process, through more and different types of consultation events. This allows us to have a more in-depth and thorough discussion about the Project with stakeholders. Through feedback from consultation, the most effective way to implement the Project and minimize the impacts will become clear, resulting in the best Project possible within the community.