



## NOVA SOLAR POWER PLANT

### PROJECT UPDATE | OCTOBER 2023

In August and November 2022, Nova Solar G.P. (“Nova Solar”) filed its AUC Power Plant and Transmission Line Applications, respectively, to build and operate the Nova Solar Power Plant (the “Project” or “Nova”). In March 2023, Nova Solar participated in an Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) hearing, under a joint proceeding numbered 27589. On July 19, 2023, the AUC awarded Nova Solar with a permit to build the power plant, but denied the permit for the transmission line, citing questions around route selection. Nova Solar GP will reapply for the transmission line approval after addressing the Commission’s concerns and reconsulting with the community. More information regarding the AUC hearing process can be found by creating an account with the eFiling System within the AUC website, at <https://www.auc.ab.ca/>.

The AUC ruling will result in a delay to the overall project schedule, with the project now planned to enter construction in May 2025, reaching commercial operation by December 2026.

Note that the recently announced AUC moratorium does not apply to transmission line applications, and so the Nova Solar project will be unaffected.

Included in this information package:

- Project newsletter
- Map of proposed transmission line routes
- AUC pamphlet

### CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES and OPEN HOUSE

Nova Solar will initiate a fresh round of consultation related to the transmission line in September, and hold a public open house on November 1, 2023 at the Carseland Community Hall to share information and answer any questions. We value your feedback and encourage anyone with questions or comments or who wishes to learn more about the Project to reach out to us. Contact information is provided on page 4 of this newsletter.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Nova Solar Project is often mistakenly assumed to be named after the province of Nova Scotia. In fact, the project is named for a supernova, one of the largest sources of energy in the universe. A supernova is an explosion that occurs at the final stages of the lives of certain types of stars, either as a result of the sudden gravitational collapse of the core of a very massive star, or due to runaway fusion in a white dwarf star. These events are very rare, occurring on average only a few times in an average galaxy every century. They are also incredibly powerful - if one were to occur in our galaxy it would appear as bright as the full moon and would be visible for weeks during the daytime. Supernovae are responsible for producing much of the matter in the universe, including the elements that make up your body. Without supernovae, life on Earth - even the Earth itself - would have never existed. This association with the energy derived from starlight is a humble reminder that we are all a part of something much bigger than ourselves.

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Nova Solar is establishing a shared community benefits fund that will donate \$50,000 a year for the life of the project to the Friends of Carseland Society to support local social and environmental initiatives.

If you have an idea for a project that needs funding, you will have the chance to submit a proposal to the Friends of Carseland Society once the Nova Solar project is built.



## BUILDING A SOLAR POWER PLANT

Construction of Nova is expected to start in Q2 2025. The following list describes the typical stages of construction of a solar plant:

- The ground area is leveled as required.
- Security fencing and signage is installed around the perimeter of the facility and site access roads are built.
- Helical anchors are screwed into the ground.
- Racking for solar panels is installed on the anchor foundations and solar panels are installed on the racking.
- Inverters are installed
- Electrical cables are installed in trenches that run from the end of each row of panels to the inverter. The electricity is then carried to the project substation.
- Electrical and control equipment required to connect to the transmission grid will be installed.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Nova Solar Project is expected to generate approximately \$53 million in property tax revenue for Wheatland County over its lifetime.

## UPDATED PROJECT TIMELINE\*:

Fall 2023	Consultation for Nova Solar transmission line**
October 2023	Information open house in Carseland, AB
January-July 2024	AUC processes Transmission Line Application
July 2024	Anticipated receipt of AUC transmission line permit
Fall 2024	Start of construction
December 2026	Construction complete; Commercial Operations Date (COD)
Q1-Q2 2027	Reclamation post-construction

\* Timeline is subject to change.

\*\* Consultation will be ongoing throughout the development, construction, operations and decommissioning phases of the Project.

## PROTECTING AGAINST WEEDS, PESTS, AND CLUBROOT

**Weeds** | All construction equipment will enter the site in a clean condition to limit the potential for introduction of weeds. Equipment will be visually inspected and cleaned off-site as needed and Nova Solar will implement its Soil and Vegetation Management Plan to prevent and control the spread of invasive species.

**Pests** | Nova Solar will monitor and control pests as required under the Agricultural Pest Act and Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation and comply with the directions of a local or provincial inspector or agricultural fieldman. During construction pest control devices will be deployed at all permanent facilities such as substation and O&M Building.

**Clubroot** | Nova Solar has committed to requesting that Wheatland County test the lands at the Project site for clubroot prior to commencing construction of the Project as part of the County's clubroot testing program, and Nova will pay for the costs of such testing.

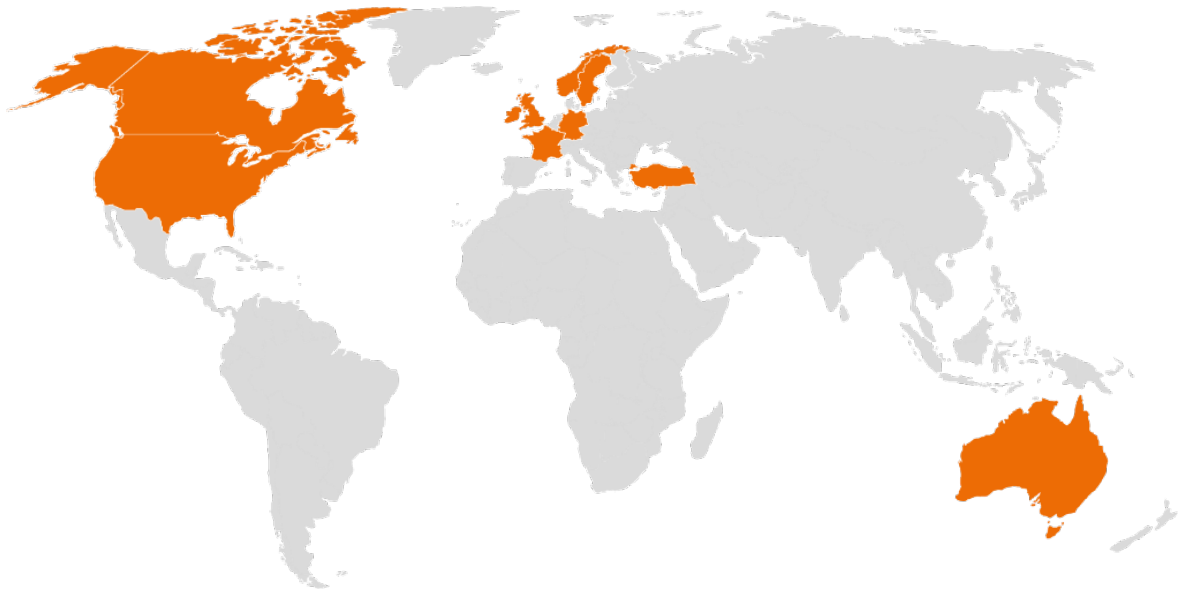
More information on construction management can be found on the project website below.

[www.novasolarproject.com](http://www.novasolarproject.com)



## ABOUT RES

The Nova Solar project is owned by RES. RES is the largest independent renewable energy company in the World, is a family-owned business, owned by the McAlpine Family Trust, and has been in the renewable energy business since 1983. Through our corporate culture and values, we are dedicated to a zero-carbon future for all Canadians and our focus is solely on renewable energy projects (wind, solar) and supporting & enabling projects (energy storage, transmission). RES has been developing, constructing, owning and/or operating renewable energy, transmission, and energy storage projects in Canada since 2003. RES has developed and/or built 28 projects across Canada. Please visit: <http://www.res-group.com> for more information.



**23**<sup>GW</sup> PROJECT PORTFOLIO

**41** YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

**12**<sup>GW</sup> OF OPERATIONAL ASSETS SUPPORTED

### ACTIVITIES



DEVELOP



CONSTRUCT



OPERATE

### TECHNOLOGIES



WIND



SOLAR



STORAGE



T&D



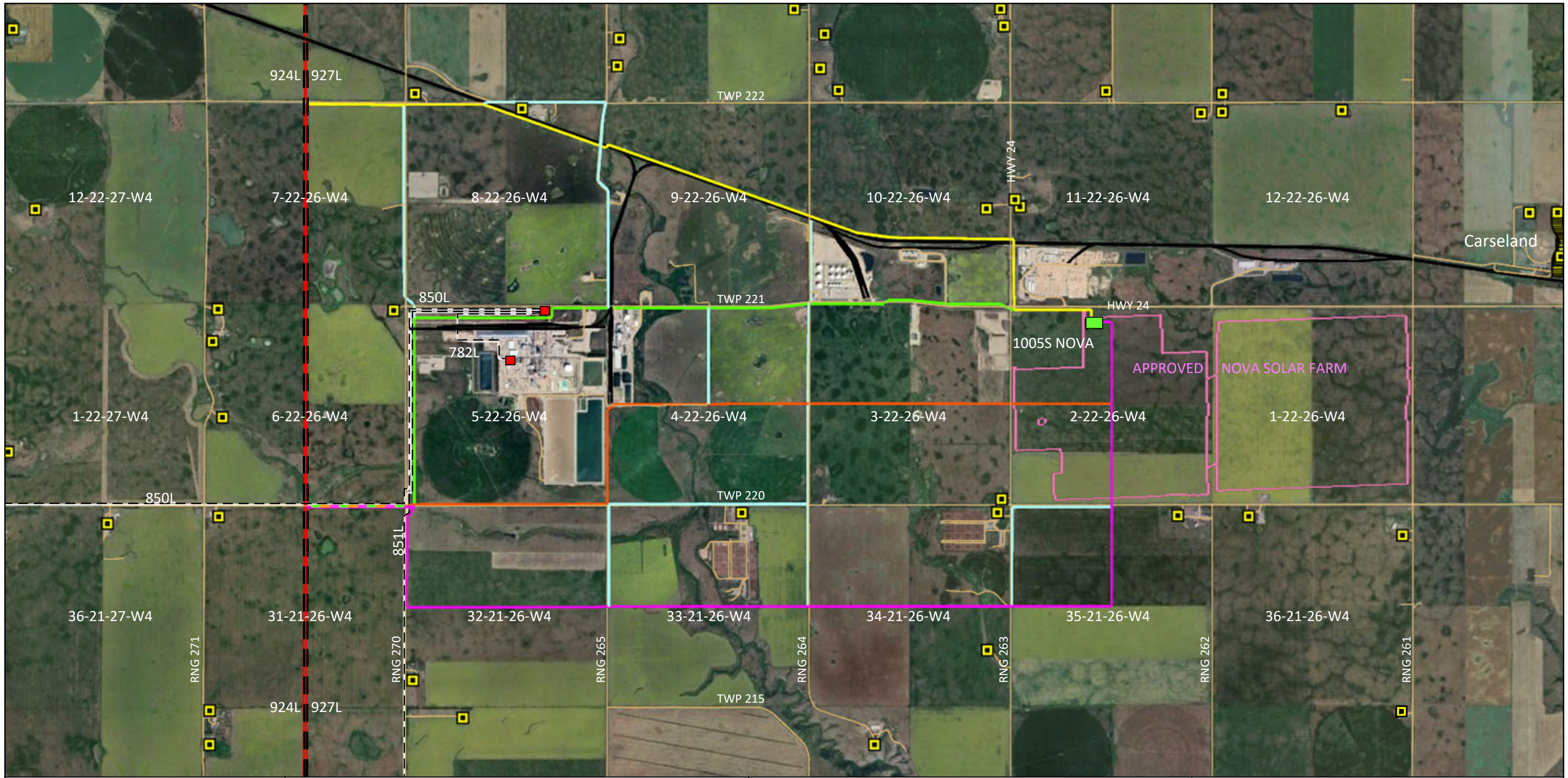
GREEN HYDROGEN

### Contact us:

**Nova Solar Power Project**  
**Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc.**  
5605 Avenue de Gaspé, suite 508,  
Montreal QC H2T 2A4

**Matt Whiteman, RES**  
Development Manager, Canada  
D 438 266 1934 | C 438 376 7086  
[matt.whiteman@res-group.com](mailto:matt.whiteman@res-group.com)

**Casey Cato, RES**  
Land Acquisition Manager  
C 403 354 2401  
[casey.cato@res-group.com](mailto:casey.cato@res-group.com)



**LEGEND**

APPROVED NOVA SUBSTATION	
EXISTING SUBSTATION	
EXISTING LINES 240KV	
EXISTING RESIDENCE	
EXISTING ROADS	
EXISTING RAILWAY	
ROUTE A	
ROUTE B	
ROUTE C	
ROUTE D	



THIS DRAWING REPRESENTS CONCEPTUAL PRELIMINARY ALIGNMENTS AND ROUTE SELECTION BASED ON DESKTOP DATASETS AND ANALYSIS. THE INFORMATION IN THIS DRAWING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGES BASED ON FURTHER EVALUATION, INVESTIGATION, FEEDBACK AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT.

WHILE HARDLINE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE ANY INFORMATION IN THIS DRAWING IS INACCURATE, HARDLINE TAKE NO LIABILITY FOR THE CONTENT OR ACCURACY OF THIS DRAWING.

0 KM 1 2
   
 0 MILE 0.5 1 2
   
 SCALE = 1:30,000

ISSUED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

DIMENSIONS ARE IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

**NOVA SOLAR TRANSMISSION PROJECT  
PRELIMINARY ALIGNMENTS FOR STAKEHOLDER  
ENGAGEMENT**

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION



# 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

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

Eau Claire Tower  
1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5