

Subject: Sunrise Solar Project Update - *encl: Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) Brochure & Updated Project Map*

We hope this letter finds you well and thank you for your continued interest in the Sunrise Solar Project. Evolgen is proposing the **75MWac/~98MWdc* Sunrise Solar Project**, which will be located in the Municipal District (M.D.) of Pincher Creek, North-West of the Town of Pincher Creek.

We are pleased to provide you with an update on the Project's progress and the changes that have been made based on the feedback we received from the community, the M.D. of Pincher Creek and the Town of Pincher Creek. Your input has played a crucial role in shaping the Sunrise Solar Project.

Below is an overview of the proposed changes and an invitation to our next Open House to learn more.

What is new

Updated project layout to improve viewscales

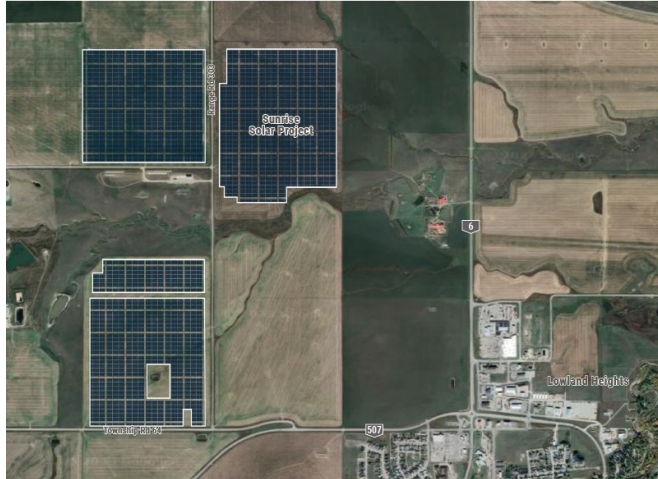
Working with the landowner, we have made significant changes to the layout of the solar panels. We are no longer proposing to build on the quarter section closest to the Town of Pincher Creek and instead are proposing to add lands further to the north - see the updated Map below and attached.

This new layout will increase the distance between the project and municipal boundary, reducing the visual impact from the Town of Pincher Creek. As a result of the modifications, the closest solar panels will now be 1.6 KM from the roundabout at the corner of Highway 507 and Highway 6 as

** Direct Current (dc): electricity flows in one direction with a constant voltage. Alternating Current (ac): voltage periodically fluctuates between positive and negative and the current flows forward and backward. While previous correspondence referred to direct current, for consistency we will be using the ac number going forward.*

opposed to 800M with the previous layout. The residences on Briar Road are now more than 1KM from the project boundary, as opposed to approximately 500M previously.

New proposed layout



Layout originally proposed



Minimizing our footprint on agricultural land

As part of the site optimization, we have reduced the project footprint from 575 acres to 500 acres. This reduction of the project footprint will result in taking up 13% less agricultural land.

In addition, we continue to explore options to maintain agricultural use of the land on which we build, such as through sheep grazing on the land.

Reducing conflict with the Urban Fringe and municipal planning

An additional benefit of the Project's new proposed layout is that it will better align with the Town's growth plan and the Inter-Municipal Development Plan that governs planning in the fringe zone between the Town and MD. The additional distance between the project and municipal boundary will allow more of a "buffer" in line with the intent of the Urban Fringe.



Establishing a community benefits fund

One of the consistent comments we have heard from residents is how will they benefit from the project. To demonstrate our commitment to giving back to the communities in which we work, we are proposing to establish a community benefit fund of \$25,000 annually, aimed at supporting local organizations and causes that contribute to the well-being of the community.

We are seeking community feedback on how to establish and administer the fund to ensure there is local input on what organizations and projects are being chosen and supported.

Greater clarity on our decommissioning fund

Evolugen will have legal obligations under existing laws to reclaim the site to its equivalent land capability at the Project's end of life. A Conservation and Reclamation Plan will be filed prior to construction beginning.

Above and beyond these requirements, we will establish a Decommissioning Fund that would require us to make annual contributions to the Fund once the Project is operational for the sole purposes of decommissioning.

The Decommissioning Fund would be tied explicitly to the Project and held in escrow by a third party so that it can only be accessed for decommissioning.

Updated Studies

We have recently completed preliminary glare and noise analyses of the updated Project layout which will be posted on our website at www.evolugen.com/Sunrise once they are finalized. The glare report provides an assessment of potential glare from the solar panels and outlines the measures we plan to take to mitigate any potential issues. The report confirms that the glare impact from the Project is expected to be minimal and will be mitigated using operational strategies that appropriately manage the backtracking angles of the solar panels to reduce glare, including at the municipal airport.

The noise study confirms that cumulative sound levels at all of the assessed receptors within 1.5km of the Project area are in compliance with the Permissible Sound Levels (AUC Rule 012).



Further Public Engagement

Evolugen is committed to building trust with local stakeholders and engaging proactively with communities to ensure that their interests are appropriately considered in our project planning and decision-making. We invite you to attend our second in-person community open house, where you will have the opportunity to learn more about the updated Project layout and engage our team.

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

5:00 – 7:00 pm (drop-in)

**Banquet Hall A – Heritage Inn Hotel & Convention Centre
919 Waterton Avenue, Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0**

You are receiving this letter because you are a stakeholder within 800M of the Project, you were previously within 800M of the Project's older layout, or because you attended our earlier Open House. If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you in person at our Open House. If you are unable to attend and would like more information, please contact us to arrange a one-on-one meeting at your convenience.

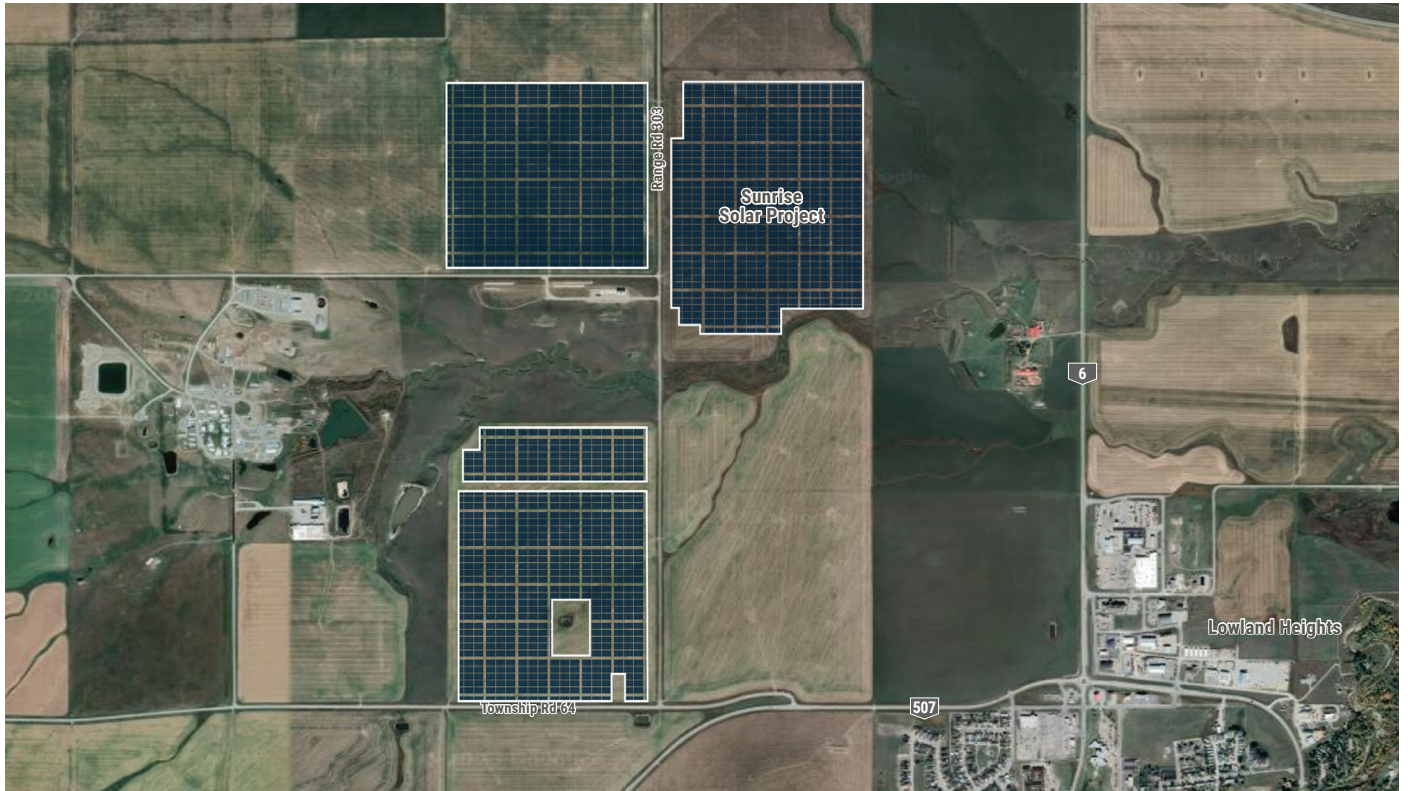
Sincerely,

The Sunrise Solar Project Team
sunriseproject@evolugen.com | 403-463-8391

Project Map



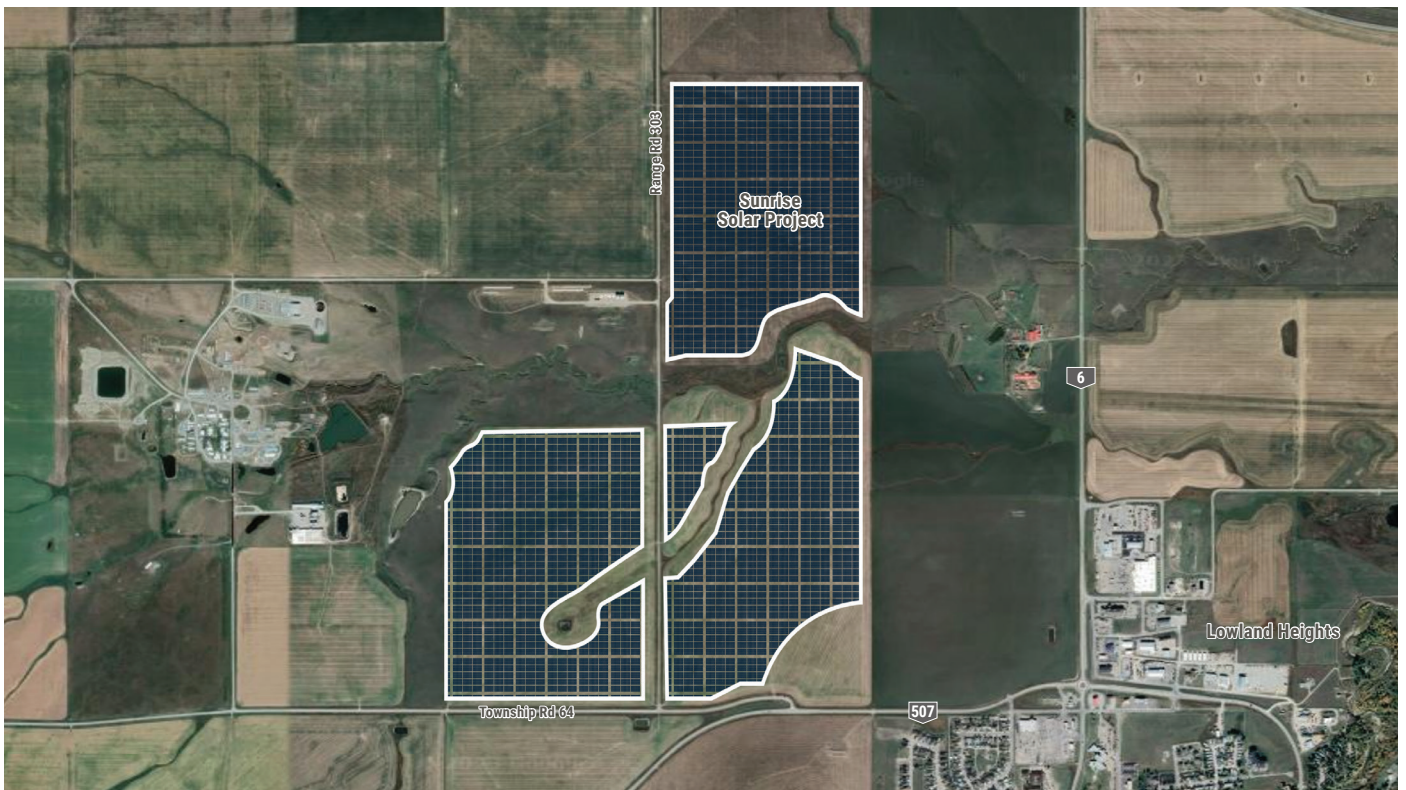
New Proposed Layout



Preliminary layout, subject to change.



Layout Originally Proposed





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.

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
www.auc.ab.ca

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