



## COMMUNITY Q&A Proposed Project Information

### Why is solar development becoming more common in Alberta?

Solar is becoming a part the generation mix in many countries largely due to the decreasing costs of solar photovoltaic technology and installation. Alberta has a unique energy market that allows private companies to invest in large solar projects and recover their investments by selling electricity at wholesale prices. Also, as Alberta retires its coal-fired electricity generation over the next decade new generation capacity will be needed to supply the Province’s needs.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Alberta has among the best solar and wind resource in Canada!

### Why was this area selected for a proposed project site?

When selecting a possible solar project location several factors are considered including:

- Capacity of the transmission power line
- Proximity to the transmission power line
- Favourable sunlight resource
- Suitable land characteristics for installation
- Minimal environmental impacts

### Why are solar farms placed on agricultural land?

The Alberta Ministry of Environment asks that renewable projects adhere to the *Wildlife Directive for Alberta Solar Energy Projects* which seeks to minimize the development of solar projects on native grasslands. To further reduce environmental impacts, solar farms are sited to avoid water bodies and wetlands, wildlife features, coulees and river breaks, and other sensitive areas. Horus Energy, in consultation with local landowners and municipalities, seeks to site solar farms on lands that are less desirable for agriculture; however, due to the location of existing power lines, this is not always possible. We have selected land for this project where man-made obstructions (e.g. oil and gas installations and power lines) already exist thereby using land that is already disturbed.

### Project Benefits:

The implementation of a solar facility provides significant benefits to those in the local area and the province:

- The developments will provide short and long-term employment in local communities and contributes to the municipal tax base.
- The generation profile for Solar PV is particularly suited to the electricity needs of the province, with peak generation occurring at times of the day when consumption is highest, such as after work and dinner time.
- Local generation of renewable energy adds to the province’s energy mix providing a long-term, low cost and low carbon energy source.



## Can the land be farmed once the solar farm is removed?

Yes. At the end of the solar farm's life, it will be decommissioned or repowered. If decommissioned, equipment such as the solar modules and racking will be salvaged and recycled. Solar installations primarily use steel posts that are driven or screwed into the ground, and only rarely use concrete foundations. All buried cable infrastructure below 1.5 metres will remain underground to prevent further disturbance to the land. This is consistent with the *Alberta Conservation and Reclamation Directive for Renewable Energy Operations*. The landowner can then resume normal agricultural operations following the 25 to 40 year lifespan of the solar project.



## What can we expect during construction?

Construction activities include equipment delivery, site preparation and foundation installation, trenching the electrical collector system, assembling racking and finally installing the solar modules and other electrical equipment. Construction of the solar farm is expected to last between 10-13 months during which time there will be an increased level of activity at the site, particularly with deliveries of the solar equipment. The site has good highway access, and once construction is complete, it is not anticipated that there would be any significant increase in site traffic compared to its existing use.

Traffic is expected to access the site from Highway 41 along Township Roads 124 and 130 to enter the project site from the north and south.

## What is involved with day-to-day operations of the solar farm?

Solar farms are very passive in nature during the operations phase. The site will be visited periodically for operations and maintenance activities including regular operations site checks, vegetation maintenance, and environmental monitoring. The site will be fenced for security and safety purposes and lighting will be placed at the main entrance gate and at key operational locations on the site. Security measures may also include CCTV, motion lights, anti-intrusion alarms, and dispatchable security guards.

## Will pesticide or herbicides be used during operations?

Pesticide and herbicide use is considered at the discretion of the landowner, the County, and surrounding land uses and landowners. Our intent is to ensure a clean project site that does not create a nuisance for the local community.



## How will vegetation and weeds be managed on the solar farm?

During the operations phase of the project, the land that supports the solar farm will be revegetated with a mixture of low-growing grasses and forbs that will prevent soil erosion and encourage soil nutrient cycling. In addition, these plantings will provide habitat for a variety of birds, small mammals, and pollinating insects.

Horus will work with the landowner and environmental consultants to select an appropriate seed mixture that is consistent with the adjacent land use and any onsite considerations. Solar farms are subject to the Alberta *Weed Management Act*. Weeds are typically managed with herbicides, periodic mowing, or other methods in consultation with the landowner, neighbors, and the County to avoid impacts on neighboring agricultural land. Grazing of sheep is also being studied as a compatible land use with solar farms and would be an excellent biological form of weed control.

## Will the solar farm create noise that will affect animals, wildlife and people?

There are no indications that a solar project would affect sensitive animals in any way. While there is some sound emitted from inverters and transformers, solar panels do not produce any sound. Solar projects are required to follow *AUC Rule 12: Noise Control* which provides guidelines for permissible sounds levels measured cumulatively with noise from other energy related sources in the area.

Dunmore's Noise Impact Assessment will be complete by the end of March and will be communicated in the next project newsletter, during further consultations, and on our project website [www.dunmoresolar.ca](http://www.dunmoresolar.ca).

## Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)

The Alberta Utilities Commission, or AUC, regulates power generation in Alberta. The AUC is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the Government of Alberta, whose mandate is to ensure that delivery of Alberta's utility services take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest.

Information on how you can participate in the AUC's independent review program was included in the February 2021 newsletter, and can be found online at [www.auc.ca](http://www.auc.ca). You can also contact the AUC by email at [info@auc.ab.ca](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca), or by phone at **310-4282**.

## About Horus Energy

Horus and its affiliate companies develop, construct, and operate large-scale solar and energy storage facilities in North America and Europe. With offices in London, Milan, New York and Calgary, Horus is a leading utility-scale solar company delivering competitive, clean electricity to large energy buyers and institutional investors. Horus has 2,300 MW of projects under development across Europe and North America.

## Contact Us



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