June 30, 2021

Dear Stakeholder:

I am writing to provide you an update on the Dunmore Solar Project (the "Project"). Since initiating consultation with the local community in February 2021, several questions and concerns were raised and excellent feedback was provided. We have taken away and incorporated that feedback into the Project development and the construction and operations plans.

The Project was submitted to the Alberta Utilities Commission ("AUC") on April 23, 2021, and we anticipate approval in late summer. We plan to seek development permits from Cypress County once we receive AUC approval. Construction is planned to begin in early 2022 and continue throughout the year to reach commercial operations in May 2023.

Consultation is ongoing and your questions and feedback continue to be welcomed by the Dunmore team. We will continue to update the Project website (<u>www.dunmoresolar.ca</u>) so please do visit the site for new content and project updates.

We encourage you to reach out to us by phone/text (587) 997-4671 or email <u>dunmore@ascentpartners.ca</u> to discuss the Project and if needed to set up a virtual, telephone, or in person meeting.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Margaret McKenna

DUNMORE SOLAR PROJECT

July 2021 Newsletter



About the Project

Dunmore Solar Inc. (Dunmore) is proposing to construct and operate the Dunmore Solar Project (the "Project"), a 216 MWac solar energy generation project located in Cypress County approximately 13 kilometres east of Medicine Hat. The Project, as planned, covers approximately 623 acres of cultivated land. Solar technologies are advancing very rapidly, and at this time, Dunmore is investigating the use of 625-655 watt bifacial solar modules on fixed tilt racking. A network of underground 34.5kV collection lines will bring the produced electricity to a step-up transformer within the Project 138kV substation, which will interconnect with the existing AltaLink 138kV line that runs through the middle of the Project lands. Approximately 100 metres of new transmission line would be required to connect this project to the grid.

In February and March 2021, Project newsletters were mailed out to stakeholders within two kilometres of the Project boundary. As development activities are progressing, the Dunmore Project Team would like to provide you with updates and additional information about the Project. Over the last two months we have been working diligently to complete technical studies and to prepare and file our power plant application to the Alberta Utilities Commission ("AUC") in preparation for a Q1 2022 construction start date.

Stakeholder Consultation Update

We appreciate the comments and concerns that were raised by the local community as part of Dunmore's Participant Involvement Program ("PIP"). Dunmore's PIP is ongoing, and we encourage you to contact us (contact information is included on Page 4) with any questions, to discuss the Project, and to understand any concerns you may have. Details about the Project, including mapping, technical studies and reports, and consultation materials are available on our website: <u>www.dunmoresolar.ca</u> under the 'Project Documents' page.



Did You Know? Wildlife Biologists conducted 6 rounds of migration bird surveys at the Project location and during the spring and fall respectively counted 32 and 25 different bird species.

The most common bird species observed at the Project location were Horned Lark and Western Meadowlark

Project Area and Preliminary Layout



Environmental Studies

Wildlife and habitat, soils and terrain, and wetland field studies were completed by Western Ecosystems Technologies (WEST) and Northshore Environmental Ltd. during 2019, 2020, and 2021. These studies informed the Project design and layout and the Project schedule in consideration of mitigating adverse effects to environmental features. For example, several small wetlands or 'prairie potholes' within the Project area were avoided to ensure their preservation as wildlife habitat. A Ferruginous Hawk nest was observed during the 2020 field studies and we revised our Project design to meet the 1,000 metre setback requirement. An Environmental Protection Plan was completed for the Project to guide construction and operations activities for the long term maintenance and preservation of environmental features.

The preparation of a Conservation and Reclamation Plan per the *Conservation and Reclamation Directive for Renewable Energy Operations* is well underway. This plan will ensure the appropriate pre- and post-disturbance assessments are completed to guide interim and progressive reclamation, track the progress of reclamation, and ensure that the reclamation meets the appropriate criteria at the end of the Project's life.

Noise Impact Assessment

Noise from the Project is regulated by the AUC through *Rule 012: Noise Control* and was assessed for the Project by Greencat Renewables. Cumulative noise levels at occupied dwellings must not exceed daytime (7 am to 10 pm) or night-time (10 pm to 7 am) Permissible Sound Level (PSL) limits. Cumulative noise levels include natural and non-industrial sources, existing industrial facilities, and the proposed Project. Five receptors (dwellings) were identified as having the potential to be impacted by sound emitted from the proposed project and/or cumulative sound levels. A computer model was used to predict cumulative noise levels at these dwellings located within 1.5 km of the Project. Cumulative sound levels were assessed to be below PSLs at the assessed receptors. It is therefore concluded that the Project will operate in compliance with AUC Rule 012 requirements at all receptors.



Cumulative Sound Level Results for Night-times (NT) and Daytimes (DT)

Did You Know? Solar farms are quiet neighbors. The noise that a solar facility produces only occurs when the equipment is in use. In other words, at night, when the panels and inverters are resting, there's no noise.

The noisiest components in a solar farm are the inverters, which generate a low buzzing sound as they convert electricity from the direct current generated by solar PV modules to alternating current that is used by the electric grid.

Solar Glare Hazard Analysis

Dunmore retained Greencat Renewables to undertake a solar glare hazard analysis per the AUC requirements. The assessment uses the Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool ("SGHAT"), specifically designed to estimate potential glare according to a Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Plot at a certain solar module height, tilt, type, and observer location. This software allows for the analysis of potential glare on flight paths, routes, and stationary observation points. Glare was assessed along Highway 41 and Township Road 124 and the level of glare predicted along these transportation routes is not expected to create hazardous conditions. Five dwellings within 800 metres of the Project were evaluated and the level of glare predicted at the observation points is not expected to create hazardous conditions or have a significant adverse effect on residents. Lastly, two flights paths related to a private airstrip within 4,000 metres of the Project were evaluated and neither of the flight paths are expected to experience glare at any level.

Permitting Update

The Power Plant application was submitted to the AUC on April 23 and we anticipate an approval to be granted by the end of August. The application to interconnect the Project to the electric grid will be submitted in Q3 of 2021 as part of AltaLink's Facility Application and the Need Identification Document from the Alberta Electricity System Operator ("AESO"). AltaLink will be consulting on the interconnection for the Project separately, during July and August. The Power Plant application contains comprehensive Project information which is available for public review. If you would like to view the application, you can access it as *Proceeding 26485* at: www.auc.ab.ca.

Dunmore will seek a Development Permit from Cypress County following approval from the AUC.

Schedule Update

Dunmore has advanced development of the Project over the past 16-18 months. Engineering and design and other development activities are underway to allow for a Q1 2022 construction start and a Q2 2023 commercial operations date.

Environmental Studies and Permitting	Complete
Technical Studies such as Noise and Glare	Complete
Electric Grid Connection Process	Q1 2020 – Q2 2023
AUC Permitting and Approval	Q2 2021 – Q3 2021
Cypress County Permitting	Q3 2021
Field Geotechnical Studies	Q4 2021
Construction	Q1 2022 – Q2 2023
Commercial Operations Date	May 2023
Site Clean up and Interim Reclamation	Q2 2023 – Q3 2023

Contact Us



(587) 997-4671



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Privacy Statement: We are committed to protecting your privacy. Collected information will be protected under the provincial Personal Information Protection Act. As part of the regulatory process for new generation projects we may be required to provide your personal information to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). For more information on how information will be protected please contact us.