# HOMESTEAD SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT

### NEWSLETTER #1

### October 2021





You are receiving this newsletter because you own or have an interest in land near the proposed Homestead Solar Energy Project.

# Who is kiwetinohk?

Kiwetinohk is an energy transition company targeting the conversion of renewable energy resources and natural gas into low-emissions power and hydrogen. Kiwetinohk, pronounced Key-Wheat-In-Oh means north in Cree, a widely spoken indigenous language in Canada. The name, bestowed upon the company by indigenous friends, reflects the Canadian values of love for and protection of the natural environment and the need for stakeholder engagement in business.

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#### Inserts:

- Preliminary Site Plan
- AUC Public Involvement Brochure



### Introduction

Kiwetinohk Energy Corp. (KEC) is developing the 400-megawatt (MW) Homestead Solar Energy Project (the Project) in your area. We are committed to engaging landowners, public stakeholders and members of the local community and we look forward to discussing the Project with you.



## **Project Details**

The proposed Project includes approximately 2,500 acres of land approximately 11km south east of the Town of Claresholm, as shown on the map to the left. The Project is located on privately-owned, cultivated land and will generate up to 400 MWac of electricity, exported to the electrical grid. Based on the preliminary design, the Project includes approximately 1,100,000 modules installed on a single-axis tracking system. 100 inverter/transformer stations. an electrical collection system, internal access roads and the construction of a Project Substation to connect to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES).



### **Community Benefits**

- Local economic boost Local businesses will experience increased activity due to the spin-off opportunities the Project will create during development, construction and operations.
- Property taxes The Project will pay annual property taxes to the MD of Willow Creek, resulting in financial benefits to the community.
- Clean electricity generation The Project will generate emissionsfree electricity to power approximately 163,000 homes in Alberta. This Project will offset approximately 519,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually.
- Local employment During construction, the Project will create approximately 400 full-time jobs, creating opportunities for both local individuals and businesses. During operations a dedicated Alberta team will also be required to support the facility for up to 35 years.

### **Privacy Policy**

Kiwetinohk is committed to protecting your privacy. Collected personal information will be protected under the provincial Personal Information Protection Act. As part of the regulatory process for new generation projects, Kiwetinohk may be required to provide your personal information to the AUC. For more information about how Kiwetinohk protects your personal information to the AUC. For more information about how Kiwetinohk protects your personal information, contact us at Iwong@kiwetinohk.com or via mail at 1900, 250 - 2 Street SW, Calgary, AB T2P 0C1, Attention: Privacy Officer.

### **Project Infrastructure**

#### Solar PV modules:

Bifacial PV modules have been proposed for installation at the Project. A bifacial module is a double-sided module that transforms sunlight into electrical energy on both its top and bottom sides. They are different from mono-facial modules which only use one side for solar energy production. Bifacial modules are capable of producing more power per module and typically have a higher efficiency than mono-facial modules, resulting in less land usage for the same or greater power output. Local weather conditions in Alberta are well suited to bifacial technology as there is substantial snow cover on the ground which will boost production. One of the benefits of using bifacial modules in Alberta is that sunlight is reflected from the surface of snow-covered land. which can generate electricity from the underside of the panel.

#### Ground-mounting systems:

KEC intends to install the modules on a single-axis tracker system which follows the path of the sun to produce additional electricity.



#### Interconnection:

KEC is exploring options to connect the Project to the AIES. The interconnection is subject to a separate public consultation and regulatory permitting process. Potentially impacted stakeholders will be contacted at a later date to discuss the interconnection of the Project.

#### Inverter/Transformer Stations:

Inverters are electrical devices that convert direct current (dc) to alternating current (ac)Transformers are electrical equipment that increase or decrease the voltage of the electricity within the solar PV facility. The Project will use inverters and transformers to convert the dc electricity from the solar PV module to ac electricity and increase the voltage to connect to the AIES.



### Other Infrastructure:

The inverter/transformer stations in the Project will be connected through a combination of 34.5-kilovolt (kV) underground collector lines that connect to the Project Substation. In order to transport materials during the construction stage and to access the Project equipment for regular maintenance during operations, the Project will require the construction of new access roads and where possible, the upgrade of existing roads in the area to minimize disturbance.



### **Contact Us**

If you have any questions about the Project, or to arrange a personal consultation, please contact: Samantha Brown SABR Energy Consulting Inc. (587) 434-7547

sbrown@sabrenergyconsulting.com



## **Project Studies**

Noise: A detailed Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) is being undertaken to ensure the Project adheres to AUC Rule 012: Noise Control during both the construction and operation phases. A copy of the NIA will be included in the application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). The Project will not exceed the regulated limits set out by the AUC.

Glare: A glare assessment is underway for the Project to assess potential for glare at nearby residences and along local roads. Stakeholders will be contacted if it is determined there is potential for impact from glare. Additionally, a copy of the full glare assessment will be included in the application to the AUC.

Environmental: Comprehensive environmental studies including wildlife studies, vegetation studies, wetlands delineation and habitat mapping have been completed for the Project and the results and potential mitigation will be submitted to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) in Q4 2021. AEP will issue a Renewable Energy Wildlife Referral Report following their review (anticipated in Q1 2022). KEC is committed to consulting with AEP to understand any potential concerns it may have, and incorporate AEP's feedback.

Historical Resources: Historical Resources Act approval was received on August 26, 2021 from Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women.

### **Preliminary Project Schedule**

- Initiate Public Consultation ----- October 2021
- Personal Consultation with Stakeholders ----- Ongoing
  - Public Open House December 2021\*
  - AUC Submission March 2022
  - Anticipated AUC Approval ...... July 2022
- Municipal Development Permit Application ----- July 2022
- Municipal Development Permit Approval ----- September 2022
  - Start Construction March 2023
  - Commercial Operations March 2024

\*Open house planning is underway, and an invitation will be mailed to you once the details have been determined.



# Who is the AUC?

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) is a quasi judicial independent agency established by the Government of Alberta, responsible to ensure that the delivery of Alberta's utility service takes place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public interest.

They regulate investor owned natural gas, electric and water utilities, and certain municipally-owned electric utilities to protect social, economic and environmental interests of Alberta where competitive market forces do not. For more information visit www.auc.ab.ca or refer to the enclosed brochure.



# **Next Steps**

KEC is undertaking a Participant Involvement Program (PIP), as part of the AUC Rule 007 approval process. The process is intended to inform and engage landowners. occupants, residents other and potentially impacted stakeholders near the proposed project. The PIP includes this mailed notice to stakeholders within 800m of the project and personal communications with interested stakeholders. Stakeholders with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact us for discussion. Please see the enclosed document prepared by the AUC, called "Public Involvement in a Proposed Utility Development", for further information on the PIP. Should you have any questions, please contact us.