

July 21, 2023

The Honourable Nathan Neudorf
Minister of Affordability and Utilities
Office of the Minister
Affordability and Utilities
319 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Neudorf:

The Alberta Utilities Commission is currently processing a historically high volume of new renewable (wind and solar) and thermal power plant applications. Because of the geographically dispersed nature of new generation development, two important issues have come to the forefront of the Commission's public interest considerations: the development of power plants on high value agricultural lands and the lack of mandatory reclamation security requirements for power plants.

These are broad policy issues involving multiple overlapping jurisdictions and stakeholders, including: the Ministries of Environment and Protected Areas, Agriculture and Irrigation, and Municipal Affairs, Alberta municipalities and Alberta landowners. Timely, effective resolution of both issues is essential to the ongoing economic, orderly and efficient development of new power generation in Alberta.

The AUC's case-by-case application process for new power plants is ill-suited to address these broad policy changes. Rather, effective resolution necessarily requires a dedicated period of engagement with all of the stakeholders identified above followed by government direction, either in the form of provincial policy or new legislation. Such a direction, in our view, would enable a reasonable, robust regulatory framework that is efficient and predictable while being protective of the long-term public interest for all Albertans.

Yours respectfully,



Carolyn Dahl Rees
Chair

cc: Tim Grant
Deputy Minister, Affordability and Utilities