



# SAAMIS SOLAR PARK

Proposed Project Information June 2022



**SAAMIS SOLAR PARK**  
A DP ENERGY PROJECT

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### SAAMIS SOLAR PARK

Saamis Solar Park Ltd. (DP Energy) proposes to construct a solar project in your community. Medicine Hat boasts more days of sunshine per year (330) than any other city in Canada and the Saamis Solar Park (the Project) will be situated in the north-eastern industrial sector of the city. A development permit was awarded by the City of Medicine Hat in 2021.

A large portion of the Project will be constructed on a capped phosphogypsum stack owned by Viterra Inc. and solar power generation will offer a productive use of such a brownfield area that would otherwise have limited developmental potential.

As Alberta begins phasing out coal-fired power plants, the Project will help meet future electricity demand with clean energy harnessed directly from the sun. This Project will contribute to Alberta's target to source 30% of the province's electricity supply from renewable energy by 2030.

## In This Package

PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

THE ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT BENEFITS

ANTICIPATED PROJECT  
TIMELINES & NEXT STEPS

AUC AND THE REGULATORY  
APPROVAL PROCESS

CONTACT INFORMATION

## COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE COME JOIN US

HAMPTON INN & SUITES BY  
HILTON

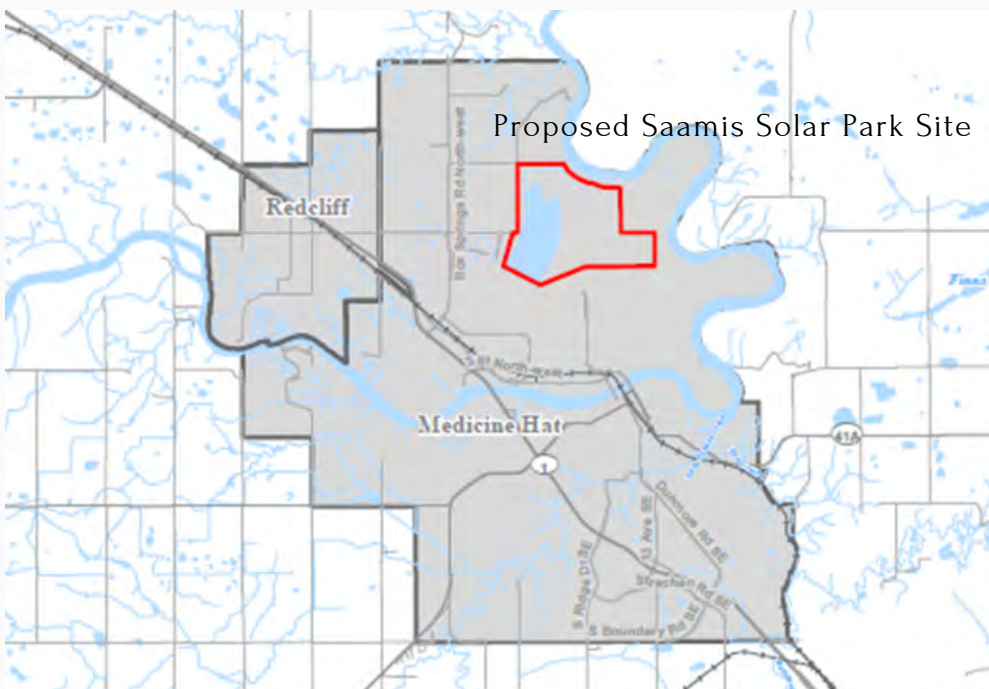
2510 BOXSPRINGS BLVD  
MEDICINE HAT, AB

JUNE 14, 2022

FROM 2:00PM TO 7:30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
US BY PHONE 403-651-6063 OR  
VIA EMAIL:

SAAMISSOLARPARK@DPENERGY.COM



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Saamis Solar Park is a utility scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) project located within the city limits of Medicine Hat. The site is bordered to the north by the South Saskatchewan River and to the south by 23rd Street NW.

The site includes a large area of a capped phosphogypsum stack. Solar power generation offers a productive use of an area that would otherwise have limited development potential as most development options for the brownfield site would be restricted due to the existence of the capped phosphogypsum stack.

The Project will involve the installation of solar PV panels, fixed tilt and single axis tracker racking systems, inverter/transformer stations, an electrical collection system, access roads, and the construction of an electrical substation to connect to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES)



Indicative visual rendering of the proposed Saamis site

The Project will have a total generation capacity of approximately 325 MWac, comprised of solar PV modules installed in a mixture of fixed tilt and single axis tracker racking systems.

It is proposed that the fixed tilt solar PV tables will be located on top of the capped phosphogypsum stack and be held in place by concrete ballast footing whilst single axis tracker solar PV tables supported by a driven pile foundation design will be installed on the remainder of the site. The single axis trackers will follow the sun throughout the day to maximize the amount of solar radiation absorbed by the panels over the course of the year.

The 325 MWac project will generate enough clean energy to offset the annual electricity usage of more than 100,000 households.

To find out more about this project and other DP Energy projects, please visit: [www.dpenergy.com](http://www.dpenergy.com)

## PROJECT BENEFITS

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

- The development will provide short term and long term employment in the local region and contribute to the City's tax base.
- The generation profile for Solar PV is particularly suited to the electricity needs of the province, with peak generation during hot sunny days when electricity demand is highest due to cooling requirements.
- Local generation of energy helps to stabilize the power grid, reducing the chances of brown-outs and lowering the rate of transmission line power loss.

**Local Employment-** During construction, the Project will provide approximately 200 jobs including land surveying, road construction, set-up of electrical and communication networks, excavation, concrete and aggregates supply and installation, assembly of the solar facility, construction of electrical connections and associated infrastructure, and material transportation. During operations, the Project will provide full-time, local operations and maintenance positions.

**Long-term Tax Revenue-** Over the course of the Project's life span, it will provide ongoing contributions to the community's tax base without requiring municipal services such as water and wastewater management services.

**Clean, Renewable Energy-** The Project will generate enough power to provide clean, sustainable, zero-emission electricity for approximately 100,000 homes annually.

**Local Economic Benefits-** Construction site services, supplies, components and contractors will be sourced locally to the extent reasonably possible, subject to meeting quality, quantity, workmanship and commercial requirements. Some workers may also require accommodations and services while working on the Project.

The renewable energy generation Project reduces the reliance on other energy generated from fossil fuel sources in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to help provide a sustainable future for our planet.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

Solar projects require a series of assessments to understand and mitigate any adverse environmental impacts. These include the following:

**Vegetation and Wildlife Surveys:** Detailed vegetation and wildlife surveys have been completed for the Project. The results of these studies have been used to inform project design and siting to avoid sensitive features. They were also used to complete an environmental evaluation of the Project's effects on the valued ecosystem components and identify mitigation strategies to reduce any potential adverse effects that were determined.

As the Project is located within an urban setting, a Renewable Energy Referral Report from Alberta Environment and Parks was not required. Due to the location of the Project near the South Saskatchewan River, a snake mitigation plan was developed and the recommendations of the same will be carefully followed during construction of the Project.

**A Noise Impact Assessment (NIA):** Will be completed to assess compliance with AUC Rule 012: Noise Control.

**Historical Resource Assessment:** A Historical Resources Application (HRA) will be prepared for submission to Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women.

**Solar Glare Assessment (SGA):** The solar panels are designed to maximize the absorption of light to convert it into energy, rather than reflect it. As a result, minimal glare will be created by the solar panels.

Results from the biophysical surveys, environmental evaluation, NIA, HRA, and SGA will form part of an application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) under Rule 007 for approval to construct and operate the Project.



## WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING CONSTRUCTION?

Activity that is typical to construction can be expected, including contractor vehicles and equipment along Parkview Drive. There may be an increased presence of trucks and other industrial equipment necessary to install the solar panels, foundations and associated electrical infrastructure.

The modular nature of solar PV installations mean that any abnormal sized load deliveries are kept to a minimum.

### Construction Noise

Work will create typical noise associated with construction. The Project will take measures to be in compliance with the City of Medicine Hat's Community Standards Bylaw for Noise Control. If it is necessary to temporarily exceed acceptable noise levels, the developer will work with the City of Medicine Hat to obtain the necessary permits, and implement mitigation measures to minimize impacts on local residences.

### Workspace

All of the proposed work will take place within the Project's property lines. Workspace will be safe and secure. All construction activities will be in accordance with the City of Medicine Hat bylaws, and occupational health and safety requirements.

### Hours of Work

We anticipate the Hours of Work for the Project will be Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; however, occasional evening and weekend work may be required.

### Vegetation Removal

The project area comprises of disturbed land, predominantly covered in mixed grasses. The Project will result in minimal disturbance to existing vegetation. Some grading may be required.

## PROJECT TIMELINES

Consultation and notification activities are currently underway. Engagement with stakeholders will continue over the coming weeks to better understand and address any questions or concerns about the Project.

Once formal consultation has been completed, an application to the AUC is anticipated to be filed in summer 2022. Pending regulatory approvals, construction activities are expected to begin in 2023 with a goal to be fully operational in 2024.

Once constructed, the Project is expected to operate for 35+ years, after which time the Project will be retrofitted with new equipment or decommissioned.





## 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 the delivery of Alberta's utility services take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public's interest.

For more information about the AUC please visit their site at [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca). They can also be contacted by email at [info@auc.ab.ca](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca) or by phone at 310-4282.

## YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US

We value your feedback and are committed to hearing from our stakeholders. Should you have any questions, comments, concerns or want to learn more about the Project, please contact us:

By phone to speak with our Consultation Agent:  
Paul Lawson at 403-651-6063

By email at [saamissolarpark@dpenergy.com](mailto:saamissolarpark@dpenergy.com)

Visit us online at [www.dpenergy.com](http://www.dpenergy.com)

## PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

With the assistance of Scott Land & Lease Ltd. (Scott Land) and Stantec, Saamis Solar Park Ltd. are undertaking a Participant Involvement Program (PIP) as part of the AUC Rule 007 approval process. The process is intended to inform and engage landowners and residents near the proposed solar project.

The PIP includes this project specific information package (PSIP) that was mailed to nearby stakeholders and will also be provided at an upcoming community open house.

Stakeholders with questions or concerns are encouraged to attend the open house or contact Scott Land to discuss.

For further information on the PIP, please see the enclosed document prepared by the AUC called "Participating in the AUC's independent review process".

Image below is for illustrative purposes only: E&OE

