

Affordability and Utilities July 20, 2023 AR 94

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ADVICE	TO MIN	ISTER
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For Meeting with	about Electricity investments in	ο Alberta
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Nathan Neudorf, Minister	Affordability and Utilities
Tim Grant, Deputy Minister	Affordability and Utilities
<location (full="" address="" and="" floor="" number)="" room="" with=""></location>	<meeting and="" date="" time=""></meeting>

PART A: Meeting Recommendation

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Classification: Protected B

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PART B: Meeting Details

PURPOSE

 requested an introduction meeting with Minister Neudorf to discuss their investments in Alberta and opportunities to collaborate to ensure Alberta remains a competitive market for clean electricity investments.

KEY MESSAGES

- Our government welcomes market-driven renewables and are proud that Alberta has the fastest-growing renewable energy sector in Canada.
- We have seen massive growth in market-based renewable energy thanks to our government's practical approach and competitive market.
 - Alberta is the leading jurisdiction in Canada for investment in wind and solar energy power generation.
- Alberta's energy-only market has spurred investment in the sector, providing stability to investors and driving competitive pricing for consumers.
- Any measures to manage emissions and mitigate climate change must also ensure electricity reliability and keep energy affordable for families and businesses.

If asked about the pause on approvals of renewable electricity projects:

- The Government of Alberta directed the AUC to pause approvals of new renewable power plants for a period of just under seven months, from August 3, 2023 to February 29, 2024, to allow critical issues to be examined.
- During the pause, as directed by the Government, the AUC will review policies and procedures for the development of electricity generation in the province beginning August 3, 2023 and provide its finding and recommendations to the Minister of Affordability and Utilities no later than March 29, 2024.
 - The AUC has been directed to review the impacts of renewable projects on agricultural land use, visual impact on pristine Alberta landscapes, supply mix reliability, technical reliability and renewables on Crown land.
 - This decision is in direct response to concerns from the regulators, municipalities and landowners related to the rapid growth of renewables development.
 - The results of this review will lead to a calibration of standards and expectations to move forward at a pace that is conducive to business, ensures responsible land use and environmental stewardship, and provides confidence in the renewable sector over the long term.
- This pause will not impact the reliability, operation or safe delivery of electricity to Alberta homes, farms and businesses.

CONSIDERATIONS/BACKGROUND

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ATTACHMENTS

Drafted by: Generation, Transmission, and Market

ADM: Andrew Buffin Utilities

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NR: Third party personal and/or business information eliminated by Applicant