

December 14, 2020

To: Parties currently registered in Proceeding 25951

**SunAlta Solar Inc.
SunAlta Solar PV1 Power Plant
Proceeding 25951
Applications 25951-A001 and 25951-A002**

Ruling on standing

1. In this ruling, the Alberta Utilities Commission decides whether to hold a public hearing to consider applications by SunAlta Solar Inc. (SAS) for the proposed SunAlta Solar PV1 Power Plant located near the town of Bassano, Alberta.
2. The Commission must hold a hearing if persons who have filed a statement of intent to participate in Proceeding 25951 have demonstrated that they have rights that may be “directly and adversely affected” by the Commission’s decision. Such a person may participate fully in the hearing, including giving evidence and providing argument. This permission to participate is referred to as standing.
3. The Commission issued a notice of applications for Proceeding 25951 on November 17, 2020. In response to the notice, the Commission received a statement of intent to participate from Krista Evans. SAS filed rebuttal evidence in which it responded to the concerns expressed by Ms. Evans in her statement of intent to participate.
4. The Commission has authorized me to communicate its decision on standing.

Ruling

5. The Commission is satisfied that Ms. Evans has demonstrated that she has legal rights that may be directly and adversely affected by the Commission’s decision on the applications and is therefore granted standing. Ms. Evans owns land adjacent to the proposed project. The potential effects described by Ms. Evans include visual impacts, soil and water contamination, health effects, interference with agricultural operations, environmental impacts, financial impacts and decreased property values.

Costs eligibility

6. Ms. Evans falls within the definition of “local intervener” in Section 22 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act* and, therefore, is eligible to file a costs claim seeking recovery of the costs of her participation in this proceeding, in accordance with the Commission’s Rule 009: *Rules on Local Intervener Costs*.

7. The Commission emphasizes that eligibility to claim costs does not guarantee recovery of those costs. Any claims for costs must be filed after this proceeding is concluded, in accordance with Rule 009. Cost recovery is subject to the Commission assessing the value of a party's contribution to the proceeding, and in accordance with the guidance provided in Section 7 of Rule 009, the Commission may consider whether an intervener submitted evidence and argument on issues that were not relevant to the proceeding.

Further process

8. Due to the scope of Ms. Evans' concerns and ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the Commission has decided to hold a written hearing process and has scheduled the following process steps for its consideration of the applications.

Process step	Due date
Intervener's written evidence	Tuesday, January 19, 2021
Applicant's written rebuttal evidence	Tuesday, February 2, 2021
Final written argument from intervener and applicant	Tuesday, February 9, 2021
Written reply argument from intervener and applicant	Tuesday, February 16, 2021

9. Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at 403-592-4360 or by email at rob.watson@auc.ab.ca.

Yours truly,

Rob Watson
Commission Counsel