

From: AU Minister au.minister@gov.ab.ca
Subject: Fw: Urgent Request for Intervention on Caroline Solar Project:
Date: July 29, 2026 at 2:06 PM
To: rjb@russellbarnett.ca

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Dear Russell Barnett:

Thank you for your June 1, 2026, email regarding the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) and its decision for PACE Bang Energy LP's Caroline Solar Project.

The AUC is an independent, quasi-judicial agency that ensures electric facilities are built, operated, and decommissioned in an efficient and environmentally responsible manner by applying Alberta's laws, regulations, and utility policies. Alberta's utility legislation sets out in detail how proposed utility projects are to be assessed, and what criteria will be applied. Our government does not intervene with or comment on decisions the AUC issues.

Since the original February 28, 2025, approval, the AUC issued a followup decision on April 2, 2026 (Decision 28295-D02-2026) that clarifies and modifies conditions of approval, rather than reopening or reconsidering the approval itself. Following this decision, the project may proceed, provided the updated conditions are met.

As a result of this decision, the AUC has confirmed setback requirements. The final, approved layout requires:

- a minimum 47-metre setback from residences (40 metres from the project fence plus seven metres internal setback to panels); and
- a 27.5-metre setback from the entirety of Wetland 13/13a.

The AUC has confirmed PACE Bang Energy LP's December 11, 2025, revised layout meets these requirements, and the setback conditions in the original decision have been formally modified to reference that layout.

Since the original approval, Alberta's government has strengthened reclamation security by introducing a new reclamation security regime under the Code of Practice for Solar and Wind Renewable Energy Operations, available online at open.alberta.ca/publications/renewables. As a result, the AUC reviewed and modified the original reclamation security condition to align with this new provincial framework. The AUC found PACE Bang Energy LP's proposed landowner-held security plan was not sufficiently protective and imposed more prescriptive requirements, including:

- 40% of total reclamation costs (exclusive of salvage value) to be secured before registration with the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas;
- 70% of total reclamation costs (exclusive of salvage value) to be secured by year 15; and
- security must be maintained via irrevocable letters of credit, remain in place until reclamation certification, and be reassessed and confirmed every five years.

While this project remains approved, the conditions governing setbacks and reclamation security have been clarified and tightened since February 2025 to reflect government policy changes and AUC expectations. For more information, I encourage you to contact the AUC at 310-4282, or by email at info@auc.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

RJ Sigurdson
Minister

Classification: Protected A

