

Title:	Solar Energy Review Process: Transition from old (2016) Wildlife Guideline for Alberta Solar Energy Projects to new (2017) Wildlife Directives for Alberta Solar Energy Projects
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Disclaimer:	

The Government of Alberta released new policy to guide wildlife and wildlife habitat application considerations for solar energy projects in Alberta on October 4, 2017. This policy is titled "Wildlife Directive for Alberta Solar Energy Projects" (herein 2017 Policy). But for the exceptions described within this *Solar Energy Review Process: Transition from old (2016) Wildlife Guideline for Alberta Solar Energy Projects to new (2017) Wildlife Directives for Alberta Solar Energy Projects*, the 2016 Policy no longer have any effect, and have been completely replaced by the 2017 Policy. The grace period for applying this transitional procedure will remain in effect until December 31st 2018, at which time all proponents will be required to adopt the 2017 Policy for all aspects of the planning and application process. The following descriptions outline when and where 2016 Policy may be applied vs. when the 2017 Policy is required.

Exception 1) Solar energy applications that meet one or more of the following criteria, may use the 2016 Policy - *Wildlife Guideline for Alberta Solar Energy Projects* (herein 2016 Policy) :

- Projects commissioned as of October 4, 2017
- Projects with a valid approval, as of October 4, 2017, by the Alberta Utilities Commission
- Projects for which there is a valid AEP Renewable Referral Report that has been submitted and received by the Alberta Utilities Commission or
- Projects that meet other similar circumstances as described above, as determined by the Director of Alberta Fish and Wildlife.

Exception 2) Applications that have initiated pre-application wildlife work prior to October 4, 2017 but no application has yet to be submitted to the Alberta Utilities Commission:

If a project has initiated pre-construction wildlife surveys or has a record of meetings with AEP-Wildlife Biologist, but has not applied to the AUC, the 2016 Policy maybe applied for all pre-construction

activities. Following successful application to the AUC, Stage 3 and Stage 4 of the 2017 Policy must be adhered to.

Exception 3) Valid AUC approved applications where an updated AEP Renewable Referral Report is required by the AUC.

If a project has existing valid AUC approval but is seeking an amendment under this approval (including but not limited to amendments under sections 3.4.2 and 3.5 of *AUC Rule 007*) or where the AUC has required an updated AEP Renewable Referral Report, the 2016 Policy may be applied for all pre-construction activities. Following a successful amended application to the AUC, Stage 3 and Stage 4 of the 2017 Policy must be adhered to.

For all other projects that do not meet the criteria outlined in Exception 1-3 of this administrative procedure the 2017 policy applies. If you are unsure of which policy document applies to your project please contact your AEP-Wildlife Biologist for your project area. Upon request from the proponent, AEP-Wildlife Biologist will provide guidance regarding which framework should be used for different application processes.

Original signed by:

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