

Frequently Asked Questions

What studies need to be completed as part of the Renewable Energy Approval (REA)?

Multiple studies are required to be completed as part of the REA process, including a Natural Heritage Assessment (NHA), surface water studies, sound, stormwater management, archaeology and cultural heritage assessments. In addition to these, specific reports are prepared regarding construction, operation and decommissioning of the facility and these analyze potential effects and propose mitigation measures for those potential effects. Reports are expected to be completed in Q4 2016.

What are the next steps in this process?

The reports comprising the REA application are anticipated to be completed in Q4 2016. Once the reports are completed, they will be made available for public review at least 60 days before the next public meeting. Once the public meeting has taken place, the reports may be updated based on the results of that consultation. Following this, the Consultation Report for the Project will be finalized and the complete application will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). The submission date is anticipated to be in Q1 2017. The MOECC will subsequently undertake a review of the application, and, upon deeming it complete, will post a notice on the Environmental Registry. Following posting on the Environmental Registry, the MOECC will review all reports and evaluate the application. Once the technical review is complete, and comments are gathered from the Environmental Registry, the MOECC will make a decision regarding issuance of the Project's REA. This is presently anticipated for Q4 2017. Please see the detailed Project schedule, available on our [website](#).

Can the Project be developed within a wetland?

Development of solar projects in Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs) is prohibited, with limited exceptions for power and communication lines, such as directionally drilling under the PSW. However, no solar panels will be constructed in wetlands. Development may occur within 50 m of a PSW if an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) demonstrates that there will be no negative effects to the wetland. An EIS has been prepared as part of the Natural Heritage Assessment for the Loyalist Project. Wetland communities in the vicinity of the Project's development area will be afforded appropriate protection buffers and will remain in effect during Project construction and operations – as a result, following implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, no impacts to wetlands are anticipated as a result of the Project.

Will chemicals be used to control weed growth at the Project location during operations?

Weeds will be controlled through mechanical means and occasionally by the targeted application of common herbicides in specific areas.

Will the installation of poles to support the solar racking system, and the connection line affect groundwater or my well? What about poles for the connection line?

Groundwater quality issues due to connection line pole and solar racking post installations are not anticipated. The depths of boreholes for these installations are expected to be between 3 to 4 metres for power poles and 1.4 to 2 metres for racking posts. Where power poles are installed in rock, suitable aggregate backfill materials will be used. Where racking posts are installed in rock, they will be grouted to prevent surface water movement to the subsurface. No impacts to groundwater quality are anticipated as a result of the Project.

Which connection lines will be built?

Several connection line options are being considered at this stage.

If the connection line route is adjacent to my property, will it be gated to stop trespassers and protect livestock?

Where the connection line runs overland on an unopened municipal right-of-way, measures can be taken to protect livestock and to prevent trespassing. To prevent unwanted livestock movement, fencing can be installed, where needed, along the connection line route. Also, to prevent trespassing, gates can be installed where the connection line intersects with municipal roads.

If a solar facility is built in the area, will the value of my property decrease?

While nothing specific to solar farms has been published, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) completed [a study in 2012](#) that analyzed the potential impact on property values for homes in proximity to wind energy facilities. The study concluded that "there is no statistically significant impact on sale prices of residential properties in these market areas resulting from proximity to an industrial wind turbine." We believe the same results would be found for property values around solar facilities. Should studies specific to solar become available, we will share these with interested stakeholders.

Will my property be accessed for field studies / aerial imagery even if I'm not participating and haven't given permission?

No. Field staff will not be conducting studies on private properties without first seeking permission from the property owner. Similarly, drones have been used to collect aerial imagery of road rights-of-way, but will not be collecting imagery from private properties without landowner permission.

I am a landowner in the Project area, and am interested in getting involved in the Project.

We sincerely appreciate all the interest and support for the Loyalist Solar Project. While participation in the Loyalist Solar Project is presently full, for inquiries about getting involved in future developments, please contact Lead, Development, Andrea Garcia by calling 1-844-214-2578 or emailing projects@blueearth.ca.