

Rule 033

Post-approval Monitoring Requirements for Wind and Solar Power Plants

The Alberta Utilities Commission approved this rule on June 12, 2019, with an effective date of July 1, 2019.

1 Definitions

In this rule,

- (a) “AEP” means Alberta Environment and Parks;
- (b) “approval holder” means a person who holds an approval for a solar project or a wind project;
- (c) “Commission” means the Alberta Utilities Commission;
- (d) “experienced wildlife biologist” means a wildlife surveyor working in Alberta who has:
 - (i) The ability to positively identify target species by sight and/or sound.
 - (ii) Familiarity with the species biology, including habitat requirements of the species and experience in identifying the species habitat features.
 - (iii) Familiarity with survey methods as described in the Sensitive Species Inventory Guidelines.
 - (iv) Attained a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Biology, Environmental Sciences, Renewable Resources, or holds a Technical Diploma in Natural Resources or Environmental Management from a certified college.
 - (v) Multiple years of wildlife and surveying experience.
- (e) “referral report” means a project-specific renewable energy referral report issued by AEP for a wind project or a solar project and includes all updates to that report;
- (f) “solar project” means a power plant that produces electric energy from solar energy, and includes solar collectors, solar reflectors, roads, fences, collector lines, inverters and other related infrastructure;

- (g) “wind project” means a power plant that produces electric energy from wind energy, and includes wind turbines, roads, fences, collector lines and other related infrastructure.

2 Application

Unless otherwise directed, this rule applies to all wind and solar projects approved by the Commission on or after September 1, 2019.

3 Post-approval monitoring requirements for solar projects and wind projects

- (1) An approval holder must abide by the project-specific recommendations pertaining to post-construction mitigation and monitoring, as outlined in the project’s referral report.
- (2) After a project is operational, an approval holder must abide by all of the requirements and commitments outlined in the project’s referral report, as well as the final version of its post-construction wildlife monitoring and mitigation plan as reviewed and accepted by AEP.
- (3) After a project is operational, an approval holder shall carry out site-specific post-construction monitoring surveys in the manner and for the period recommended by AEP in the project’s referral report. The approval holder shall submit to the Commission and AEP an annual report summarizing the results of these surveys and all related correspondence from AEP.
- (4) All post-construction monitoring must be conducted by an experienced wildlife biologist, as defined in the *Wildlife Directive for Alberta Wind Energy Projects* or the *Wildlife Directive for Alberta Solar Energy Projects*.
- (5) In conducting its post-construction wildlife monitoring program, an approval holder shall use an AEP-approved fatality estimator to calculate the corrected mortality rates for birds and bats. The approval holder must notify AEP of any carcasses of species of management concern upon discovery and must abide by any AEP requirements to implement new mitigation measures to prevent or reduce further mortalities.

4 Commission discretion

The Commission may supplement, omit or modify these requirements on a case-by-case basis.