



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

President

Président

160 Elgin St., 22nd floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

160, rue Elgin, 22^e étage
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

February 23, 2023

Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair, Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee
Box 580
Cardston AB T0K 0K0
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Sebastien Dutrisac:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2023, concerning the 2023 Alberta Agricultural Service Board Resolution 8-23, regarding the consideration of municipal environmental and agricultural policies for large-scale renewable energy developments on agricultural lands. I appreciate you sharing these concerns, though I note that no large-scale solar development projects proposed in the County of Warner, Alberta, were subject to federal assessment processes administered by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency), formerly known as the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

The *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA) sets out the federal process for assessing the impacts of certain major projects. The *Physical Activities Regulations* (the Regulations) under the IAA describe those types of projects that would be subject to the requirements of the IAA. Proponents of projects described in the Regulations are required to submit an Initial Project Description to the Agency in order to determine whether an impact assessment is required. Further information on the IAA and associated regulations can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency.html>.

The IAA recognizes the importance of meaningful public participation and requires that opportunities for public participation be provided during the assessment process. For projects that are subject to the IAA, public participation opportunities occur during the Planning, Impact Statement, and Impact Assessment Phases of the impact assessment process.

.../2



External stakeholders interested in projects subject to the IAA, including local municipalities, can engage as part of the public participation process and are extended opportunities to provide knowledge and expertise to inform the impact assessment process. Public and stakeholder input on key issues and concerns are taken into account before decisions are made, as appropriate.

Should large-scale renewable energy developments in the County of Warner or elsewhere in Canada be subject to the IAA in the future, please be assured that the Agency would carefully consider municipal environmental and agricultural policies in any assessment.

I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention and trust that you will find this information useful.

Sincerely,

Terence Hubbard (he/him, il)