

# Craig Lake Wind Project Stakeholder Information Session and Open House

## April 25, 2024

### What We Heard Summary

ATCO EnPower (ATCO) held the Craig Lake Wind Project Stakeholder Information Session on April 25, 2024, in the town of Castor. An informal drop-in session was held from 10am to 5pm followed by a formal presentation with question-and-answer period from 5pm to 8pm. A total of 68 participants attended over the 10am to 8 pm period.

ATCO has prepared a report to share a summary of what we heard in relation to the Craig Lake Wind Project. We have grouped the information into Common Themes below. The intent is to provide an accurate representation of what was heard by the ATCO Attendees or their representatives.

#### Common Themes:

- Proposed Project Siting and Infrastructure
- Potential impact to wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Potential human impact from wind turbines
- Viewscapes
- Community benefits
- Wind Lease Agreement
- Construction Activities
- Project Decommissioning and Reclamation

In 2024, ATCO acquired the Craig Lake project via an acquisition of assets from Suncor Energy Inc. Initially, the project footprint extended east to Highway 36 and south to Highway 9. As the project progressed, Suncor secured agreements with landowners within the area of Fleet in 2017. The proposed location of the Project is near the Hamlet of Fleet, and 6.3 km east of the town of Castor. During the information session, community concerns about the project name were brought to our attention. ATCO values feedback and is actively considering renaming the project to better reflect the community.

## Proposed Project Siting and Infrastructure

<i>Concern</i>	<i>Response</i>
Why was this location selected compared to developing in other areas of Alberta?	<p>When considering the location of a project ATCO reviews the regulatory requirements, the environmental factors and the economics. The County of Paintearth has a good wind resource that is being considered for development.</p> <p>ATCO currently has 4 operating renewable energy facilities in Alberta located in both urban and rural settings.</p>
How many turbines will be constructed?	The proposed project is anticipating generating +/- 246 MW by constructing 43 turbines. Final quantity of turbines is pending selection of the wind turbine generator equipment.
What is the total height of these turbines?	At this time ATCO is currently selecting its vendor but the turbine height is anticipated to range from 180m to 200m from the base to top of the blade.
Where are these turbines made?	At this time ATCO is currently selecting its vendor but the turbine components will likely be sourced from many locations including; Europe, Asia and the US.
What is the setback or right of way for collector lines?	<p>Collector lines require a 10m setback.</p> <p>Additional setbacks are provided on Slide 8 of Craig Lake Wind Project Information Session presentation from April 25, 2024.</p>

## Potential impact to wildlife and wildlife habitat

<i>Concern</i>	<i>Response</i>
<p>What is being done to protect birds and bats from hitting turbines? What are the impacts of wind turbines on bald eagles?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders shared that this area is a major corridor for migratory birds (snow geese,</li> </ul>	<p>A negative effect of wind turbines is that birds, bats, raptors, and waterfowl may come in contact with the wind turbines and be injured or killed.</p> <p>The existing environmental surveys required by applicable regulations demonstrate that the</p>

<p>Canada goose, sandhill cranes, and raptor species).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders shared that they will see hundreds if not thousands of birds moving through the area in the spring and fall.</li> </ul>	<p>migratory and resident bird population is high and healthy in the Project area, which already has existing wind facilities. ATCO will continue to conduct the necessary wildlife monitoring activities as required by any approvals or regulations.</p> <p>Administered by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA), the Government of Alberta (GOA) <a href="#">Wildlife Directive for Alberta Wind Energy Projects</a> outlines the wildlife surveys for migratory birds, breeding birds, raptors, sharp-tailed grouse, bats, and amphibians that need to be completed. This information is submitted to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) who will assign a risk ranking and any potential mitigation measures in a Wildlife Referral Report based on the numbers of specific types of wildlife observed during the surveys.</p> <p>The developer/owner then submits the AEPA Referral Report with the Power Plant Application for the wind facility that ATCO will submit to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) that meets the requirements stated in <a href="#">AUC Rule 007</a>. The AUC considers the wildlife risk ratings, other environmental studies completed, as well as other factors outlined in the Power Plant Application submission to the AUC application.</p>
<p>It was shared during the information session that mortality of ducks in Fort McMurray causes international concerns, but bird mortality by wind turbines does not receive the same level of attention.</p>	<p>ATCO follows the rules and regulations for renewable power generation, such as the GOA <a href="#">Wildlife Directive for Alberta Wind Energy Projects</a>.</p> <p>If any “wildlife species of management concern” or “endangered species” mortality occurs, it is immediately investigated and reported to the appropriate regulators.</p> <p>Under the Directive, AEPA have extensive wildlife monitoring requirements for the first three years of operations. ATCO will report to AEPA and the AUC at the end of each year with any wildlife</p>

	<p>mortality counts. If our mortality numbers are above what the government deems as acceptable to sustain specific wildlife species populations, we may require mitigation measures like seasonal shutdown of some turbines or increasing the threshold wind speed at which the turbines will start operating.</p>
<p>I'm hearing lots of bird concerns. I have sat around Halkirk and watched the birds fly around the wind turbine. What is the actual number of birds killed? What is Halkirk's number?</p>	<p>Once filed with the AUC, a post-construction monitoring report that documents wildlife incidents will become public. The Halkirk Project's mortality numbers are available from the AUC.</p> <p>It is important to note that mortality numbers are site specific, and mortality counts from one project will not be the same for another project in the same general area. ATCO operates a wind facility in the County of Forty Mile beside another wind facility. The neighboring wind facility had high bat mortality counts but our facility did not. There can even be differences from season to season before projects are built.</p>
<p>Bird and bat mortality counts during operations will not be accurate if coyotes remove the carcasses</p>	<p>Wind and solar facility developers must follow Alberta's <a href="#">Post-construction survey protocols for wind and solar energy projects</a>.</p> <p>The survey methodology accounts for aspects related to predation. For example, carcass persistence surveys were completed where we put up wildlife cameras to capture if any carcasses are removed by coyotes or other predators. We also monitor the accuracy of the biologists retained to look for the bat and bird carcasses. Carcass search results, carcass persistence surveys results, and searcher efficiency trial results are all used to improve the number of mortalities recorded, accounting for carcass removals and search efficiency.</p>

<p>Stakeholders shared concern that not all of the wildlife features (i.e. leks and raptor nests) may have been captured in the surveys in support of the Project. How can landowners show ATCO where additional wildlife may be located?</p>	<p>The landowner was asked to point out on the Project map where the leks and raptor nest were located by ATCO.</p> <p>We have completed additional wildlife surveys in the areas indicated by the landowner.</p>
<p>Wetlands, that are disappearing due to drought conditions, used to hold a lot of birds.</p>	<p>Wetlands will be avoided by the Project (turbine pads, access trails, collector lines) wherever possible. Where these impacts cannot be avoided; Water Act approvals will be acquired if needed.</p>
<p>Native grasslands are disappearing in the area from development and cultivation.</p>	<p>The proposed Project avoids permanent disturbance in native grassland as required under the <a href="#">Wildlife Directive for Alberta Wind Energy Projects</a>.</p>
<p>Stakeholders shared concerns related to hunting – can people hunt on lands with turbines?</p>	<p>Hunting on private land is a discussion between the landowner and the hunter. Turbines are like any other industrial facility where safety of the operations and public is important.</p> <p>Our agreements do not have any limitation related to hunting. The <a href="#">Alberta Regulations Hunting, Fishing and Trapping</a> states “Hunters should leave gates as they find them, avoiding damaging facilities or property, and avoid disturbing livestock.”</p>

### Potential human impact from wind turbines

<i>Concern</i>	<i>Response</i>
<p>How can you track human impact?</p>	<p>ATCO’s PPA submission under AUC Rule 007 requires an Environmental Evaluation that focuses on impacts to the physical environment, which includes impacts on land use. Assessing human impacts is not required by the AUC.</p> <p>Health Canada, in collaboration with Statistics Canada, launched a study in July 2012 to determine if there was a relationship between exposure to wind turbine noise and negative health effects in residents living close to wind turbines. The study results were published in</p>

	<p>2014 in <a href="#">Health Canada’s Wind Turbine Noise and Health Study</a> (the Study). The Study included 12 wind facilities in Ontario and 6 wind facilities in Prince Edward Island with a random selection of participants from homes within 600 m and 10 km of the wind facilities. The key finding of the Study was that there was no evidence supporting a link between exposure to wind turbine noise and illnesses or chronic health conditions. There was also no evidence of a decrease in sleep quality or a decrease in overall quality of life because of wind turbine noise. There was an association found between participants reporting annoyance from increasing levels of wind turbine noise and this was correlated to some long-term health effects such as perceived stress, migraines, tinnitus, dizziness, and high blood pressure. The Study suggested that the health effects correlated to annoyance from wind turbine noise was similar to health effects related to road traffic noise annoyance.</p>
--	---

## Viewscapes

<i>Concern</i>	<i>Response</i>
<p>What is the impact to Huber Dam/Campground and is there a required setback?</p>	<p>Huber dam is on Mather Reservoir, which is a named waterbody and has a 1 km setback applied based on the <a href="#">Wildlife Directive for Wind Energy Projects in Alberta</a>. There are no proposed turbines within 1 km of the Mather Reservoir.</p> <p>ATCO will be providing a visual assessment for the Huber Dam Campground. It will be available to the public through the <a href="#">project website</a>.</p>
<p>Stakeholders shared that they do not want the view of Fleet ridge and 20km-30km valley to be impacted.</p>	<p>The Government of Alberta (GOA) is responsible for defining what is considered a “pristine viewscape.” A draft map has been shared by the province of Alberta and the Project is not located within in a pristine viewscape as currently defined by the GOA.</p> <p>There is currently no requirement for a visual impact assessment in the AUC Rule 007</p>

	<p>requirements. It is our understanding that the AUC may require a more formal visual impact assessment in the AUC Rule 007 application requirements that will be revised later this year. ATCO will meet all requirements of AUC Rule 007 at the time of application.</p> <p>The AUC has to take all of the factors into consideration when reviewing a project such as: need for the project, impact to people &amp; environment (including visual or viewscape impacts) and stakeholder consultation before deciding on approval.</p>
<p>Stakeholders suggested that it is easy, with AI and computers, to now publish visuals for every residence.</p>	<p>We will follow Paintearth’s bylaws and requirements for visual assessment for the development permit application.</p> <p>Following feedback from the April 25, 2024 information session, ATCO is working to provide additional general visual assessments for key locations, which will be made public.</p>

### Community benefits

<i>Concern</i>	<i>Response</i>
<p>What about impacts to local tourism because of the wind turbines?</p>	<p>Any potential impacts to local tourism would occur during construction and are expected to be short-term in nature.</p> <p>The Project will result in other economic benefits to the County of Paintearth, local businesses, and host landowners.</p> <p>Approximately 200 to 300 temporary jobs are expected to be created during the construction of the Project, with additional long-term jobs expected for the operation and maintenance of the facility. Additionally, the procurement of materials and local support services such as accommodations, and food services for workers will be required during the construction and</p>

	<p>operation phases providing additional revenue to local businesses.</p> <p>During operations, the Project is expected to generate an average of approximately \$5 Million per year during the project life in tax revenue to the County of Paintearth and host landowners with Project infrastructure on their land will receive lease payments.</p>
<p>What is the benefit of carbon offsets?</p>	<p>Carbon offsets can be bought by emitters to reduce the cost of their emissions. Offsets are used by oil and gas and other industrial companies to allow them to reduce the reported emissions they produce during operations.</p>

### Wind Lease Agreement

<i>Concern</i>	<i>Response</i>
<p>Am I bound by this lease?</p>	<p>These leases are designed to allow flexibility to design the wind project to have minimal impact on the landowners and most economic.</p>
<p>Am I fully bound and have no right to terminate?</p>	<p>When a contract is signed, it becomes legally binding. If there is a need to terminate the agreement, it is the responsibility of the landowner to thoroughly review the terms of the agreement and seek legal advice if necessary.</p>
<p>Lease agreement, do they continue on to the next project? Can the next company do what they want with my land?</p>	<p>The project intent is to develop a wind project. The 2017 lease outlines the right to construction wind turbines with all necessary requisite devices, fixtures, appurtenances, equipment including without limiting the generality of the foregoing foundation, concrete pad, foot gates, fence and other improvement. While our agreement does speak to the exclusivity of solar the AUC application will be for Wind project only.</p> <p>ATCO will not proceed with a new battery or solar project on land that a wind facility is already</p>



	<p>on without a new landowner agreement. In addition, ATCO would have to consult and file an AUC application to get approval to build either a battery or solar project in this area.</p>
<p>Will the wind turbines and supporting infrastructure cover all of my land?</p>	<p>The project leases were executed at the discretions of the landowner. With the understanding upon completion of construction, ATCO will amend the existing caveat reducing the acres as referenced on the lease to the final acre utilized for the project.</p> <p>While the property has a caveat on title, there is flexibility when it comes to landowners altering their property and/or allowing a third party to lease the property for unrelated project work. ATCO would need to be consulted to ensure that improvement and third parties activities do not impact on any project activities i.e. surveying, environmental testing, construction, maintenance, etc.</p>
<p>Can we still go hunting after the turbines are installed?</p>	<p>Our agreement does not have any limitation related to hunting. The <a href="#">Alberta Regulations Hunting, Fishing and Trapping</a> states “Hunters should leave gates as they find them, avoiding damaging facilities or property, and avoid disturbing livestock.”</p>

### Construction Activities

<i>Concern</i>	<i>Response</i>
<p>Stakeholders expressed concern about construction traffic on local roads and how this will be managed?</p>	<p>A Traffic Accommodation Strategy (TAS) plan will be developed for construction. Stakeholders will be notified of the plan.</p>
<p>How will this be done and will water from Huber Dam be used?</p>	<p>ATCO will work with the County to acquire water where needed. There are no plans to use water from wetlands or the Huber Dam.</p>
<p>Stakeholders shared concern regarding dust control issues.</p>	<p>ATCO’s contractors will follow the guidance of the County as it relates to dust control.</p>

<p>Where is the concrete mobile batch plant going? Why is it not in the middle of the project?</p>	<p>The batch plant is planned to be located on the west side of the project but is subject to change as we complete detailed design and construction logistics planning.</p>
<p>Stakeholders expressed concern regarding blinking red lights from the Project, particularly at night.</p>	<p>Aviation lights are required on the turbines to provide a visible indication of the site for aircraft safety. The lights will be compliant by <a href="#">Navigation Canada Standard 621 Chapter 12</a>. The lights will be red and placed on the nacelle and mid-section of the tower. Typically, not all turbines will have lights, the selection of turbines with lights will be established by an aeronautical assessment in compliance with the standard.</p>
<p>Where are you housing the staff?</p>	<p>ATCO contractors will do an assessment of where to house workers. We will advise them to avoid requiring a camp, and Castor or Stettler will likely be the location for accommodations either in hotels or short-term rentals or leases.</p>

## Project Decommissioning and Reclamation

<i>Concern</i>	<i>Response</i>
<p>Are turbine blades recycled?</p>	<p>There are currently limited options for recycling blades but there is research occurring to look into using different materials for blades so that they can be recycled when the project is decommissioned.</p> <p>Technology is evolving, and the turbine parts could be re-purposed in the future.</p>
<p>What about reviewing reclamation costs throughout the life of the project?</p>	<p>ATCO best practice is to review the reclamation cost every 5 years to ensure it meets the current market.</p>
<p>I have seen this in Oklahoma and California, the landowners get stuck with the reclamation cost. Being responsible means not waiting 10 years. I believe in you, but you aren't in control of what happens at the end of the project life. There are 4-5 oil &amp; gas companies with orphan wells in the</p>	<p>ATCO is liable for the costs of decommissioning and reclamation under the terms of the lease agreements with host landowners.</p> <p>ATCO will comply with reclamation and decommissioning requirements as outlined in</p>

<p>area that buy wells with numbered companies then fold the company when it isn't economic to produce.</p> <p>Why can't you put in a \$100k per turbine bond up front?</p>	<p>AUC Rule 007. A reclamation bond/security for the Project will be in place to meet Provincial criteria. As the AUC is revising their Rule 007 requirements, a bond will likely be a condition for the project to meet regulations. ATCO will meet all requirements of AUC Rule 007 at the time of application.</p>
<p>What happens if the project is sold, who is responsible for reclamation? Do taxpayers pay for reclamation?</p>	<p>ATCO is liable for the costs of decommissioning and reclamation under the terms of the lease agreements with host landowners.</p> <p>ATCO has a final decommissioning and reclamation cost included in our budget. ATCO will ensure the reclamation and decommission funds stay attached with the project in the unlikely event the project is sold.</p>
<p>As technology changes, our premier says Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) will be a great addition to the electric mix. What happens in ten years when SMRs are viable?</p>	<p>ATCO is not considering SMRs in this location at this time.</p>