

# Fox Meadows Wind Project

Project Update - December 2022

In July of this year, ABO Wind Canada Ltd. (ABO Wind) publicly announced our proposed 165 MW Fox Meadows Wind Project ("Fox Meadows" / "The Project") The Project is located entirely on privately-owned land spanning both the Municipal Districts (MD) of Wainwright and Provost, between the Town of Provost and the Village of Edgerton, west of Highway 899 (see brochure map). This region was selected due to favourable wind speeds, land topography, grid capacity and sufficient lands for project infrastructure.



Environmental consultant reviewing the bat monitoring equipment

## The Project

#### Project Development Area

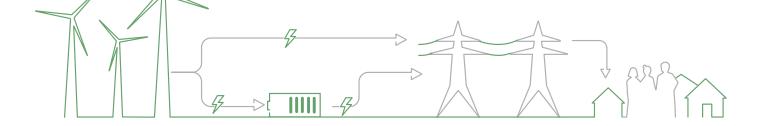
The Project Development Area for Fox Meadows has changed since our summer 2022 public notification. Through input received during our ongoing public consultation process, we eliminated the western section of the Project and expanded the eastern portion of the Project to accommodate the 25 proposed wind turbines needed to produce the 165 MW of renewable energy. Current layout designs have utilized the Siemens Gamesa SG-170 6.6 MW wind turbine with a hub height of 115 metres and a blade length of 85 metres. The turbine model is subject to change based on availability.

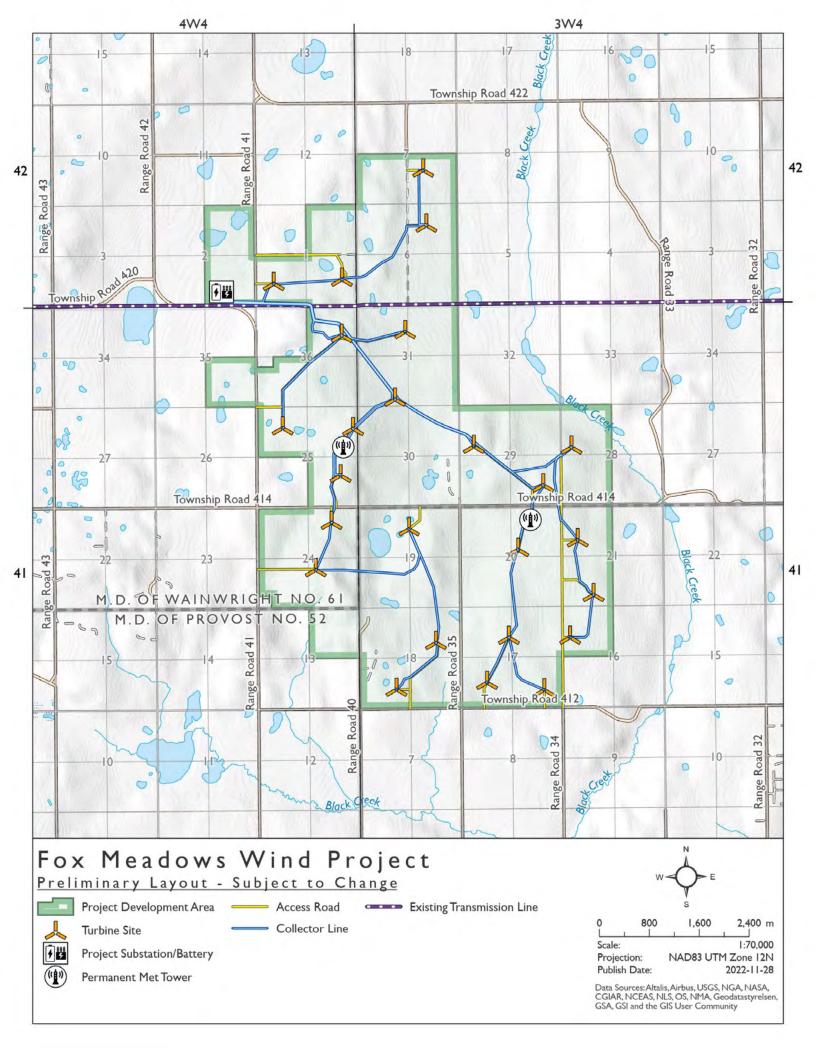
The updated map highlights the new Project Development Area, resulting in a reduction of approximately 1000 acres from the previous layout. ABO Wind still expects the Project will displace about 300,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually and 9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over a 30-year lifespan.

#### Battery Storage System

The Project will look to have a battery storage system that will charge from the electric grid or the Project and discharge at peak demand times. The battery storage components will include battery modules, inverters, transformers, and an energy management system. The incorporation of a battery storage system will increase project flexibility and the reliability of the electrical grid. The current size of the proposed battery is 70 MW/216MWh, which will occupy an area of roughly 6 acres.

The battery storage will be placed in close proximity to the Project substation, proposed for the SE of Section 2, Township 42, Range 4, West of the 4th Meridian. The Project substation will contain one step-up transformer that will increase the voltage of the electricity from the Project prior to exporting it to the grid. The substation will also include circuit breakers, and a control building for maintenance of the site. Additional project infrastructure includes access roads, collector lines, and meteorological towers. This is displayed on the brochure map.







First Open House Edgerton, August 2022

In August of 2022, ABO Wind hosted an Open House at the Edgerton Agricultural Community Hall. Approximately 50 individuals attended the event to ask questions, offer support or express their concerns for the Project. We have listed some of the key questions from the Open House and responses in this brochure.

ABO Wind anticipates hosting a second open house in Q1, 2023. A notification and public announcement will be released once the date and location are finalized.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Why is the open house not done in a presentation manner with an open microphone for questions?	We find that allowing attendees to seek out topic-specific tables will facilitate their questions being addressed one on one by topic experts without being rushed for time. This method also allows for more questions by more people, many of whom do not want to present their questions openly to the entire room. This walk-through Poster Board format allows for attendees to arrive at any time during the open house hours without having missed information that was presented only at the beginning of the event.
Is the Project a done deal?	No project is predetermined. The provincial regulatory system is designed to review and assess any project and ultimately decide if a project is in the public's best interest. Our Project must first be reviewed by both Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) and the regulated Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC), where they evaluate the Project relative to certain criteria such as environmental and social impacts. There are also municipal development permits that must be acquired before a project is able to be constructed and commence operations.

Is the Project subsidized by the Government?	Fox Meadows is 100% privately-funded by ABO Wind and is not subsidized by the Government.
Who is responsible for the clean-up of the wind turbines in the event that something goes awry with the company, such as bankruptcy?	The owner of a project is responsible for reclamation of the project and must meet provincial guidelines, at the time of reclamation. Wind projects benefit from the fact that the fuel source (wind) is free. If a company operating a wind project goes bankrupt, the inherent value of a project such as this is retained in the form of: an existing connection to the electrical grid, a free fuel source, and an opportunity to update the technology to continue operations.
If we are opposed to the Project, how would we express our opposition?	Please contact David Berrade at dave.berrade@abo-wind.com with any concerns. ABO Wind would like the opportunity to discuss each concern to understand them, provide potential resolutions and track this information to include with the submission of our application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). In addition, individuals can express their concerns directly to the AUC by visiting www.auc.ab.ca and reviewing the document "Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications".
What are the Economic Opportunities and benefits for the area?	We expect a workforce of between 75 to 100 individuals during the estimated 18-month construction period. There will be approximately \$70 million of goods and service contracts going to Alberta companies, with preference going to qualified local entities in proximity to the MDs of Wainwright and Provost. Goods and services needed for the Project include: steel, concrete, gravel, accommodations, surveying, snow removal, hydro vac, security, waste/recycling, civil construction, fuel and many more. The Project is expected to provide tens of millions of dollars in municipal tax revenue over the anticipated 30-year life of the Project. This revenue will be split between the MDs of Provost and Wainwright. Apart from the royalties that landowners with Project infrastructure on their property will receive, ABO Wind will collaborate with local communities to provide monetary support from a Fox Meadows Community Benefit Fund.

## Environmental and Additional Studies

**Project Field Studies** 

During the August 2022, open house, a number of individuals had questions relating to the impact of the Project to birds, wildlife and the environment. Minimizing impact to the environment resulting from the construction and operations of Fox Meadows is at the forefront of Project planning.

ABO Wind retained an independent third-party consultant, Maskwa Environmental Consulting Ltd. (Maskwa), to complete the environmental survey program. The 2022 surveys completed for the proposed Project were:

- Raptor (hawk and owl) stick nest surveys
- Acoustic and visual amphibian surveys



- Breeding songbird surveys
- Spring and fall bird migration surveys
- Sharp-tailed grouse surveys
- Bat surveys
- Vegetation surveys
- Wetland surveys

In review of the survey results and mandated setbacks, ABO Wind sited the proposed Project to further reduce or eliminate environmental impacts, where feasible. Field results from the surveys will be provided to AEPA as part of ABO Wind's submission of the Renewable Energy Project Submission (REPS) Report. In this submission, AEPA will review the potential impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including wetlands. An overall Project risk



ranking will be provided by AEPA in relation to wildlife features, risk to birds, pre-assessment risk to bat mortality and to wildlife and wildlife habitat based on Project siting and commitments made by ABO Wind to monitor and mitigate wildlife impacts. AEPA will assess the project-specific mitigation to be implemented during construction and operations based on the Wildlife Directive for Alberta Wind Energy Projects. Once the review has been concluded, AEPA will issue a Renewable Energy Referral Report (RERR), which will be submitted to the AUC.

Furthermore, ABO Wind must submit a Conservation and Reclamation Plan to the AUC that documents preconstruction soil and vegetation conditions for the proposed Project, interim reclamation activities, proposed operational soil and vegetation monitoring, proposed Project decommissioning, and proposed final land reclamation.

#### **Visual Simulations**



A third party was contracted to conduct visual simulations from different viewpoints across the Fox Meadows Project Development Area. The purpose of the visual simulations is to illustrate the Project relative to the landscape. The visual simulations will be shared with the public and submitted as part of our AUC application in 2023. The visual simulation locations were chosen based on a mix of vantage points across the Project site that are mostly accessible to the public. Noise:



The Project will have sound-generating infrastructure, which include the wind turbines, the substation and the battery storage system. Third-party consultants have been retained to model noise from the Project. The 40-decibel contour shown on the brochure map represents the potential impact from the noise emitted from the turbines and substation. 40 decibels is approximately equivalent to the sound produced from light rain or a soft whisper. As we are working diligently on the incorporation of the battery storage system – updated noise results in a future mailout will show noise emitting from the battery units as well. The contours have been modelled utilizing the Siemens Gamesa 6.6 MW wind turbines. Preliminary results indicate noise compliance with AUC Rule 012: Noise Control at all dwellings within the Project Development Area.



#### Shadow Flicker:

Shadow flicker can occur at certain times of the year when the sun passes behind a turbine's moving blades, casting a shadow seen through a window.

Similar to noise impacts, ABO Wind retained a third-party consultant to evaluate shadow flicker from the Project to nearby residences. The study is ongoing, and results will be shared with the public prior to the second Open House.

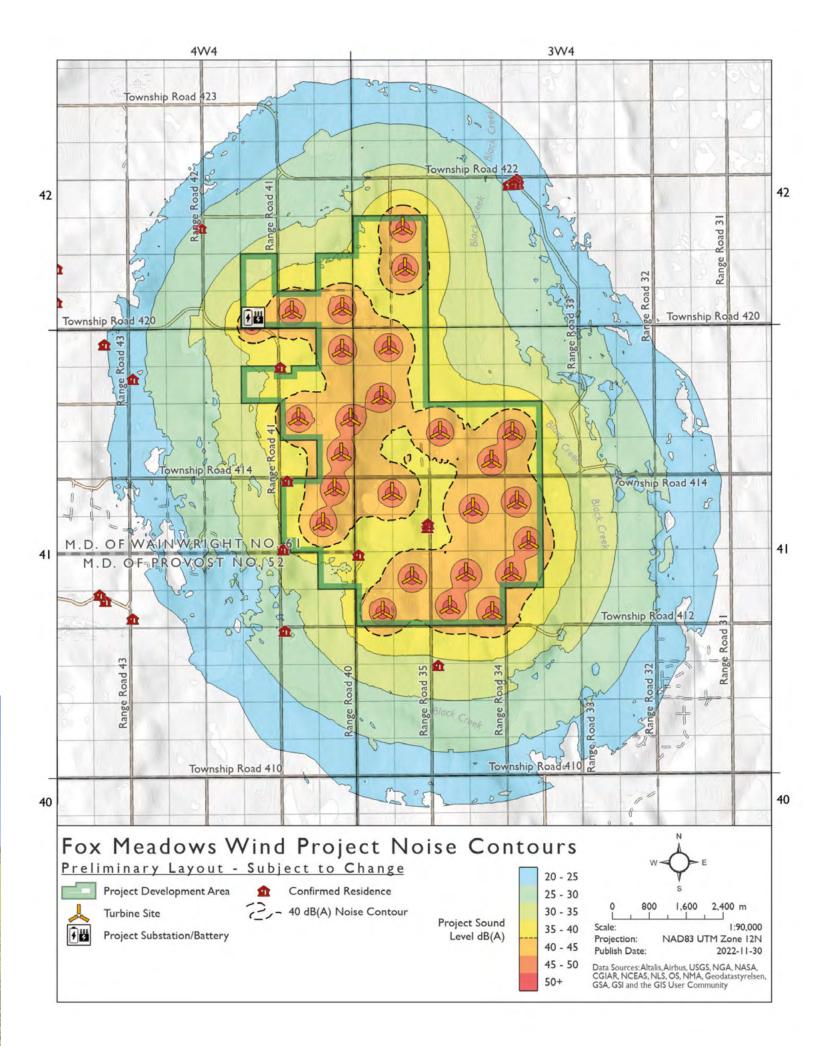


#### **Historical Resources:**

ABO Wind will consult with Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women and look to receive clearance for the Project under the provincial Historical Resources Act.

Project Field Studies







Project Meteorological Tower

### **Regulatory Process**

An application will be made to the AUC under Rule 007 – Application – Wind Power Plants 10 Megawatts or greater – urban and rural. In addition, but not limited to, the following municipal/provincial permits and/or approvals may be required for the Project:

- Water Act;
- Development Permit(s);
- NAV Canada and Transport Canada Approvals;
- Rezoning Application for Land Use within the MD of Provost;
- Road Use/Crossing Agreements;

## Preliminary Schedule:

ABO Wind has updated the preliminary projected timeline for the Project. These changes are shown in the table below and subject to regulatory approval:

2022				2023			2024			
Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q 3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	Public Notification and Project Information Package 1 July 2022		Submission of REPS Report to AEPA	AUC Application Submission						
	First Open House Edgerton August 10, 2022		Second Open House	AUC Review and Approval						
E	nvironmental Field Studi	es		Start of Construction			Commencement of Operations			

## ABO Wind

## Consultation

ABO Wind will continue our open, honest and timely consultation process, which is guided by AUC Rule 007. The existing consultation process has contributed significantly to the project design. Consultation will continue throughout life of the project.

Correspondence related to the project will be recorded and submitted as part of the Participation Involvement Program for the AUC Application.

If you have questions about the Regulatory and Consultation Process, you can contact the AUC at 403-592-4500 or info@auc.ab.ca or visit their website a**t www.auc.ab.ca**.

## ABO Wind Canada Ltd

ABO Wind was founded in 1996 and is a leading developer of renewable energy projects. ABO Wind opened its Canadian headquarters in Calgary in 2017 and focuses on developing wind, solar, energy storage, and green hydrogen projects throughout Canada. The ABO Wind Canada team is supported by over 1000 team members from across the globe. For more information, please visit: **www.abo-wind.com**.

## **Project Contact**

We look forward to hearing from you. For more information, please visit our website at **www.foxmeadowswind.com** or contact us at:



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