

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Joan Yu](#)  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Re: EXTERNAL: setbacks from residences for solar projects  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 28, 2024 10:00:45 AM

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Hello Ms. Yu,

My computer does not have Word and I don't know how to create and send a PDF version of my feedback. I am sure that all of the companies that have an interest in starting up power plants have word and are skilled in using computers and submitting documents in a format that the AUC finds acceptable. I am a senior and I hope that you will make allowances so that all members of the public are able to be heard. A solar project will soon be located on two sides of my home. It will be inadequately screened by trees and the fence will be placed 25 feet beyond the property line. The closest panels will be 70.1 meters from our home. We took out a wall and placed large windows in our home to take advantage of the beautiful view and so that we could watch the wildlife and now we will have a view of solar panels and a plastic tarp covering a chain link fence. My husband has asthma\ COPD and the company has not agreed to come up with a plan that protects our home from the dust generated during construction. Selling our home to move to a place where we will be safe would be next to impossible and we know we will lose 10% of the value of our home even if we put more trees in. We lost our battle, but I don't want other Albertans to have to deal with similar situations. Reasonable setback and screening requirements would help people who live near power plant projects.

Carol Ann McKell

u wrote:

Hello Carol Ann McKell

Thank you very much for your detailed feedback regarding setbacks. Would you please submit the Word or PDF version of your feedback to [the Rule 007 Engage website?](#)

Thank you and best regards.

Joan

**Joan Yu, P.Eng.**

Science Analyst – SpecialisDt

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2024 8:50 PM  
**To:** Joan Yu <[Joan.Yu@auc.ab.ca](mailto:Joan.Yu@auc.ab.ca)>  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: setbacks from residences for solar projects

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Dear Ms. Yu,

I am unable to submit my suggestions in the format that I saw on the AUC website and I hope you will still consider my ideas.

I think that the chain link fences surrounding small solar projects should be located at least 200 meters from residences and that fences of large ones should be located at least 500 meters from residences.

Solar projects can usually be surrounded by a combination of berms, attractive wooden fences placed in front of chain link fences and vegetation so that they are completely hidden from view. Alberta is a beautiful province and we don't need to destroy the beauty in order to obtain renewable energy. Owners of the projects don't want their to be shading on their panels, so they need to purchase enough land to allow for adequate screening.

Vegetative screenings are generally made up of 3 to five rows of vegetation. A row of bushes, two rows of broadleaf trees and two rows of spruce trees form a five row screen and a three row screen is usually made up of one row of fast growing trees and two rows of spruce. The spruce trees should be placed 10 to 12 feet apart within the rows and 6 meters should be allowed between the rows of trees. The trees should be far enough away from the property line and from the fences to allow for growth and maintenance. The trees should be placed between the fence and the property line so that people have a view of trees and don't see the

chain link fence. The trees should be staggered so that they provide good visual coverage. The trees should be at least 15 feet tall if immediate coverage is required. Trees that are under 12 feet tall generally grow faster and are more expensive because the taller ones are usually ones that weren't selected earlier. The larger trees require a larger tree spade when they are being planted. Berms, wooden fences and adequate tree screenings help to cut down on the dust that is produced during construction. Lots of dust is produced on prime farmland when solar projects are under construction.

Greater setbacks may be required if the solar project has noisy invertors or batteries or if pound in piles are used during construction.

Property value losses are greatest when solar projects are too close to homes and when the tree screening doesn't completely block the view of the project. Plastic coverings on fences are ugly and bad for the environment. Most communities have banned plastic bags and they are made of the same material as plastic fence coverings are made of. The strips of aluminum that are sometimes placed in fences are ugly and contribute to loss of property value.

Home owners living near solar projects during construction are faced with many inconveniences and expenses. Poorly screened projects cause property value losses and may make homes difficult to sell. Nobody wants to live near ugly solar panels. Construction is noisy and dusty. People may have to pay to have air conditioning if they can't open windows due to dust. The equipment used during construction is often large and noisy. Curtains or blinds may have to be added for privacy during construction. Increased traffic on gravel roads in rural areas causes dust, noise and makes it difficult for people to get out of their own driveways. Attending AUC and Land Tribunal Meetings takes up time. Start up dates keep changing and it is difficult to plan for family members who live far away to visit. I have heard that some of the

companies that have been given approval are inexperienced and difficult to work with.

Gas power plants can be noisy if they leave the doors open at night to cool the plant down. That noise can travel and be disruptive to sleep unless the plants are at least two miles away from homes. Attractive tree screening, berms and tree screenings should be placed between them and residences. Hopefully the newer plants have better cooling systems.

No solar projects or other types of power plants should be allowed on class 2 farmland. Agriculture should be the main concern when prime farmland is at stake and dual use or agrivoltaric plans are made. Our best farmland needs to be reserved for food crops such as wheat that can't be grown in buildings. Solar projects can be built on former industrial land and on land of marginal value to agriculture.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Carol Ann McKell

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