

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) #2

September 10, 2026

How is snow removed from the panels?

Snow is not typically removed from the panels after every snowfall. The Project operator monitors snow accumulation, weather forecasts, expected sunlight, and equipment performance to determine whether snow removal is necessary. Snow will either melt or shed naturally from the tilted panels or require manual removal.

What happens when the sun is not shining?

The Project has been designed with the understanding that the panels will not always operate at maximum capacity and expected production variability has been accounted for in the Project's energy modelling and planning. The Alberta Electric System Operator balances the provincial system using a mix of generation, transmission, imports, storage, demand response and operating reserves. Little Smoky 1 must complete the AESO connection process and meet all applicable technical requirements before connecting to the grid. The Project is not intended to supply one community continuously on its own.

Do solar farms need to be subsidized by the government?

Little Smoky 1 is being advanced through private investment, not government subsidies. Korkia, the parent company of Northern Renewables, is a privately owned Finnish renewable energy investor that finances project development through its own renewable energy funds and joint ventures with local developers across Europe, North America and South America.

Who is the AESO?

The Alberta Electric System Operator, or AESO, is an independent organization that manages Alberta's electricity system. It reviews how the Project will connect to the grid and confirms that it meets the required technical, safety, and reliability standards before it can operate.

How will the Project be decommissioned and reclaimed?

The Project must be decommissioned and reclaimed in accordance with the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, the *Code of Practice for Solar and Wind Renewable Energy Operations*, the *Conservation and Reclamation Directive for Renewable Energy Operations*, and the Project's conservation and reclamation plan. This includes removing project infrastructure, addressing any contamination, restoring soils, drainage and vegetation, and returning the land to equivalent land capability. Once the reclamation work is complete at the end of the project useful life, a third-party qualified professional completes a reclamation certificate site assessment. The project operator then must apply to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for a reclamation certificate, which is only issued if reclamation criteria are satisfied.

How could additional solar generation affect wholesale electricity prices?

Solar generation in Alberta has already placed downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices, and LS 1 will contribute to that trend. Wholesale electricity prices have declined by nearly 70% over the past four years due to additional solar, wind, and gas-fired generation.

How is the solar plant monitored?

The Project will be monitored 24/7 through Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system, commonly called SCADA. SCADA continuously tracks equipment status, electrical output, weather conditions and operating alarms, while allowing qualified operators to remotely control or shut down equipment when required. If an alarm or abnormal condition is detected, the operator can immediately assess the issue and dispatch trained personnel to the site for inspection and repair.