

MRP: James Chin

Title: Public Acceptance of Utility Scale Solar Power Plants in Edmonton

Overview

The City of Edmonton (COE) Council approved the Green Power Initiative on October 25, 2016. One of its projects was initially named the E.L. Smith Water Plant Solar Plant, now the Kisikaw Pisim Solar Farm. EPCOR Water planned the facility as a 10 megawatt (MW) solar power plant abutting the southern portion of the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant occupying 21 hectares on a 40-hectare lot.

In the process of the approval process, public opposition to the project organized. The project took two public hearings and over 16 months to for the city council to approve.

The paper attempts to understand the various factors that can affect the public acceptance of utility scale power plants located in urban areas. In particular, it examines the approval of the E.L. Smith Solar Power Plant to ascertain lessons that can be used in future energy projects located in urban areas.

