

E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant Community Newsletter

MAY 2021



Audrey Cudrak,
Director, Edmonton
Water Treatment Plants

A NOTE FROM AUDREY

Happy Spring! Although we are still dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, I hope that you have the opportunity to spend lots of distanced, quality time outdoors with family and friends this spring and summer. I plan to do the same by walking through the River Valley, gardening in my backyard and perfecting

my BBQ skills. All of us at EPCOR hope you and your family are keeping happy and healthy. We look forward to one day soon connecting with everyone at future community events, like the Cameron Heights Family Fun Day.

2021 CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

In addition to upgrading existing infrastructure on site, we have a busy year of construction planned at the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. In this newsletter you can find more information about the following projects:

- Shared outcomes and design principles
- Bypass Main
- E.L. Smith Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project
- Orthophosphate addition for lead control

All of our construction projects require adherence to COVID-19 protocols, including physical distancing, mask wearing, and hygiene. Generally, our construction hours are from Monday to Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

If required, construction may occur over the weekends. Construction activities comply with the City of Edmonton's Community Standards Bylaw for Noise Control. Although you may notice more company vehicles, crews and equipment near the facility we don't anticipate that construction will result in increased traffic in the Communities around the facility.

SHARED OUTCOMES & DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Over the past month, we have been talking to Indigenous Nations and communities, residents, special interest groups and others about how we operate the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. In April 2021, we held a series of online workshops with local and Indigenous community members to discuss the set of critical goals we proposed to guide our day-to-day operations and future improvement projects at the Edmonton water treatment plants (E.L. Smith and Rossdale). We also hosted an online survey to hear from the broader community on these topics.

Thank you! Your input is helping us understand how we can operate the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant in a socially and environmentally responsible manner that aligns with community interests and priorities.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to respond to our survey or attend one of our workshops. We are currently working to compile and review all the feedback we received. Once we have incorporated your feedback, the final shared outcomes, design principles and public engagement framework will guide how we design future projects at the E.L. Smith site and engage with your community.

For updates on the status of this work, please visit epcor.com/sharedoutcomes.

BYPASS MAIN UPDATE

In previous newsletters we've provided information about construction activities associated with installing a new bypass water transmission main that will run around the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant and connect to an existing transmission main at the north end of the plant. Once installed, the new water main will ensure we are able to continue providing you with drinking water in the event of an emergency that compromises a critical transmission main on the plant site. The majority of work will take place within EPCOR's property; however, a small portion at the far north end will be located in EPCOR's utility corridor.

In 2020, we met our construction goals by completing Phase 1 of the pipeline with connection to the South Transmission Main that feeds customers in South and East Edmonton. We also completed our archaeological mitigation program for the Phase 2 portion and have received clearance to proceed from Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women (ACMSW).

We started construction on Phase 2 of the pipeline earlier this spring as we had temperatures and ground conditions favourable for construction. In May, EPCOR invited Enoch Cree Nation to conduct a ceremony to acknowledge the disturbance to the land and honour what the land provides at the E.L. Smith plant. We will continue with archaeological monitoring during Phase 2 construction as mandated by ACMSW due to the cultural significance of our site. Our goal is to have the new pipeline fully commissioned and operational by the end of fall 2021.

SITE PLAN OF THE BYPASS MAIN PROJECT



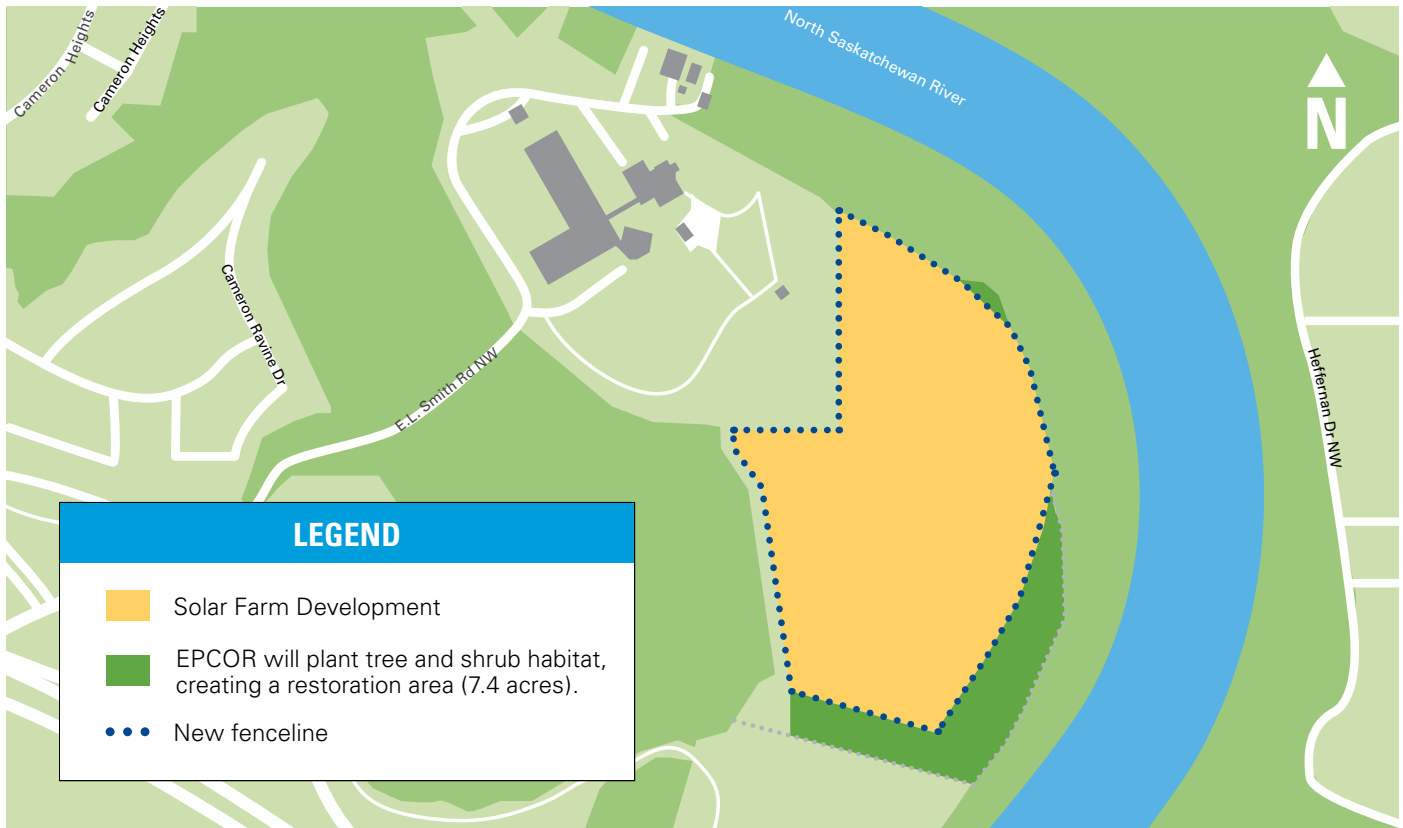
E.L. SMITH SOLAR FARM AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM PROJECT

Project Overview

This summer we will be starting construction on the E.L. Smith solar farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) project located on our property just south of the existing E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant. The solar farm will generate renewable energy to help power the water treatment plant and its water treatment and distribution processes, while reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. We'll be providing clean water made with clean energy.

Over the past several years we've had over 850 conversations about this project with community residents, Indigenous communities, special interest groups and government in order to gather feedback about the project. Thank you to everyone who provided input about this project.

PROJECT SITE PLAN



We're committed to the City of Edmonton's objective to become a leader in energy efficiency and conservation, and this project aligns with the City of Edmonton's The Way We Green: Environmental Strategic Plan by converting a portion of EPCOR's energy use to locally produced, renewable resources.

Regulatory Approvals

We've received the following local, Provincial and regulatory approvals for the proposed solar farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) project:

- In early 2018, we submitted a Facility Application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval to build and operate the E.L. Smith Solar Farm. The AUC approved our application in early 2019.
- EPCOR received approvals from the AUC for the BESS Project in August 2020.

- In October 2020, the City of Edmonton approved the rezoning of the EPCOR-owned land for the project.

Construction Activities

As mentioned above, we plan to start construction on the solar farm this summer. After mobilizing to site, we will start with limited vegetation removal on EPCOR's property. Although we have to remove a small amount of vegetation prior to construction, we will replace these select trees and tall shrubs. Our plan is to restore the solar farm area with a rich, diverse species mix to grow underneath the solar panels (on the next page). As a result, the 51 acres will be more biodiverse than they are today and will result in an enriched habitat for small and medium animals and for pollinators. In addition, a 40 metre wide buffer along the southern boundary of the solar farm will be planted with trees and shrubs, restoring 7.4 acres of wildlife habitat.



Project area will be naturalized with local plantings

The following is a list of construction activities you can expect to see in the project area.

Visual

You can expect to see activity that is typical to construction, including company/contractor vehicles and equipment along E.L. Smith Road. There may be an increased presence of trucks and other industrial equipment necessary to install the solar panels, foundations and associated electrical infrastructure.

Construction Noise

Work will create typical noise associated with construction. We will comply with the City of Edmonton's Community Standards Bylaw for Noise Control. If it is necessary to temporarily exceed acceptable noise levels, we will work with the City of Edmonton to obtain the necessary permits.

Worksite

All of the proposed work will take place within EPCOR's property line. Work space will be safe and secure. All construction activities will be in accordance with the City of Edmonton bylaws, occupational health and safety requirements, as well as EPCOR's health, safety and environment procedures and guidelines.

ORTHOPHOSPHATE ADDITION FOR LEAD CONTROL

In previous newsletters, we shared our plans to start work on a new orthophosphate facility to help protect against lead present in some Edmonton's older water systems or as a result of lead components in some household plumbing fixtures.

We had to delay the project last year due to the social distancing restrictions associated with COVID-19 and design enhancements we wanted to make to the project. The safety of our workers and the public is a priority to EPCOR. Now that we've had the time to revisit our designs and construction practices for this specific project, we

plan to start construction in June 2021. This facility will be constructed within the fenceline and adjacent to existing buildings at the WTP in an area generally concealed from residents and recreators outside of our facility.


EPCOR has continued to make progress on other aspects of our lead management program. Visit our website at epcor.com/lead for additional information.

THE E.L. SMITH WEBPAGE

Did you know that we regularly share E.L. Smith facility updates, information about ongoing projects, and advertise upcoming community engagement activities on our website? Check it out at epcor.com/elsmith. We've also been advertising engagement opportunities on our EPCOR Canada Facebook page.

 twitter.com/EPCOR

 facebook.com/EPCOR

 [@EPCOR](https://www.instagram.com/EPCOR)

We believe in listening to and engaging with participants. Community input and involvement is an important part of our decision-making and we want to hear what you think about our initiatives.

LET'S TALK

Phone: (780) 412-3599

Email: waterprojects@epcor.com

Visit: epcor.com/elsmith