



Acestes Power: Solar Power Generation

Acestes Power Introduction

Acestes Power ULC (Acestes) is a Calgary-based private power company focussed on developing utility-scale renewable power generation at strategically selected sites in western Canada. Acestes is a subsidiary of the Mayel Group, a 100-year old family-owned group of businesses active in real estate and agriculture, in Alberta and the U.S. The family-owned businesses have their roots in Alberta, going back to 1905 in the agricultural sector.

Acestes' mission is to develop, finance, build and own environmentally responsible power generation, serving provincial power grids. These projects utilize low risk, scalable technology.

Management Team

John Ellis, principal owner of Acestes has been closely involved in several of the Mayel Group businesses including Mayland Farms Ltd. and Faribault Farms LCC, in Alberta since the late 1990's. As Manager of these businesses he is responsible for leases and crop production on approximately six thousand acres.

Clyde Carr, Managing Consultant for Acestes, is an electricity industry expert with over 30 years of business experience in energy and electricity. He was involved in the Alberta deregulated electricity sector from 1996 to 2007, working for companies such as TransAlta and the Alberta Electric System Operator. Since then, he has been active in the renewable power sector as a successful power generation developer and entrepreneur, including the development of a run-of-river hydro power project in British Columbia for the sale of power to BC Hydro.

Public Benefits from Grid-Connected Solar Power

Solar power is a promising source of renewable energy that is currently underdeveloped on a utility scale in British Columbia. Solar power can help provide diversity in a province where much of our renewable power comes from hydro and wind. Since solar, wind and hydro have different daily and seasonal energy production profiles, solar power can help improve the reliability of BC's electricity grid while providing another clean and sustainable source of power, capturing the natural energy from the sun. BC Hydro is in need of new clean power sources to meet the continually increasing need for electricity throughout the province. Solar power can be part of fulfilling this need in a sustainable, responsible manner through First Nations collaboration, approval and partnership. Joint-ownership in these projects can provide First Nations communities with a stable multi-generational income stream, using the natural energy from the sun in a responsible and sustainable manner on their traditional lands.

Contact Information

For further information on Acestes Power, our contact information is as follows:

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Potential Solar Power Projects

Why we are looking at these sites

As shown in the attached map, Acestes Power identified three areas to study for potential utility-scale solar power generation in the general area between Spence's Bridge and Logan Lake.

The study areas were chosen for the following reasons:

- Among the highest quality solar resource areas (sunny areas) in the province
- Close to BC Hydro grid for interconnection
- Suitable terrain: not too rough or steep and generally south-facing slopes (for exposure to sun)
- Good road access and not too remote
- Areas have been forested, creating open space and minimizing any cutting of mature trees

We are in the very early stages of assessing these sites and recognize that there are many important factors that need to be better understood and appreciated before any determination can be made on whether these sites could be considered for potential solar power development. More on this below.

Collaborate with Cook's Ferry to assess these sites

As mentioned above, our interest in these sites is still very early stage. We would like to work with Cooks Ferry to determine if they could be good sites for solar generation and represent responsible and sustainable stewardship of these lands within the Nlaka'pamux Territory.

We seek your guidance to understand cultural values, traditional land uses, or areas of importance that may be affected by solar projects in these areas. This includes any potential impacts to the continued use of the area by your members. We also recognize the importance of understanding how these potential projects would fit within the broader context of existing and future development in the area, including potential cumulative effects. Finally, we acknowledge and respect the enduring relationship Cook's Ferry and its members have with the land and waters throughout the Territory and are committed to approaching this process in a spirit of transparency, collaboration, and mutual respect.

Opportunity to work together as partners

There is a potential current opportunity for Cooks Ferry and Acestes Power to work together as partners to build, own and operate a solar power facility of up to 15MW in size at one of the three sites shown on the map. The New Relationship Trust, an Indigenous-led nonprofit based in BC, and BC Hydro are jointly offering a new program called the First Nations Electricity Program (FNEP) to provide funding to help build small-scale, First Nation-led clean energy projects that will connect to BC Hydro's distribution system. Successful projects will be awarded 30-year contracts to sell the power to BC Hydro, providing a secure on-going economic income stream to Cook's Ferry for current and future generations.

In addition to the current FNEP opportunity, BC Hydro has a program for larger-scale renewable power, known as its Call for Power. The Oregon Jack Creek Band and its partner, BluEarth Renewables, were awarded a 30-year power sales contract from BC Hydro for a 104MW solar power project near the town of Logan Lake from the 2024 Call for Power. We believe our proposed sites could be equally as good as this project site, depending on availability of grid capacity with BC Hydro. Working together as equity partners, Cook's Ferry and Acestes could participate in BC Hydro's next Call for Power, expected in 2028.

We would be honoured to be your partner and would very much appreciate your consideration to work with us.

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Proposed Study Areas for Potential Solar Power Projects

