

**From:** [Louie Azzolini](#)  
**To:** [Jim Sparling](#)  
**Cc:** [Ken Baigent](#); [Nick Walker](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Ekati info  
**Date:** Friday, June 12, 2015 12:59:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Ekati 50 kW Solar - Project Information.pdf](#)  
[Ekati 50 kW Solar - Energy Model.pdf](#)  
[Ekati 50 kW Solar - Emission Analysis.pdf](#)  
[Ekati 50 kW Solar - Financial Analysis.pdf](#)  
[Ekati 50 kW Solar - Risk Analysis.pdf](#)  
[Ekati 1.jpg](#)  
[Ekati 2.jpg](#)

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Mr. Sparling, in response to your June 8<sup>th</sup> request for assistance (email appended) the Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA) completed a RETScreen analysis of installing 50 kW of solar at the Ekati mine. Based on the Rae Lakes weather data, this 50 kW system should:

1. Produce about 48,050 kWh annually,
2. Offset about 34 tCO<sub>2</sub> annually,
3. Generates solar electricity @ \$0.20847/kWh (about 25% less than the current assumed cost of diesel power @ \$0.28), and have an
4. Equity payback of about 16.3 years.

PDF's of the RETScreen data sheets are attached, as are the photos used in the analysis.

### **Assumptions**

1. From AEA's Commercial Fuel Cost Library, the highest cost of oil in the NWT was \$1.90/litre in Wekweeti (a winter road community), and the lowest cost of oil was \$1.06 in Hay River (a road access community in the far south of the NWT).
2. From all of the NTPC generator data efficiency data that AEA has, the best efficiency of all of them is about 35.2%, and the Ekati will have newer generators. Using 35.2%, these generators will produce 3.755 kWh/litre of oil.
3. At \$1.90/litre oil, the equivalent cost of electricity is \$0.506/kWh
4. At \$1.06/litre oil, the equivalent cost of electricity is \$0.280/kWh
5. Assuming that Ekati has a cost of oil equivalent to the lowest commercial rate in the NWT, and has generator efficiency equal to the highest that NTPC has in the NWT AEA has used \$0.280/kWh as the current cost of electricity for Ekati.
6. AEA prepared the RETScreen to include the above data, and used the Rae Lakes weather station as this is the closest data set in NRCan's database, in latitude, to Ekati.
7. NTPC has a general guideline that distributed renewable energy generation should not exceed 20% of the average load of their generation facility. A 50 kW system is 20% of 250 kW. AEA assumes the baseload of Ekati is much higher than 250 kW, so integrating a 50 kW solar PV system should be easy to achieve.

### **The RETScreen analysis produced the following results**

1. GHG offsets are 34.4 tCO<sub>2</sub> annually (860 over 25 years)
2. Annual solar electricity generation is calculated as 48,050 kWh (1.2 MWh over 25 years)
3. Cost of solar electricity generation is \$0.20847/kWh
4. Based on a 25 year life expectancy of the system (most panels are warranted

for 25 years):

- 16.3 year equity payback
- 4.4% IRR
- \$97,786 Net Present Value (NPV)

5. For the sensitivity analysis, AEA used a +/- 30% swing in system cost (base case = \$6.00/watt) and in the current cost of electricity (base case = \$0.28/kWh). Another way to look at this is "as long as the renewable option has a NPV of no less than \$0.00, and there are associated GHG savings, going solar for a portion of their generation requirements demonstrates corporate social responsibility.

### **Site specific considerations regarding the placement of the PV**

There is a large building (lower left side of Ekati 2 picture) that has a perfectly south facing roof that is 150 meters wide x 50 meters of south facing roof. Filling the whole roof would accommodate 30 rows of 150 panels = 4,500 panels or (at 250 watts per panel) 1.125 MW of solar. Of course, some roof set-backs and system access would be required, so you would probably lose about 208 panels or 52 kW. You could probably open up 8 or 9 vertical access rows, and still have plenty of room for 4,000 panels = 1MW of solar.

### **Siting 50 kW of solar**

50 kW of solar = 200 solar panels, which can be laid out as 2 rows of 100 panels across the top edge of the south-facing roof.

### **Assumptions used in the RETScreen analyses include:**

1. \$0.28 cost of diesel generation @ Ekati
2. Coordinates for Ekati are 64.7 Lat & -110.6 Long
3. Pitch of the host roof is 4/12
4. Roof orientation is perfectly solar south
5. Existing diesel grid has a generator efficiency of 35.2%
6. Inverter Efficiency = 95% (very common for new inverters)
7. Miscellaneous Loss = 15% (snow, dirt coverage & any down time)
8. Other Miscellaneous Losses = 2% (line losses should be very low as the system will be installed near the diesel generators)
9. Cost = \$6.00 watt
10. No assumption for service & maintenance as anything required should be offset by less maintenance (run time) of one of the Ekati generators.
11. 25 year life of the Solar System
12. \$15,000 AETP rebate

If you have any questions regarding this submission please contact either Ken Baigent or Nick Walker.

Respectfully on behalf of Ken Baigent and Nick Walker,

Louie Azzolini

Executive Director, Arctic Energy Alliance  
C: 867-765-8550 P: 867-920-3384 [www.aea.nt.ca](http://www.aea.nt.ca)

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**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2015 1:22 PM  
**To:** Louie Azzolini  
**Subject:** solar for diamond mines

Louie,

The Jay Pipe expansion at DDEC's Ekati mine will result in an estimated increase of greenhouse gas emissions of over 200 kilotonnes. In the first round of Information Requests ENR along with others asked them about using alternative energy at the site to limit the increase in emissions. DDEC's answer was they did not think any other source of energy would meet their needs and when I asked them about solar, they stated they would not seek any information about viability or cost at their site.

Could the Arctic Energy Alliance help me answer the following information request submitted in round two? Could you prepare a RETScreen type analysis for a moderately sized PV system at the site to provide an indication of the cost, payback and emission reductions from something in the range of a 50 kW system to illustrate what might be possible?



Jim Sparling  
Manager, Climate Change Programs  
Environment Division  
NWT Dept of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NEW** (867) 920-8649

## Proposed case power system

Analysis type

- ☐ Method 1  
☒ Method 2

## Resource assessment

Solar tracking mode

Slope

Azimuth

	Fixed
°	18.4
°	0.0

☒ Show data

Month	Daily solar radiation - horizontal kWh/m²/d	Daily solar radiation - tilted kWh/m²/d	Electricity export rate \$/MWh	Electricity exported to grid MWh
January	0.14	0.46	280.0	0.669
February	0.76	1.44	280.0	1.836
March	2.12	3.04	280.0	4.150
April	4.01	4.82	280.0	6.019
May	5.74	6.17	280.0	7.608
June	6.30	6.50	280.0	7.453
July	5.85	6.13	280.0	7.176
August	4.17	4.69	280.0	5.617
September	2.46	3.15	280.0	3.780
October	1.07	1.81	280.0	2.362
November	0.29	0.81	280.0	1.076
December	0.04	0.21	280.0	0.304
<b>Annual</b>	<b>2.76</b>	<b>3.28</b>	<b>280.00</b>	<b>48.051</b>

Annual solar radiation - horizontal

MWh/m²

1.01

Annual solar radiation - tilted

MWh/m²

1.20

## Photovoltaic

Type

Power capacity

Manufacturer

Model

Efficiency

Nominal operating cell temperature

Temperature coefficient

Solar collector area

	poly-Si	
kW	50.00	
	Conergy	
	poly-Si - ON-250P-60	200 unit(s)
%	15.1%	
°C	45	
% / °C	0.40%	
m²	331	

[See product database](#)

Miscellaneous losses

%

15.0%

## Inverter

Efficiency

Capacity

Miscellaneous losses

%

95.0%

kW

50.0

%

2.0%

## Summary

Capacity factor

%

11.0%

Electricity exported to grid

MWh

48.051

## RETScreen Emission Reduction Analysis - Power project

### ☒ Emission Analysis

- ☐ Method 1
- ☒ Method 2
- ☐ Method 3

#### Global warming potential of GHG

25 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> = 1 tonne CH<sub>4</sub> (IPCC 2007)  
 298 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> = 1 tonne N<sub>2</sub>O (IPCC 2007)

### Base case electricity system (Baseline)

Fuel type	Fuel mix %	CO <sub>2</sub> emission factor kg/GJ	CH <sub>4</sub> emission factor kg/GJ	N <sub>2</sub> O emission factor kg/GJ	Electricity generation efficiency %	T&D losses %	GHG emission factor tCO <sub>2</sub> /MWh
Diesel (#2 oil)	100.0%	69.3	0.0019	0.0019	35.2%		0.715
Electricity mix	100.0%	197.0	0.0054	0.0054		0.0%	0.715

☐ Baseline changes during project life

### Base case system GHG summary (Baseline)

Fuel type	Fuel mix %	CO <sub>2</sub> emission factor kg/GJ	CH <sub>4</sub> emission factor kg/GJ	N <sub>2</sub> O emission factor kg/GJ	Fuel consumption MWh	GHG emission factor tCO <sub>2</sub> /MWh	GHG emission tCO <sub>2</sub>
Electricity	100.0%	197.0	0.0054	0.0054	48	0.715	34.4
Total	100.0%	197.0	0.0054	0.0054	48	0.715	34.4

### Proposed case system GHG summary (Power project)

Fuel type	Fuel mix %	CO <sub>2</sub> emission factor kg/GJ	CH <sub>4</sub> emission factor kg/GJ	N <sub>2</sub> O emission factor kg/GJ	Fuel consumption MWh	GHG emission factor tCO <sub>2</sub> /MWh	GHG emission tCO <sub>2</sub>
Solar	100.0%	0.0	0.0000	0.0000	48	0.000	0.0
Total	100.0%	0.0	0.0000	0.0000	48	0.000	0.0
				T&D losses			
Electricity exported to grid	MWh	48			0	0.715	0.0
						Total	0.0

### GHG emission reduction summary

Power project	Base case GHG emission tCO <sub>2</sub>	Proposed case GHG emission tCO <sub>2</sub>	Gross annual GHG emission reduction tCO <sub>2</sub>	GHG credits transaction fee %	Net annual GHG emission reduction tCO <sub>2</sub>
	34.4	0.0	34.4		34.4
Net annual GHG emission reduction	34.4	tCO <sub>2</sub>	is equivalent to	6.3	Cars & light trucks not used

**RETScreen Financial Analysis - Power project**

Financial parameters		
<b>General</b>		
Fuel cost escalation rate	%	2.0%
Inflation rate	%	2.0%
Discount rate	%	2.0%
Project life	yr	25

<b>Finance</b>		
Incentives and grants	\$	15,000
Debt ratio	%	0.0%

Income tax analysis ☐

<b>Annual income</b>		
<b>Electricity export income</b>		
Electricity exported to grid	MWh	48
Electricity export rate	\$/MWh	280.00
Electricity export income	\$	13,454
Electricity export escalation rate	%	3.0%

<b>GHG reduction income</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
Net GHG reduction	tCO2/yr	34
Net GHG reduction - 25 yrs	tCO2	859

Customer premium income (rebate) ☐

Other income (cost) ☐

Clean Energy (CE) production income ☐

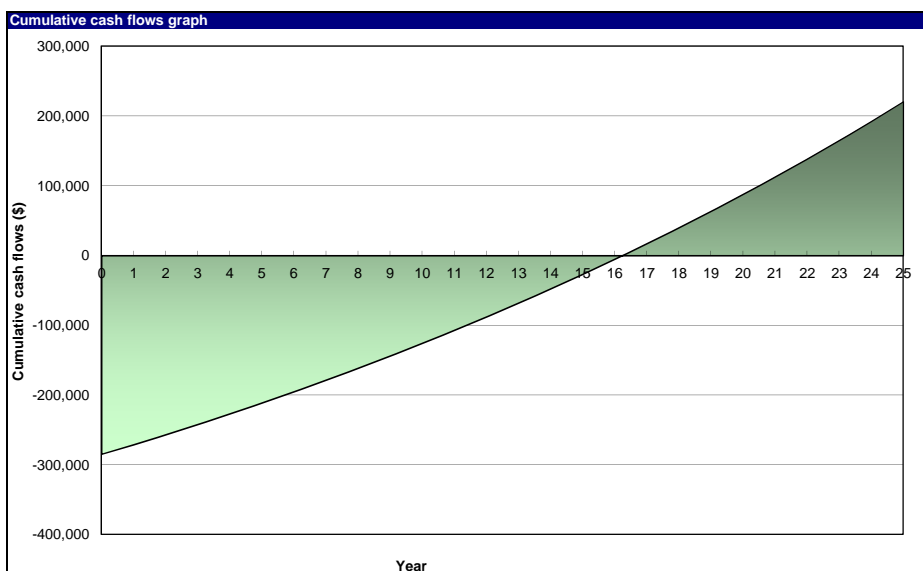
**Project costs and savings/income summary**

<b>Initial costs</b>			
Power system	100.0%	\$	300,000
Balance of system & misc.	0.0%	\$	0
<b>Total initial costs</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>300,000</b>
Incentives and grants		\$	15,000
<b>Annual costs and debt payments</b>			
O&M		\$	0
Fuel cost - proposed case		\$	0
<b>Total annual costs</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Periodic costs (credits)</b>			
<b>Annual savings and income</b>			
Fuel cost - base case		\$	0
Electricity export income		\$	13,454
<b>Total annual savings and income</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>13,454</b>

<b>Financial viability</b>		
Pre-tax IRR - equity	%	4.4%
Pre-tax IRR - assets	%	4.4%
After-tax IRR - equity	%	4.4%
After-tax IRR - assets	%	4.4%
Simple payback	yr	21.2
Equity payback	yr	16.3
Net Present Value (NPV)	\$	97,786
Annual life cycle savings	\$/yr	5,009
Benefit-Cost (B-C) ratio		1.33
Energy production cost	\$/MWh	208.47
GHG reduction cost	\$/tCO2	(146)

**Yearly cash flows**

Year	Pre-tax	After-tax	Cumulative
#	\$	\$	\$
0	-285,000	-285,000	-285,000
1	13,858	13,858	-271,142
2	14,274	14,274	-256,869
3	14,702	14,702	-242,167
4	15,143	15,143	-227,024
5	15,597	15,597	-211,427
6	16,065	16,065	-195,362
7	16,547	16,547	-178,815
8	17,043	17,043	-161,771
9	17,555	17,555	-144,216
10	18,081	18,081	-126,135
11	18,624	18,624	-107,511
12	19,183	19,183	-88,329
13	19,758	19,758	-68,571
14	20,351	20,351	-48,220
15	20,961	20,961	-27,258
16	21,590	21,590	-5,668
17	22,238	22,238	16,569
18	22,905	22,905	39,474
19	23,592	23,592	63,067
20	24,300	24,300	87,366
21	25,029	25,029	112,395
22	25,780	25,780	138,175
23	26,553	26,553	164,728
24	27,350	27,350	192,078
25	28,170	28,170	220,248





# RETScreen® International

www.retscreen.net

Clean Energy Project Analysis Software

## Project information

[See project database](#)

Project name: 50 kW Solar in conjunction with Jay Pipe Development  
 Project location: Ekati Mine Site - Lac de Gras  
 Prepared for: GNWT - Environment & Natural Resources  
 Prepared by: Arctic Energy Alliance  
 Project type: Power  
 Technology: Photovoltaic  
 Grid type: Isolated-grid  
 Analysis type: Method 2  
 Heating value reference: Higher heating value (HHV)  
 Show settings: ☐

## Site reference conditions

[Select climate data location](#)

Climate data location: Rae Lakes  
 Show data: ☒

	Unit	Climate data location	Project location
Latitude	°N	64.1	64.1
Longitude	°E	-117.3	-117.3
Elevation	m	223	223
Heating design temperature	°C	-40.9	
Cooling design temperature	°C	24.3	
Earth temperature amplitude	°C	27.5	

Month	Air temperature °C	Relative humidity %	Daily solar radiation - horizontal kWh/m²/d	Atmospheric pressure kPa	Wind speed m/s	Earth temperature °C	Heating degree-days °C-d	Cooling degree-days °C-d
January	-27.7	70.8%	0.14	98.0	1.9	-27.6	1,417	0
February	-23.0	73.5%	0.76	98.1	2.1	-25.2	1,148	0
March	-18.3	68.5%	2.12	98.1	2.9	-19.6	1,125	0
April	-5.9	63.9%	4.01	98.1	2.8	-9.1	717	0
May	3.6	62.8%	5.74	98.0	3.3	1.8	446	0
June	13.4	56.3%	6.30	97.8	3.3	12.0	138	102
July	16.8	56.9%	5.85	97.7	3.3	15.1	37	211
August	13.3	72.9%	4.17	97.6	3.5	11.3	146	102
September	7.2	79.6%	2.46	97.6	3.8	3.5	324	0
October	-2.6	83.5%	1.07	97.6	3.7	-7.9	639	0
November	-13.9	83.8%	0.29	97.7	2.6	-19.9	957	0
December	-21.7	79.5%	0.04	97.8	2.3	-24.7	1,231	0
Annual	-4.8	71.0%	2.76	97.8	3.0	-7.4	8,325	415
Measured at	m				10.0	0.0		



[Complete Energy Model sheet](#)

# RETScreen Sensitivity and Risk Analysis - Power project

## ☒ Sensitivity analysis

Perform analysis on  
Sensitivity range  
Threshold

Net Present Value (NPV)
30%
0 \$

		Initial costs					\$
Electricity export rate		210,000	255,000	300,000	345,000	390,000	
\$/MWh		-30%	-15%	0%	15%	30%	
196.00	-30%	72,950	27,950	-17,050	-62,050	-107,050	
238.00	-15%	130,368	85,368	40,368	-4,632	-49,632	
280.00	0%	187,786	142,786	97,786	52,786	7,786	
322.00	15%	245,203	200,203	155,203	110,203	65,203	
364.00	30%	302,621	257,621	212,621	167,621	122,621	

		Initial costs					\$
Electricity export rate		210,000	255,000	300,000	345,000	390,000	
\$/MWh		-30%	-15%	0%	15%	30%	
196.00	-30%	72,950	27,950	-17,050	-62,050	-107,050	
238.00	-15%	130,368	85,368	40,368	-4,632	-49,632	
280.00	0%	187,786	142,786	97,786	52,786	7,786	
322.00	15%	245,203	200,203	155,203	110,203	65,203	
364.00	30%	302,621	257,621	212,621	167,621	122,621	

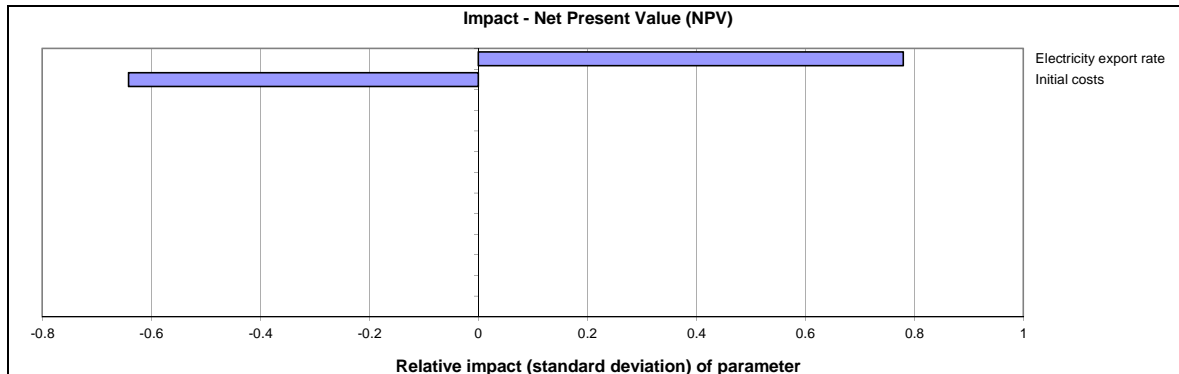
		Initial costs					\$
Electricity export rate		210,000	255,000	300,000	345,000	390,000	
\$/MWh		-30%	-15%	0%	15%	30%	
196.00	-30%	72,950	27,950	-17,050	-62,050	-107,050	
238.00	-15%	130,368	85,368	40,368	-4,632	-49,632	
280.00	0%	187,786	142,786	97,786	52,786	7,786	
322.00	15%	245,203	200,203	155,203	110,203	65,203	
364.00	30%	302,621	257,621	212,621	167,621	122,621	

## ☒ Risk analysis

Perform analysis on

Net Present Value (NPV)
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Parameter	Unit	Value	Range (+/-)	Minimum	Maximum
Initial costs	\$	300,000	30%	210,000	390,000
Electricity export rate	\$/MWh	280.00	30%	196.00	364.00



Median	\$	97,629
Level of risk	%	0.0%
Minimum within level of confidence	\$	-39,303
Maximum within level of confidence	\$	241,736

