Date: 22 June 2025
Name: Richard Ingram

Please find my responses below
I'm not really about to comment on some of the specifics, eg about calculation methodologies and frequency of meetings
There's probably an opportunity for national standardization and efficiencies
As a recent Solar Club member, I have received and read their proforma answers. I wanted to provided by own. But I'm broadly in agreement with the template answers.

1) This should be calculated for the year, so it's fine to earn credits in summer months to offset additional costs in lower PV generation months. It should be easier to access historical records in an easy-to-export format from energy suppliers. This should allow some discretion to add additional loads in future, particularly EVs and home level 2 chargers. It's already a big financial commitment to invest in solar, so households may well not be able to afford to also commit to a new EV whilst planning solar project. There's a lot of extra costs to later expand a system. Perhaps 10% over or 10 kW.

2) It is already onerous, time consuming and costly to become a microgeneration site. It's difficult to generate meaningful ROI forecasts but it's a long-term investment. If there's a risk that being deemed non-compliant leads to extra costs, fewer people will take on this risk. There are mechanisms to allow others to monitor my generation (eg for carbon credits) but export net of usage is already collected by utility providers. Customers should be allowed unlimited self-supply. Batteries are very expensive and there's not advantage with an on-grid system and net metering. As EV technology advances, there will be more bidirectional chargers and potential for V2H and even V2G.

3) This is determined at system design, and factors in DC/AC ratio given frequent inverter clipping. Peak generation days for a system are infrequent. So allowance should be made in determining an inverter's rating. The inverter is a big cost in the system and affects lots of day-to-day customer experience aspects of having a system (especially monitoring). Customers rely on their solar installer's advice, but don't know why they recommend a particular type or manufacturer of inverter. As per next question, it'd be good if this were standardized for "typical" home on-grid applications (within whatever range is necessary to accommodate between-site differences). Perhaps the application and approval process for these can then be streamlined.

4) In principle, yes a standardized process would be an advantage. Data on historical

energy usage, forecast future needs, and calculators should be easy to access. It took me a long time to work out how to use PVWatts. There's already a lot to get to grips with in understanding solar design. And the process of completing and obtaining different quotes takes a long time, with multiple installation companies of variable quality/training. Customers do not necessarily know who they can trust. I like SolarClub's recommendation. Namely, requiring all installers operating in or selling to customers in Alberta to become members of Solar Alberta, follow the Solar Business Code of Conduct including agreed industry standard for system sizing (with lots of potential advantages to this being standardized nationally), and enforced by Solar Alberta with penalties.

(5) Yes, I think this is an excellent proposal. Customers would be reassured that key players are regularly meeting/communicating, and working to deliver solar expansion across Alberta (not prioritizing profits for energy companies).

(6) Maintain net metering and Solar-Specific Retail Plans, and do not change or limit potential for customers to reduce their reliance on grid. Make the whole process as easy as possible for customers, so more will embark on going solar. Plan for a future grid with household EVs and bidirectional charging units.

Thank you for conducting this consultation.