

February 23, 2021

Decision 26288-D01-2021

Alberta Power (2000) Ltd.
Suite 1800, 400 Third Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alta. T2P 4H2

Attention: Shanelle Sinclair
Manager, Regulatory

**Alberta Power (2000) Ltd.
Battle River Power Plant Amendment
Proceeding 26288
Application 26288-A001**

Letter of enquiry approval

1. Heartland Generation Ltd., on behalf of Alberta Power (2000) Ltd., filed a letter of enquiry with the Alberta Utilities Commission to alter the Battle River Power Plant in the Forestburg area by increasing the ability of Unit No. 4 to fire on natural gas. The proposed work relates to facilities previously constructed and is operating in accordance with approvals granted in Approval 25493-D02-2020.¹ Approval is required for this work under Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*.

2. The Battle River Power Plant consists of one 150-megawatt (MW) coal-fuelled generating unit (designated as Unit No. 4), which may also use natural gas to supplement coal consumption, and one 375-MW natural gas-fuelled generating unit (designated as Unit No. 5) with a total generating capability of 525 MW. As part of its overall plan to transition the Battle River Power Plant to a 100 per cent natural gas fired plant, Heartland applied for approval of minor physical alterations to Unit No. 4. The alterations would increase Unit No. 4's natural gas firing ability from 50 per cent to 100 per cent. This increase would be achieved by adding four new gas burners and adding a second header for gas distribution. Heartland explained that all the proposed equipment changes would be within the boundary walls of existing buildings and structures. Heartland submitted that the proposed amendment would not alter the rated capability of the power plant, nor would there be any changes to the fenceline, location of the power plant, or height or dimensions of the facility.

3. Heartland stated that the proposed amendment would not negatively affect the environment, as the increased combustion of natural gas and decreased combustion of coal would result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Heartland completed a noise impact assessment for the project, which concluded that Unit No. 4 would remain in compliance with permissible daytime and nighttime sound levels.

¹ Power Plant Approval 25493-D02-2020, Proceeding 25493, Application 25493-A001, April 21, 2020.

4. Heartland stated that it provided written notification to landowners, companies and other stakeholders within 2,000 metres of the power plant site boundary, followed by personal consultation with stakeholders within 800 metres of the power plant site boundary. Heartland stated that no concerns were raised following the participant involvement program.

5. Heartland intends to commence construction for the alterations in late April or early May, 2021. The date by which the Battle River Power Plant is anticipated to transition to a 100 per cent natural gas fired plant remains unchanged (December 31, 2022).

6. Heartland has provided information respecting the need, nature, extent, land affected, and the timing of the work, in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*. Heartland has also stated that no adverse environmental impact will be caused by the proposed work.

7. Based upon the information provided, the Commission is satisfied that the proposal is of a minor nature, no person is directly and adversely affected by the proposal and no significant adverse environmental impact will be caused by the proposed alterations, thereby meeting the requirements of Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*.

8. The Commission approves the application. Approval 26288-D02-2021 is attached.

9. The Commission may, within 30 days of the date of this decision and without notice, correct typographical, spelling and calculation errors and other similar types of errors and post the corrected decision on its website.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

JP Mousseau
Executive Director, Facilities Division
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

Attachment