



Three Nations Energy GP Inc.

Fort Chipewyan Solar Generation Facility (Phase 2) Amendment

March 12, 2021

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 26347-D01-2021

Three Nations Energy GP Inc.

Fort Chipewyan Solar Generation Facility (Phase 2) Amendment

Proceeding 26347

Application 26347-A001

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Eau Claire Tower
1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5

Telephone: 310-4AUC (310-4282) in Alberta
1-833-511-4AUC (1-833-511-4282) outside Alberta

Email: info@auc.ab.ca

Website: www.auc.ab.ca

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1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves an application from Three Nations Energy GP Inc. (3NE) for the alteration of a power plant designated as the Fort Chipewyan Solar Generation Facility (Phase 2).

2 Introduction

2. 3NE, pursuant to Approval 26097-D02-2020,¹ is the owner of a power plant designated as the Fort Chipewyan Solar Generation Facility (Phase 2), in the Fort Chipewyan area. The Commission previously approved the power plant as a community generating unit.

3. ATCO Infrastructure Services with the support of ATCO Electric Ltd. (collectively referred to as ATCO) have been contracted by 3NE to design, construct and assist in the operation of the power plant. ATCO, on behalf of 3NE, filed an application with the AUC to seek an approval to alter and operate the power plant. The application was registered on February 23, 2021, as Application 26347-A001.

3 Discussion

4. The Fort Chipewyan Solar Generation Facility (Phase 2) was completed and energized in January 2021. 3NE recently determined that there was enough room in the project budget to purchase and install an additional 384 solar panels, which would add approximately 154 kilowatts of additional generation capability to the existing 2.27-megawatt power plant.

5. ATCO did not anticipate any environmental impacts as a result of the proposed changes as the additional solar panels would be installed within the existing site and the fenceline would remain unchanged. ATCO also stated that the alteration would not result in any substantial increases to noise impacts.

6. ATCO undertook a participant involvement program on behalf of 3NE. In January 2021, ATCO notified stakeholders within 1,500 metres of the project boundary, as well as other interested parties. ATCO also consulted with impacted stakeholders about the project. ATCO submitted that, to date, there have been no concerns or objections from any stakeholders. ATCO noted that it did not identify any stakeholder concerns or objections during the participation involvement program for the original project, and added that it does not anticipate any concerns arising from the proposed alteration.

¹ Power Plant Approval 26097-D02-2020, Proceeding 26097, Application 26097-A001, November 30, 2020.

7. ATCO planned to start construction in March 2021 and expected an in-service date of August 31, 2021 for the alteration.

4 Findings

8. For the reasons outlined below, the Commission finds that approval of the proposed alteration is in the public interest having regard to the social, economic, and other effects of the project, including its effect on the environment.

9. The Commission has reviewed the application and has determined that the technical, siting, environmental and noise aspects of the power plant alteration have been met. 3NE's participant involvement program has been conducted and there are no outstanding public or industry objections or concerns.

10. Condition 3 in Approval 26097-D02-2020 states:

3. 3NE shall submit a post-construction monitoring survey report to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and the Commission within 13 months of the project becoming operational, and on or before the same date every subsequent year for which AEP requires surveys, pursuant to Subsection 3(3) of Rule 033: *Post-approval Monitoring Requirements for Wind and Solar Power Plants*.

11. The Commission revises Condition 3 as follows:

3. 3NE shall submit a post-construction monitoring survey report for the project, including the alteration, to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and the Commission within 13 months of the project becoming operational, and on or before the same date every subsequent year for which AEP requires surveys, pursuant to Subsection 3(3) of Rule 033: *Post-approval Monitoring Requirements for Wind and Solar Power Plants*.

12. The Commission notes that the Fort Chipewyan Solar Generation Facility (Phase 2) is an approved community generating unit under the *Small Scale Generation Regulation*. Section 10 of the *Small Scale Generation Regulation* states:

10(1) The owner of a community generating unit must provide notice to the Commission in a form established by the Commission of any changes that may make the community generating unit cease to be a community generating unit, including, without limitation, changes to

- (a) the owner's community generating unit,
- (b) the owner's community benefits agreement or community benefits statement,
- (c) the status of the community group named in the community benefits agreement or community benefits statement or
- (d) the benefits received by the community group under the community benefits agreement or community benefits statement.

13. Based on the minor nature of the proposed alteration, in this particular circumstance it is the Commission's understanding that the proposed changes do not constitute "changes that may make the community generating unit cease to be a community generating unit" within the meaning of Section 10(1). Nothing in this decision should be construed as approving any changes to the terms under which the project was qualified as a community generating unit. Accordingly, the Commission imposes the following condition of approval:

4. Within 30 days of the issuance of this approval, 3NE shall confirm with the Commission whether the alteration will result in changes to:
 - a. ATCO's assessment of whether the power plant qualifies as a small-scale generating unit.
 - b. The community benefits agreement.
 - c. The status of the community group named in the community benefits agreement.
 - d. The benefits received by the community group under the community benefits agreement.
 - e. The metering costs for the project.

5 Decision

14. Pursuant to sections 11 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants Three Nations Energy GP Inc. the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval 26347-D02-2021– March 12, 2021, to alter and operate the Fort Chipewyan Solar Generation Facility (Phase 2) (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on March 12, 2021.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Vera Slawinski
Commission Member