



Concord Vulcan GP2 Ltd.

Vulcan Solar Project Amendment

March 16, 2021

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 26349-D01-2021

Concord Vulcan GP2 Ltd.

Vulcan Solar Project Amendment

Proceeding 26349

Application 26349-A001

March 16, 2021

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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 and background

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves an application from Concord Vulcan GP2 Ltd. to amend its power plant approval and finalize its generation equipment for the Vulcan Solar Project.

2. Pursuant to Approval 26172-D02-2020,¹ Concord has approval to construct and operate the Vulcan Solar Project power plant, located near the town of Vulcan.

3. On February 23, 2021, Concord applied by letter of inquiry to decrease the power plant capability from 25 megawatts to 22 megawatts and submitted the final selection of generation equipment. Concord submitted the following in support of its application:

- Confirmation that neither the Alberta Electric System Operator nor FortisAlberta Inc. have concerns with the reduction in the capability of the power plant.
- A noise impact assessment summary form that concluded the project amendments would be in compliance with Rule 012: *Noise Control*.
- A solar glare assessment report that concluded the project amendments would be unlikely to create hazardous glare conditions for nearby dwellings, transportation routes, or heliport.²
- Confirmation that the amendments and equipment selected would not increase the land, noise and environmental impacts from what was approved for the base reference case by the Commission.
- A letter from Alberta Transportation granting Concord a time extension of its roadside development permit.

4. Concord retained Green Cat Renewables Canada Corporation to conduct an updated solar glare assessment for the project and compare glare predictions from the updated solar glare assessment to predictions from the glare assessment submitted for the original application.³ Green Cat concluded proposed amendments to the project would decrease or eliminate yellow glare for most of the previously assessed receptors (five transportation routes, three dwellings, and one heliport), with the most notable exception being Range Road 243, which was expected

¹ Power Plant Approval 26172-D02-2020, Proceeding 26172, Application 26172-A001, December 22, 2020.

² Exhibit 26349-X0006, Attachment E - Vulcan - SGHAR (2021.02.23).

³ Exhibit 23645-X0034, Vulcan Solar IR2 Responses_FINAL, PDF pages 4 to 21.

to increase to up to 2,823 minutes of yellow glare⁴ per year (as compared to zero in the original application). However, Green Cat submitted that vehicle operators using the impacted transportation routes would only experience a fraction of the predicted glare because these operators travel past the project site, and do not stand still while looking at the project solar arrays. Furthermore, Green Cat observed that an existing shelterbelt along the western side of the project would partially mitigate glare effects on Range Road 243. The solar glare assessment concluded the project would be unlikely to create hazardous glare conditions for nearby dwellings, transportation routes, or heliport.

2 Findings

5. Based upon the information provided, Concord has demonstrated that the requested amendments are of a minor nature, no person is directly and adversely affected by the amendments and no significant adverse noise or environmental impact will be caused by the proposed alterations, thereby meeting the requirements of Sections 11 and 12 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*.

6. The Commission is satisfied that Concord has complied with conditions 3 and 7 of Approval 26172-D02-2020.

7. The Commission accepts the conclusion of the solar glare assessment that the project is unlikely to create hazardous glare conditions for nearby dwellings, transportation routes, or heliport. The Commission expects that any glare issues associated with the project will be addressed by Concord in a timely manner. Accordingly, the Commission will replace Condition 6 of Approval 26172-D02-2020 with the following two conditions:

- Concord shall promptly notify the Commission of any complaints or concerns it receives or is made aware of, regarding solar glare from the project on Range Road 243, as well as Concord's response to the complaints.
- Concord shall file a report detailing any complaints or concerns it receives or is made aware of regarding solar glare from the project during its first year of operation, as well as Concord's response to the complaints. Concord shall file this report no later than 13 months after the project becomes operational.

⁴ According to a colour-coded classification system defined by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), three colours are used to describe glare effect levels: green glare means glare with low potential for temporary after-image; yellow glare means glare with potential for temporary after-image; red glare means glare with potential for permanent eye damage.

3 Decision

8. Pursuant to sections 11 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants Concord Vulcan GP2 Ltd. the approval set out in Appendix 1– Power Plant Approval 26349-D02-2021 – March 16, 2021, to construct and operate the Vulcan Solar Project (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on March 16, 2021.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Vera Slawinski
Commission Member