



Enterprise Solar GP Inc.

Enterprise Solar Project

July 13, 2021



Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 26322-D01-2021

Enterprise Solar GP Inc.

Enterprise Solar Project

Proceeding 26322

Applications 26322-A001 and 26322-A002

July 13, 2021

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1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves applications from Enterprise Solar GP Inc. to construct and operate a 65-megawatt solar power plant, designated as the Enterprise Solar Project, and a substation, designated as the Enterprise 1070S Substation, located near the town of Vulcan.

2 Applications

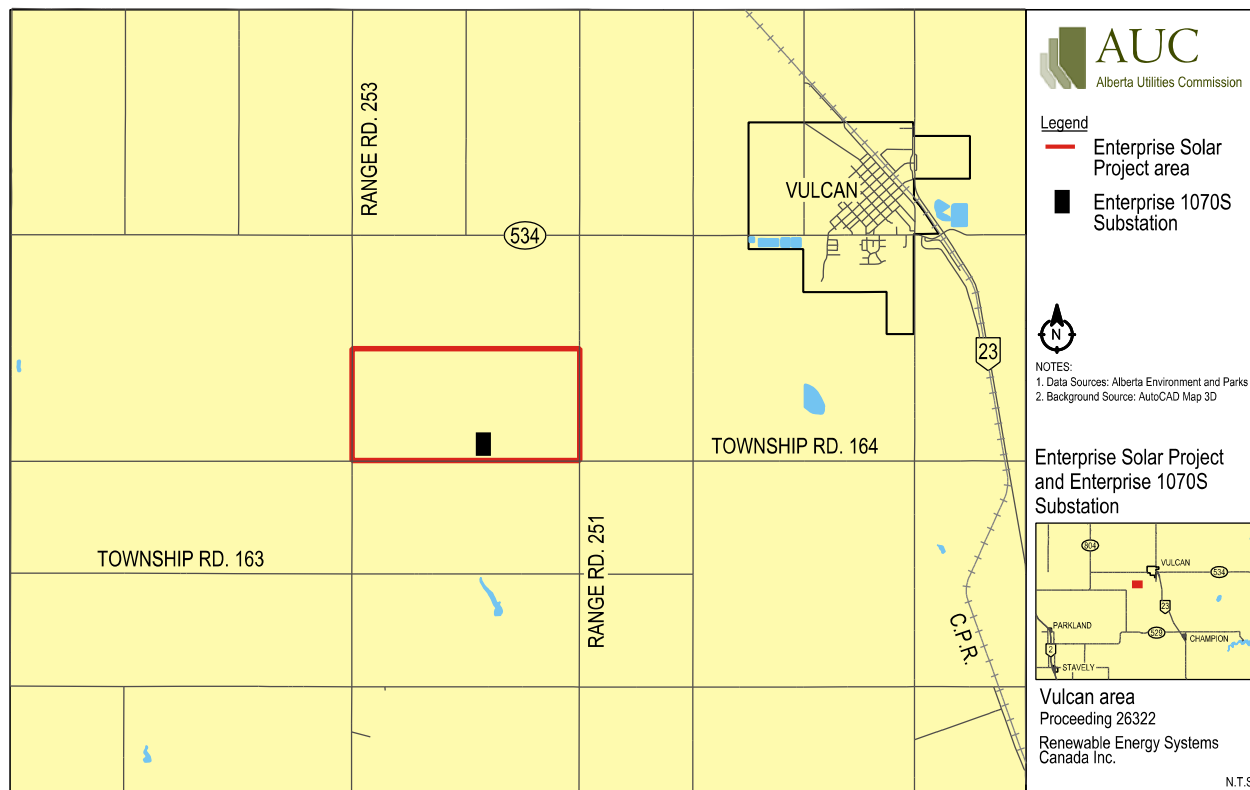
2. Enterprise Solar GP Inc. filed applications with the Commission for approval to construct and operate a 65-megawatt (MW) solar power plant, designated as the Enterprise Solar Project, and the Enterprise 1070S Substation (collectively, the project). The applications were registered as applications 26322-A001 and 26322-A002 on February 14, 2021.

3. The project would consist of approximately 157,000 bifacial solar photovoltaic modules on a single-axis tracking system. It would also include inverters, access roads and collector system cabling. The project would be located on approximately 450 acres of privately owned cultivated land in Section 27, Township 16, Range 25, west of the Fourth Meridian and the south half of Section 26, Township 16, Range 25, west of the Fourth Meridian.

4. The Enterprise 1070S Substation would include one 138/34.5-kilovolt, 50/66.5/90-megavolt ampere transformer, one 138-kilovolt circuit breaker, four 34.5-kilovolt circuit breakers, a control building and other electrical equipment. The Enterprise 1070S Substation would be located in the southwest quarter of Section 26, Township 16, Range 25, west of the Fourth Meridian.

5. The project would be located approximately four kilometres southwest of the town of Vulcan, as shown on the map in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Proposed project area



6. The project was initially proposed to be 100 MW (the initial project). Following discussions with the Alberta Electric System Operator regarding the availability of contract capacity, Enterprise submitted a project update that reduced the project's proposed size to 65 MW. Enterprise stated that the footprint of the project is a subset of the initial project, and that the reduced size of the project would accordingly result in an overall lower impact than was initially studied, consulted on and applied for.

7. Enterprise's applications and project update included:

- A participant involvement program, which detailed the consultation and notification of stakeholders within 2,000 metres of the initial project. In its project update, Enterprise confirmed there are no outstanding stakeholder concerns.
- A noise impact assessment summary form, which concluded that the initial project would be compliant with Rule 012: *Noise Control*. In its project update, Enterprise confirmed that, as a result of the reduction in project size, the cumulative noise levels at all receptors are predicted to be either unchanged or reduced from those predicted for the initial project.
- A solar glare assessment and updated solar glare modelling results, which predicted that the project (initial and updated), would cause no solar glare at any of the 19 identified receptors.

- A renewable energy referral report issued by Alberta Environment and Parks Fish and Wildlife Stewardship, which concluded that the initial project would have an overall low risk to wildlife and wildlife habitat based on project siting, avoidance of wetland setbacks and wildlife features, and limited wildlife use in the area.
- An environmental evaluation report, prepared by Golder Associates Ltd., which concluded that the initial project was not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. The project update included confirmation that the conclusions reached in the environmental evaluation report remain valid.
- *Historical Resources Act* approval for the initial project layout, dated February 4, 2021.

8. Construction of the project is planned to commence in the third quarter of 2021 and commercial operation is scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of 2022. Enterprise indicated that the project's connection to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System would be filed in a separate application at a later date.

9. The Commission issued a notice of applications and an objection was received from PrairieSky Royalty Ltd. That objection was withdrawn on May 28, 2021. No other submissions were received in response to the notice.

3 Discussion and findings

10. For the reasons outlined below, the Commission finds that approval of the project is in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, having regard to the social, economic, and other effects of the project, including its effect on the environment.

11. The Commission has reviewed the applications and has determined that the information requirements specified in Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments* have been met. Additionally, the Commission finds that Enterprise's participant involvement program satisfies the requirements of Rule 007 and the objective of effective consultation. The record reflects Enterprise's notification of and consultation with stakeholders as required; and, other than the one stakeholder objection that was subsequently withdrawn following discussion between Enterprise and that stakeholder, no submissions were received in response to the notice of applications.

12. The noise impact assessment summary form concluded that the initial project would comply with permissible sound levels set out in Rule 012. When updated to reflect the changed layout and reduced number of inverters, the noise impact assessment confirmed that the cumulative sound levels from the project are predicted to either be unchanged or reduced from those predicted for the initial project. The Commission finds that the noise impact assessment meets the requirements of Rule 012 and it accepts the assessment's conclusion that noise from the project will comply with the permissible sound levels established by that rule.

13. The solar glare assessment prepared for the initial project predicted that there would be no solar glare at any of the 19 receptors considered and further concluded that there were no potential glare effects associated with the initial project. Enterprise confirmed that the

glare hazard analysis tool was updated to reflect the final project layout, particularly changes made to the size and location of solar arrays, and that the results predict no solar glare at any of the same 19 receptors. The Commission notes that the predicted solar glare results were premised upon the use of an anti-reflective coating applied to the project solar panels. Accordingly, the Commission imposes the following condition of approval:

- a) Enterprise Solar GP Inc. shall use anti-reflective coating on the project solar panels.

14. There are currently no public safety standards or regulations associated with solar glare that apply to the project. That being said, any glare issues associated with the project must be addressed by Enterprise in a timely manner. Accordingly, the Commission imposes the following condition of approval:

- b) Enterprise Solar GP Inc. shall file a report with the Commission 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 Enterprise's response to the complaints or concerns. Enterprise shall file this report no later than 13 months after the project becomes operational.

15. AEP's renewable energy referral report concluded that the initial project would have an overall low risk to wildlife and wildlife habitat. The environmental evaluation report likewise concluded that the initial project was not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. Enterprise confirmed in the project update that the environmental evaluation's conclusion remains valid. On the basis of the foregoing and having regard for the reduced size of the project, the Commission is satisfied that the environmental effects of the project are limited and can be reasonably mitigated through Enterprise's adherence to and implementation of the mitigation measures recommended in the environmental evaluation report. The Commission expects Enterprise to adhere to and implement those measures.

16. Rule 033: *Post-approval Monitoring Requirements for Wind and Solar Power Plants* requires approval holders to submit to Alberta Environment and Parks and the AUC annual post-construction monitoring survey reports. Consequently, the Commission imposes the following condition of approval:

- c) Enterprise Solar GP Inc. shall submit an annual post-construction monitoring survey report to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and the AUC 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*.

17. Enterprise stated that the project is designed to accommodate an energy storage system, with bi-directional inverters and additional space around each inverter for the potential future placement of battery equipment. The Commission notes that a separate application would be required for approval of any battery storage equipment.

4 Decision

18. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 26322-A001 and grants Enterprise Solar GP Inc. the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval 26322-D02-2021 – July 13, 2021, to construct and operate the Enterprise Solar Project.

19. Pursuant to sections 14, 15 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 26322-A002 and grants Enterprise Solar GP Inc. the approval set out in Appendix 2 – Substation Permit and Licence 26322-D03-2021 – July 13, 2021, to construct and operate the Enterprise 1070S Substation.

20. The appendices will be distributed separately.

Dated on July 13, 2021.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Carolyn Hutniak
Commission Member

Appendix A – Summary of Commission conditions of approval in the decision

This section is intended to provide a summary of all conditions of approval specified in the decision for the convenience of readers. Conditions that require subsequent filings with the Commission will be tracked as directions in the AUC's eFiling System. In the event of any difference between the conditions in this section and those in the main body of the decision, the wording in the main body of the decision shall prevail.

The following are conditions of Decision 26322-D01-2021 that require subsequent filings with the Commission and will be included as conditions of Power Plant Approval 26322-D02-2021:

- Enterprise Solar GP Inc. shall file a report with the Commission 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 Enterprise's response to the complaints or concerns. Enterprise shall file this report no later than 13 months after the project becomes operational.
- Enterprise Solar GP Inc. shall submit an annual post-construction monitoring survey report to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and the AUC 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*.

The following is a condition of Decision 26322-D01-2021 that does not require a subsequent filing with the Commission:

- Enterprise Solar GP Inc. shall use anti-reflective coating on the project solar panels.