



## **Siemens Energy Canada Limited**

**Acme Generating Station**

**July 26, 2021**



**Alberta Utilities Commission**  
Decision 26478-D01-2021  
Siemens Energy Canada Limited  
Acme Generating Station  
Proceeding 26478  
Application 26478-A001

July 26, 2021

Published by the:

Alberta Utilities Commission  
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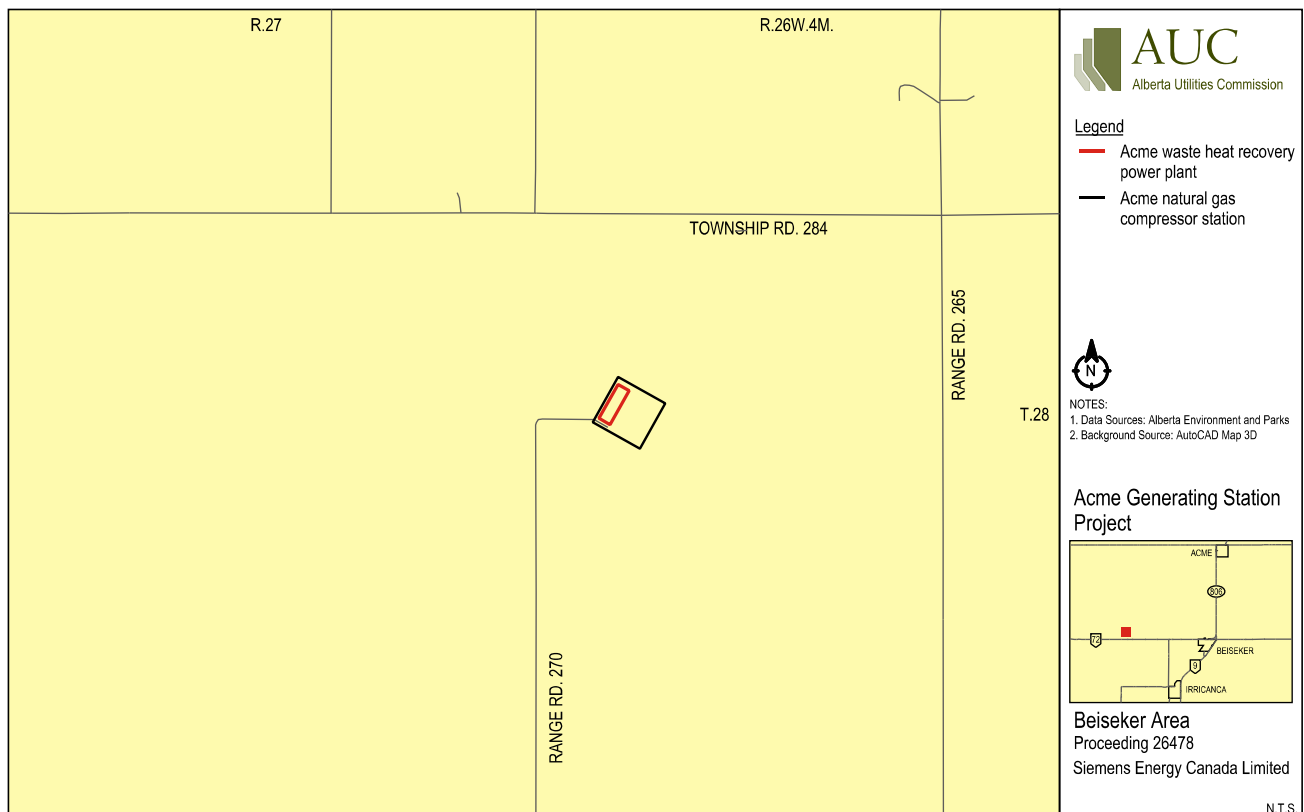
## 1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves an application from Siemens Energy Canada Limited to construct, operate and connect a 9.5-megawatt (MW) compressor station waste heat recovery power plant, designated as the Acme Generating Station, located near Beiseker.

## 2 Application

2. Siemens Energy filed an application with the Commission for approval to construct and operate the power plant, and connect it to the FortisAlberta Inc. electric distribution system (the project). The project is located eight kilometres from the town of Beiseker in the west half of Section 19, Township 28, Range 26, west of the Fourth Meridian, as shown on the map in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Acme Generating Station Project location



3. The project would include a single waste heat recovery generating station with a maximum capability of 9.5 MW.
4. The project would be located within the existing Foothills Pipe Lines (Alta.) Ltd. Acme natural gas compressor station 363, adjacent to agricultural land.
5. Siemens Energy's application included:
  - A participant involvement program, which confirmed that there were no outstanding objections from adjacent landowners or stakeholders.<sup>1</sup>
  - A noise impact assessment (NIA), completed by ACI Acoustical Consultants Inc., which confirmed that the project would comply with Rule 012: *Noise Control*.<sup>2</sup>
  - An air quality assessment report, completed by Golder Associates Ltd., which confirms that there would be no increase in air emissions from the project, and that the current emissions are well below the Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives.<sup>3</sup>
  - Correspondence from Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), which confirms that a screening report and an environmental impact assessment report are not required for the project.<sup>4</sup>
  - A letter of non-objection from FortisAlberta, confirming that it is prepared to allow the interconnection of the power plant to its 25-kilovolt distribution system.<sup>5</sup>
6. Siemens Energy expects the Acme Generating Station to be in service by February 15, 2023, with construction starting on June 15, 2022.
7. The Commission issued a notice of application and no submissions were received in response to the notice.

### 3 Findings

8. For the reasons outlined below, the Commission finds that approval of the project 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 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 the participant involvement program complies with the requirements of Rule 007.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 26478-X0004, Participant Involvement Program.

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 26478-X0006, Noise Impact Assessment.

<sup>3</sup> Exhibit 26478-X0008, Air Quality Assessment.

<sup>4</sup> Exhibit 26478-X0010, Letter from AEP.

<sup>5</sup> Exhibit 26478-X0011, Letter from FortisAlberta Inc.

10. With respect to noise impacts, ACI concluded that noise mitigation would be required to meet permissible sound levels at certain receptors. In response to an information request, Siemens Energy confirmed that it would implement one of the mitigation options proposed in the project's NIA to ensure compliance with Rule 012.<sup>6</sup> The Commission also understands that the noise level contributions from the proposed project will be relatively minimal compared to the noise level contributions from the existing compressor station. The Commission finds that the NIA submitted by Siemens Energy meets the requirements of Rule 012 and accepts the conclusion that cumulative sound levels with the implementation of mitigation measures will comply with the permissible sound levels established by Rule 012.

11. Given the results from Golder's air dispersion modelling assessment, the Commission is satisfied that the proposed waste heat recovery plant will likely reduce air emissions from the existing compressor station. In its assessment, Golder found that the project would likely decrease ground-level concentrations of 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter with diameters less than 2.5 micrometres) and one-hour NO<sub>2</sub> (nitrogen dioxide). The assessment model predicted a slight increase in annual NO<sub>2</sub> ground-level concentrations from 25 micrograms per cubic metre to 26 micrograms per cubic metre, which falls within the accuracy uncertainty of the analysis. The predicted emissions are compliant with the Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives.

12. The Commission accepts Siemens Energy's submission that the project will not result in any significant adverse effects to the environment. Siemens Energy stated that development of the project would not require disturbance of any natural environment as the project would be located entirely within the existing compressor station development. The project site is currently cleared, graded and gravelled as part of construction activities within the compressor station. Siemens Energy also stated that it would submit an *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* industrial approval application to AEP later in 2021. Finally, Siemens Energy noted that neither a provincial environmental impact assessment nor federal environmental impact assessment would be required for the project.

13. The Commission finds that the proposed project has met all the requirements for a connection order. FortisAlberta confirmed that it is willing to allow the interconnection of the power plant, and the Commission has no outstanding concerns around the interconnection.

14. The Commission considers the application to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

#### 4 Decision

15. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 26478-A001 and grants Siemens Energy Canada Limited the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval 26478-D02-2021 – July 26, 2021, to construct and operate the Acme Generating Station.

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<sup>6</sup> Exhibit 26478-X0019, ACME Generating Station Round 1 IR Responses, PDF page 5.

16. Pursuant to Section 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 26478-A001 and grants Siemens Energy Canada Limited the approval set out in Appendix 2 – Connection Order 26478-D03-2021 – July 26, 2021, to connect the Acme Generating Station to the FortisAlberta Inc. electric distribution system.

17. The appendices will be distributed separately.

Dated on July 26, 2021.

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Brian Shand, P.Eng.  
Applications Director, Facilities Division  
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission