



**Cypress Renewable Energy Centre GP Inc. and
Cypress 2 Renewable Energy Centre GP Inc.**

Cypress Wind Power Project Amendments

July 27, 2021

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 26489-D01-2021

Cypress Renewable Energy Centre GP Inc. and

Cypress 2 Renewable Energy Centre GP Inc.

Cypress Wind Power Project Amendments

Proceeding 26489

Application 26489-A001

July 27, 2021

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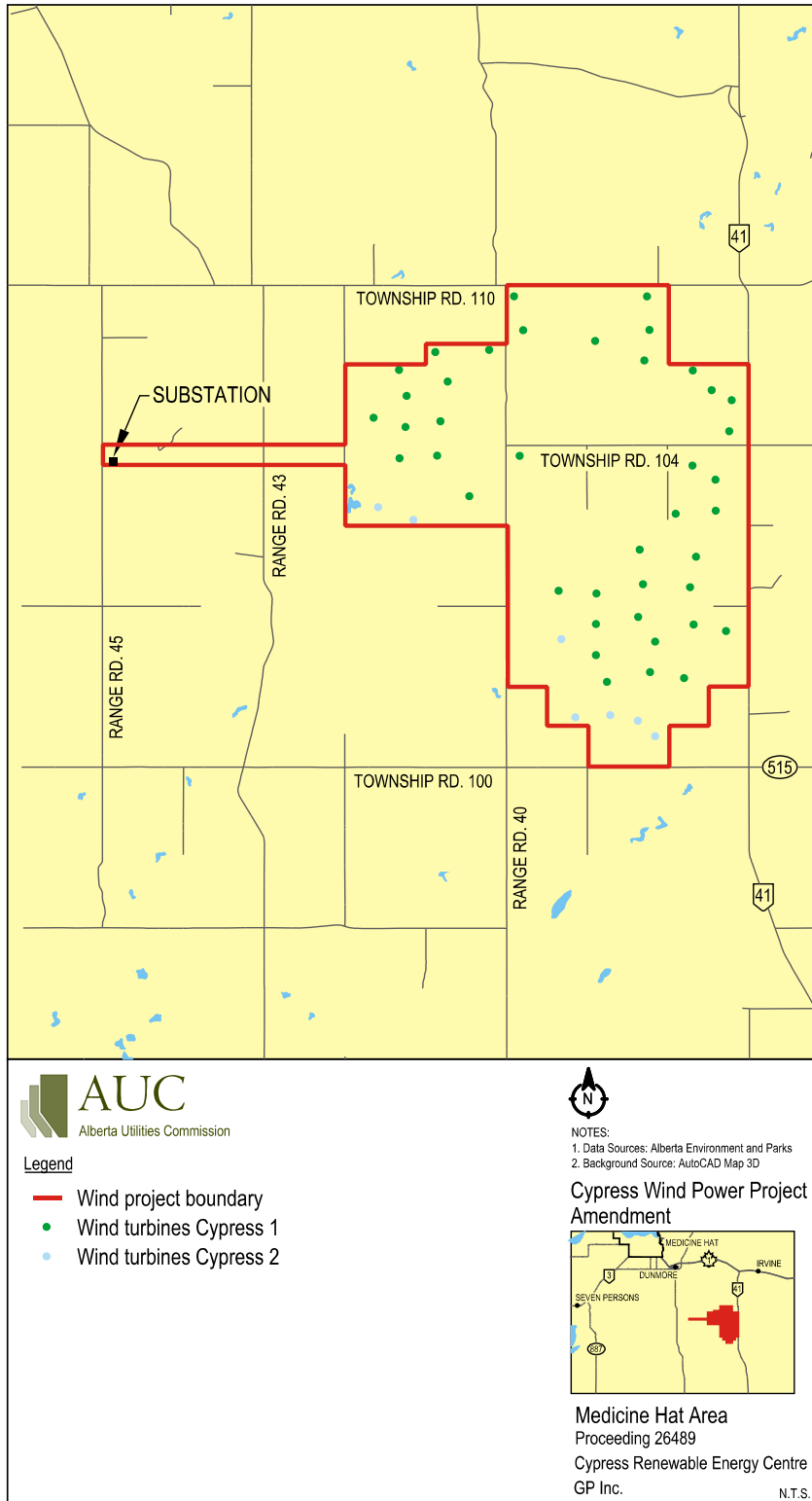
1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves an application by Cypress Renewable Energy Centre GP Inc. (Cypress GP), and Cypress 2 Renewable Energy Centre GP Inc. (Cypress 2 GP), to alter the Cypress Wind Power Project.

2 Application

2. Cypress GP and Cypress 2 GP (collectively, Cypress), filed an application with the Commission for approval to expand the Cypress Wind Power Plant from 201.6 megawatts (MW) to 248.4 MW in two phases that would be concurrently constructed, and to change the turbine specifications and locations. The project would be located in the Medicine Hat area, as shown on the map in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Cypress Wind Power Project Location



3. Cypress stated that due to advancements in wind turbine technology, it had revised the design to a newer turbine model, resulting in minor amendments to the overall project design. Although the total number of turbines would remain unchanged from the original approved

project, Cypress stated that adjustments to the turbine locations and associated infrastructure would be required. The total maximum generating capability of the power plant would increase from 201.6 MW to 248.4 MW. Cypress also requested approval to change the turbine model from the Enercon E138 4.2-MW turbines to the Siemens-Gamesa SG145, with a rated capability between 5.0 MW and 5.2 MW. Compared to the approved turbines, the proposed turbines would have a shorter hub height and overall height, but the blade length would be increased by 3.5 metres.

4. Cypress also applied for an ownership change to the power plant, which is currently owned by Cypress GP. Cypress applied to split the power plant into two phases to be developed concurrently. Phase 1 (Cypress 1 Wind Power Plant) would continue to be owned by Cypress GP on behalf of Cypress Renewable Energy Centre Limited Partnership, and would consist of 39 turbines. Phase 2 (Cypress 2 Wind Power Plant) would be owned by Cypress 2 GP on behalf of Cypress 2 Renewable Energy Centre Limited Partnership, and would consist of nine turbines.

5. Cypress' application comprised of:

- A participant involvement program, which confirmed that there were no outstanding objections from adjacent landowners.¹
- A revised noise impact assessment, completed by RWDI Consulting Engineers and Scientists and confirming that the project would remain compliant with Rule 012: *Noise Control*.²
- Confirmation from Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) that the risk ranking for the power plant would remain unchanged.³
- A revised shadow flicker map from Solas Energy Consulting Inc.⁴
- A certificate of registration for Cypress 2 GP confirming its status as an extra-provincial corporation under the Alberta *Business Corporations Act*.⁵

6. Cypress stated that it is currently discussing the proposed amendments with the Alberta Electric System Operator. Cypress will submit applications for amendments to the Woolchester 1019S Substation permit and licence, as well as connection orders for the power plant, at a later date.

7. The two phases of the Cypress Wind Power Project would be constructed concurrently. Cypress planned for construction to begin in July 2021 and estimated that the project in-service date would be December 2022.

8. The Commission issued a notice of application and no submissions were received in response to the notice.

¹ Exhibit 26489-X0013-X0017, PIP Report.

² Exhibit 26489-X0010, Noise Impact Assessment.

³ Exhibit 26489-X0009, Consultation with AEP, PDF page 27.

⁴ Exhibit 26489-X0015, Attachment PP-B - PIP K Part 3, PDF page 14.

⁵ Exhibit 26489-X0003, Attachment PP-D - Cypress 2 Certificate of Incorporation.

3 Findings

9. Given that the Cypress Wind Power Project has been approved but is not yet constructed, the Commission considered any incremental impacts that may result from the amendment and time extension.

10. 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. 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 Cypress' participant involvement program satisfied the requirements of Rule 007.

11. Cypress conducted a participant involvement program in which it notified and consulted with stakeholders near the power plant. As part of the program, Cypress provided visual simulations of the proposed turbine model changes to stakeholders, and added that stakeholders did not raise concerns as the proposed amendment would reduce the overall turbine height by 14.5 metres. The Commission acknowledges Cypress' submission that there are no outstanding concerns regarding the project.

12. The Commission is satisfied that the power plant's revised noise impact assessment continues to demonstrate compliance with Rule 012. RWDI predicted that the cumulative sound levels would comply with applicable permissible sound levels and considered the potential for low frequency sound to be low.

13. The Commission accepts AEP's unchanged moderate risk assessment for the Cypress Wind Power Project as outlined in its referral report amendment letter. Cypress stated that all required wildlife surveys are up-to-date, and that it had no additional environmental concerns for the proposed amendments. The Commission notes that, although the locations of the turbines have been altered from the originally approved layout, the project boundary remains unchanged.

14. The Commission finds that Cypress has adequately assessed the power plant's shadow flicker impacts. Solas' revised shadow flicker assessment demonstrated that dwellings would not experience more than 18.4 hours of shadow flicker per year. The assessment concluded that 19 dwellings may experience the same or decreased annual shadow flicker impacts and 14 dwellings may experience minor increases in annual shadow flicker impacts. Cypress contacted each affected stakeholder to discuss the revised assessment and confirmed that there are no objections or concerns arising from the revised assessment.

15. The Commission finds that there are no outstanding public or industry objections or concerns associated with the proposed ownership change. Cypress provided a certificate of registration for Cypress 2 GP.⁶
16. The Commission issued Bulletin 2020-11 on March 30, 2020, stating that “future power plant approvals from the Commission will not include a condition to submit construction progress reports.”⁷ As such, Condition 5 of Approval 24891-D02-2019 has been removed.
17. The Commission considers the application to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

4 Decision

18. Pursuant to sections 11 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 26489-A001 and grants Cypress Renewable Energy Centre GP Inc. the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval 26489-D02-2021 – July 27, 2021, to construct and operate the Cypress 1 Wind Power Plant.
19. Pursuant to sections 11 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 26489-A001 and grants Cypress 2 Renewable Energy Centre GP Inc. the approval set out in Appendix 2 – Power Plant Approval 26489-D03-2021 – July 27, 2021, to construct and operate the Cypress 2 Wind Power Plant.
20. The appendixes will be distributed separately.

Dated on July 27, 2021.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

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

⁶ Exhibit 26489-X0027, Cypress AUC IR1 Response 22JUN2021, PDF page 8.

⁷ Bulletin 2020-11: *Reducing regulatory burden by eliminating power plant construction progress reports and simplifying compliance reporting for electric and gas facilities*, March 30, 2020.