



## **Alberta Electric System Operator**

### **Cancellation of the Needs Identification Document Approval for the Peace Butte Wind Energy Connection**

**September 13, 2021**

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 26828-D01-2021

Alberta Electric System Operator

Cancellation of the Needs Identification Document Approval for  
the Peace Butte Wind Energy Connection

Proceeding 26828

Application 26828-A001

September 13, 2021

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The Commission may, no later than 60 days of the date of this decision and without notice, correct typographical, spelling and calculation errors and other similar types of errors and post the corrected decision on its website.

## **1 Decision summary**

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission rescinds Needs Identification Document Approval U2013-244<sup>1</sup> for the Peace Butte Wind Energy Connection project in response to an application from the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) because the system access service request for the project has been cancelled.

## **2 Introduction**

2. On August 30, 2021, the AESO filed an application with the Commission for approval to cancel Needs Identification Document Approval U2013-244, pursuant to Section 10 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*. The application was registered as Application 26828-A001.

3. Due to the nature of the application, a notice of application was not issued and, therefore, a hearing was not required as the Commission considered that its decision or order would not directly and adversely affect the rights of a person pursuant to Section 9 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

## **3 Discussion**

4. On May 27, 2013, the AESO was granted Approval U2013-244 for the need to connect the approved Peace Butte Wind Power Project and Tothill 219S Substation to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System by constructing a new 138-kilovolt transmission line.

5. On May 27, 2013, the Commission also granted AltaLink Management Ltd. the permits and licences and order necessary to construct, connect and operate the facilities to meet the need identified by the AESO.

6. Subsequently, the Commission granted two time extensions for completion of the wind power project and three time extensions for completion of the connection facilities. Then, on March 9, 2021, the Commission issued Decision 24127-D01-2021,<sup>2</sup> which rescinded the approval for the Peace Butte Wind Power Project and the permit and licence for the project's Tothill 219S Substation. Accordingly, there was no longer a need to connect the power plant.

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<sup>1</sup> Needs Identification Document Approval 2013-244, Proceeding 1973, Application 1608566, May 27, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 24127-D01-2021: Pteragen Canada Inc. – Peace Butte Wind Power Project Time Extension, Proceeding 24127, Applications 24127-A001 and 24127-A002, May 9, 2021.

7. On April 22, 2021, in Decision 25133-D01-2021,<sup>3</sup> the Commission denied a fourth time extension request for completion of the connection facilities and instead rescinded AltaLink’s permits and licences for the facilities to connect the power plant project given that there was “no present need for facilities to connect that project.”

8. On May 12, 2021, the AESO cancelled the system access service request for the Peace Butte Wind Energy Connection project.

9. The AESO directed AltaLink to assist the AESO in providing notification to stakeholders who were part of the original participant involvement program conducted by the AESO. Both the AESO and AltaLink shared information about the cancellation with stakeholders through their respective websites and mailouts. Neither the AESO nor AltaLink received any stakeholder concerns or objections about the cancellation.

#### **4 Findings**

10. Based upon the AESO’s request to cancel the needs identification document approval, the Commission accepts that the approved need for connection facilities is no longer required. The Commission will thereby rescind Needs Identification Document Approval U2013-244.

11. The Commission notes that when the associated AltaLink permits and licences were rescinded in Decision 25133-D01-2021, the connection order granted to AltaLink to connect the new transmission line to the Tothill 219S Substation was not rescinded at that time. The Commission will thereby rescind Connection Order U2013-242.<sup>4</sup>

#### **5 Decision**

12. The Commission rescinds the Alberta Electric System Operator’s Needs Identification Document Approval U2013-244, under Section 10 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

13. The Commission also rescinds AltaLink Management Ltd.’s Connection Order U2013-242, under Section 10 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

Dated on September 13, 2021.

#### **Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Merete Heggelund  
Acting Commission Member

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<sup>3</sup> Decision 25133-D01-2021: AltaLink Management Ltd.: Peace Butte Wind Power Project Interconnection Time Extension IV, Proceeding 25133, Applications 25133-A001 and A002, April 22, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Connection Order U2013-242, Proceeding 1973, Application 1608710, May 27, 2013.