



Conifer Energy Inc.

Judy Creek 16-Megawatt Power Plant

October 14, 2021

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 26647-D01-2021

Conifer Energy Inc.

Judy Creek 16-Megawatt Power Plant

Proceeding 26647

Application 26647-A001

October 14, 2021

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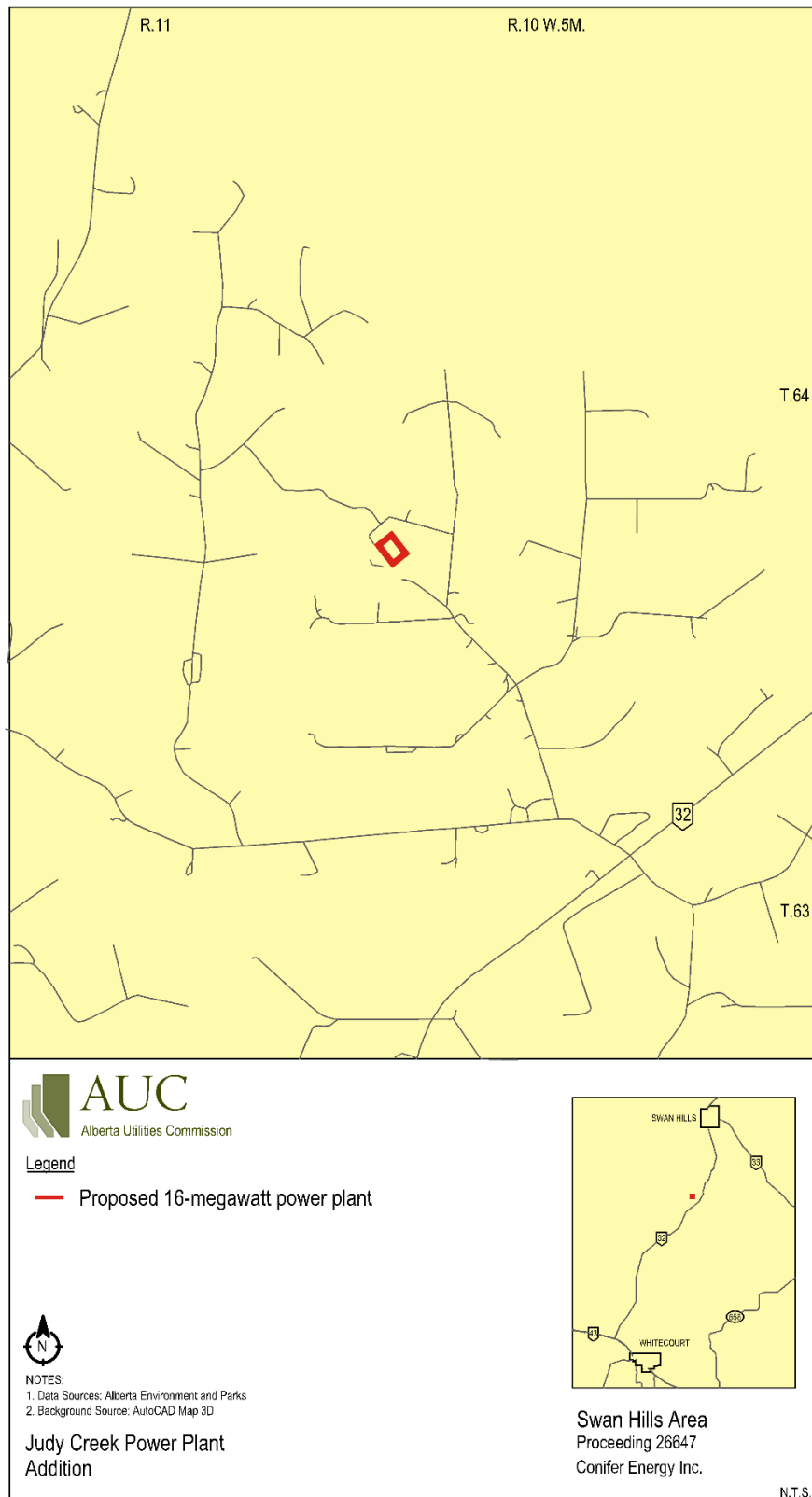
1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves an application from Conifer Energy Inc., to construct, operate and connect a 16-megawatt (MW) natural gas power plant, designated as the Judy Creek 16-MW Power Plant, located within Big Lakes County (the power plant).

2 Application

2. Conifer filed an application with the Commission for approval to construct and operate the power plant, and connect it to ATCO Electric Ltd.'s electric distribution system (collectively, the project). The project is located 25 kilometres south of Swan Hills in Legal Subdivision 14, Section 6, Township 64, Range 10, west of the Fifth Meridian, as shown on the map in Figure 1. The power plant would be located within the existing footprint of the Judy Creek Production Complex. There is no new land being taken or additional clearing proposed as a part of the project.

Figure 1. Judy Creek 16-MW Power Plant location



3. The power plant would include three Solar Taurus 60 low emission, low noise natural gas-driven generating units capable of generating 5.67 MW each. The generators would be synchronized across a bus with a total maximum capability of 16 MW.
4. Conifer's application included:
 - A participant involvement program, which confirmed that there are no outstanding objections from adjacent landowners or stakeholders.¹
 - A noise impact assessment, completed by FDI Acoustics, which confirmed that the project would comply with Rule 012: *Noise Control*.²
 - An air quality assessment report, completed by Calvin Consulting Group Ltd., which confirmed that air emissions from the power plant are not predicted to significantly impact air quality and would be below the Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives.³
 - Correspondence from ATCO Electric, confirming that it is prepared to allow the interconnection of the power plant to its distribution system.⁴
5. Conifer expects the Judy Creek 16-MW Power Plant to be in service by March 1, 2022, with construction starting on December 1, 2021.
6. The Commission issued a notice of application and no submissions were received in response to the notice.

3 Findings

7. 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.
8. 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 Conifer's participant involvement program satisfies the requirements of Rule 007.
9. With respect to noise impacts, FDI Acoustics concluded that the cumulative sound levels from the power plant in combination with the known contribution of the study area facilities are predicted to comply with the permissible sound levels established by Rule 012. The Commission finds that the noise impact assessment meets the requirements of Rule 012.
10. The Commission accepts the conclusion of the air quality assessment report, completed by Calvin Consulting Group Ltd., that the air emissions from the power plant are predicted to be

¹ Exhibit 26647-X0001, Complete Participant Notification Documentation.

² Exhibit 26647-X0006, Full Noise Impact Assessment.

³ Exhibit 26647-X0016, Air Quality Assessment.

⁴ Exhibit 26647-X0012, Exhibit 26647-X0013 and Exhibit 26647-X0014, Connection Agreement.

minor in nature and are in compliance with the applicable Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives.

11. An *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* application is currently being considered by Alberta Environment and Parks. Since the project is being constructed on an existing brownfield site and no new land is being taken or additional clearing proposed, the Commission is satisfied that the project is unlikely to result in any significant adverse effects on the environment.

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

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

4 Decision

14. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 26647-A001 and grants Conifer Energy Inc., the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval 26647-D02-2021 – October 14, 2021, to construct and operate the Judy Creek 16-MW Power Plant.

15. Pursuant to Section 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 26647-A001 and grants Conifer Energy Inc., the approval set out in Appendix 2 – Connection Order 26647-D03-2021 – October 14, 2021, to connect the Judy Creek 16-MW Power Plant to the ATCO Electric Ltd. electric distribution system.

16. The appendices will be distributed separately.

Dated on October 14, 2021.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Carolyn Hutniak
Commission Member