



**Alberta Electric System Operator  
Needs Identification Document Application**

**Enterprise Solar GP Inc.  
Facility Applications**

**AltaLink Management Ltd.  
Facility Applications**

**Enterprise Solar Interconnection Project**

**October 29, 2021**

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 26785-D01-2021: Enterprise Solar Interconnection Project

Alberta Electric System Operator  
Needs Identification Document Application  
Application 26785-A001

Enterprise Solar GP Inc.  
Facility Applications  
Applications 26785-A002 and 26785-A005

AltaLink Management Ltd.  
Facility Applications  
Applications 26785-A003 and 26785-A004

October 29, 2021

Published by the:

Alberta Utilities Commission  
Eau Claire Tower  
1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5

Telephone: 310-4AUC (310-4282) in Alberta  
1-833-511-4AUC (1-833-511-4282) outside Alberta

Email: [info@auc.ab.ca](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca)

Website: [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca)

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.

**Alberta Electric System Operator**  
**Needs Identification Document Application**

**Enterprise Solar GP Inc. and AltaLink Management Ltd.**  
**Facility Applications**

**Decision 26785-D01-2021**  
**Proceeding 26785**

**Enterprise Solar Interconnection Project**

**Applications 26785-A001 to 26785-A005**

---

**1 Decision summary**

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves a needs identification document application from the Alberta Electric System Operator and three of four facility applications from Enterprise Solar GP Inc. and AltaLink Management Ltd. for the proposed Enterprise Solar Interconnection Project. For the reasons that follow, the Commission finds that approval of Application 26785-A001 and applications 26785-A003 to 26785-A005, is in the public interest having regard to the social, economic, and other effects of the proposed facilities, including their effect on the environment. The Commission finds that Application 26785-A002 is unnecessary and denies the application for the reasons that follow.

**2 The applications**

2. Enterprise Solar GP Inc. has approval from the Commission to construct and operate a 65-megawatt solar power plant, designated as the Enterprise Solar Project (the power plant) in the Vulcan area.<sup>1</sup> It also has approval to construct and operate the solar project substation, designated as the Enterprise 1070S Substation (the substation).<sup>2</sup>

3. The applications in this proceeding seek approval of the need for and the facilities required to connect the solar power plant to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (the grid).

4. Building a new transmission facility in Alberta requires two applications. The first, a needs identification document application (needs application), is filed by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) explaining why a new transmission facility is required. The second, a facility application, is filed by a transmission facility owner proposing equipment to meet the AESO's identified need having regard for factors that include location, detailed design and routing considerations as well as consultation with potentially affected persons. Under Section 15.4 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission may consider the needs and facility applications together in a single proceeding, as was done here.

5. Enterprise requested system access service from the AESO to connect the power plant to the grid through the substation. In response to that request, the AESO filed a needs application with the Commission proposing the need to construct a new 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission

---

<sup>1</sup> Power Plant Approval 26322-D02-2021, Proceeding 26322, Application 26322-A001, July 13, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Substation Permit and Licence 26322-D03-2021, Proceeding 26322, Application 26322-A002, July 13, 2021.

circuit that would connect the substation to AltaLink's existing Transmission Line 161L using a T-tap configuration and to add or modify protection, control and communication equipment necessary for connecting the power plant to the grid.

6. Concurrently, Enterprise applied to the Commission for approval to construct, operate and connect this new transmission circuit, designated as Transmission Line 161AL (the proposed transmission line). AltaLink filed facility applications requesting approval from the Commission to alter and connect Transmission Line 161L to the proposed transmission line. The Enterprise and AltaLink applications propose transmission developments to meet the need identified by the AESO.

7. Details of each application and the Commission's reasons for approving or denying them are addressed in the sections that follow.

## **2.1 Alberta Electric System Operator needs identification document application**

8. Under Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the AESO is required to submit a needs application when it determines that an expansion of the transmission system is required and to file that application with the Commission for approval. Under subsection 34(1)(c), the AESO must file a needs application in response to a request for system access service from a market participant. In this case, the AESO's needs application was filed in response to Enterprise's request for system access service to connect the solar project to the grid.

9. When considering whether to approve a needs application, the Commission must determine if the application has met the requirements of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the *Transmission Regulation*, and Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*.<sup>3</sup> If the Commission determines the requirements have been met, then the Commission must consider the needs application in accordance with subsection 38(e) of the *Transmission Regulation*.

10. The Commission finds that the AESO's needs application contains all of the information required by the *Electric Utilities Act*, the *Transmission Regulation* and Rule 007. The Commission has also reviewed the joint participant involvement program undertaken by the AESO and AltaLink (the joint participant involvement program) and finds that it meets the requirements of Rule 007.

11. Having made the above findings, subsection 38(e) of the *Transmission Regulation* requires the Commission to consider the AESO's assessment of the need to be correct unless an interested person satisfies it that the AESO's assessment of the need is technically deficient, or approval of the application is not in the public interest. In this case, no person intervened in the proceeding to dispute the AESO's assessment of the need. The Commission therefore considers that the AESO's assessment of the need is correct and approves the AESO's needs application.

---

<sup>3</sup> This rule was amended and approved by the AUC on March 1, 2021, and became effective on September 1, 2021.

## 2.2 Enterprise Solar GP Inc. facility applications

12. Enterprise applied to meet the need by constructing a 35-metre-long, 138-kV transmission line to connect its approved substation to AltaLink's Transmission Line 161L, under the Market Participant Choice option, pursuant to Section 24.31 of the *Transmission Regulation*.
13. Enterprise explained that the proposed transmission line would require a single wood or steel monopole transmission structure, sited approximately five metres away from the closest Transmission Line 161L structure, within undeveloped road allowance. This structure would support the conductor running from the substation to Transmission Line 161L.
14. The Commission is satisfied that the facility application filed by Enterprise, under sections 14 and 15 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, complies with the information requirements prescribed in Rule 007.
15. The Commission is also satisfied that Enterprise's participant involvement program for the proposed transmission line meets the requirements of Rule 007. The record reflects that Enterprise notified or consulted with landowners, agencies and potentially interested parties. Enterprise confirmed that there are no outstanding or unresolved stakeholder concerns. Based on the foregoing and given that no objections were filed in response to the Commission's notice of applications, the Commission is satisfied that Enterprise's participant involvement program met the objectives of effective consultation.
16. Enterprise stated that the proposed interconnection was considered as part of the environmental evaluation conducted for the solar power plant project, previously considered in Proceeding 26322, since the interconnection is located entirely within the solar project boundary. The environmental evaluation report concluded that the project was not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. The interconnection footprint has been largely sited on cultivated land in low quality wildlife habitat. Alberta Environment and Parks' renewable energy referral report for the solar project likewise concluded that the project would have an overall low risk to wildlife and wildlife habitat.
17. On the basis of the foregoing, 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 and the project-specific environmental protection plan. The Commission expects Enterprise to adhere to and implement those measures.
18. For these reasons, the Commission finds Enterprise's proposed transmission line to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.
19. As for Enterprise's connection application, since Enterprise will be the owner and operator of both the substation and the proposed transmission line, a connection order is not necessary. However, Enterprise stated that it would only temporarily own and operate the proposed transmission line before it would transfer the asset to AltaLink. The Commission expects that when the transmission line transfer is applied for, an application for a new connection order, between the transferred transmission line and the substation will also be applied for.

### 2.3 AltaLink Management Ltd. facility applications

20. AltaLink applied for approval of alterations to existing facilities to accommodate the connection of the proposed transmission line to the grid. Specifically, it applied to modify existing Transmission Line 161L to accommodate a T-tap connection, to connect Transmission Line 161L to the proposed transmission line, and to modify and install protection and control including supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) and telecommunications equipment at the Vulcan 255S and Queenstown 504S substations. The need for these alterations was outlined in the needs application and the AESO's functional specification set out the protection and control, SCADA, and telecommunications requirements.

21. The Commission finds that the facility applications filed by AltaLink under sections 14, 15, 18 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, comply with the information requirements prescribed in Rule 007 and the proposed development is consistent with the need identified in the AESO's needs application as well as the requirements of the AESO functional specification.

22. As stated, the joint participant involvement program satisfies the requirements of Rule 007. The applications indicated that no stakeholder concerns were raised, and the Commission received no objections to the AltaLink project in response to its application notice. The Commission is therefore satisfied that AltaLink's consultation program met the goal of effective consultation.

23. For these reasons, the Commission finds AltaLink's proposed transmission developments to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

## 3 Decision

24. The Commission approves the needs identification document application, under Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, and grants the Alberta Electric System Operator the following approval set out in an appendix to this decision:

- Needs Identification Document Approval 26785-D02-2021 (Appendix 1).

25. The Commission denies Application 26785-A002 from Enterprise Solar GP Inc. as the necessary connection order will be issued to AltaLink Management Ltd. not Enterprise Solar GP Inc.

26. The Commission approves applications 26785-A003 and 26785-A004, under sections 14, 15, 18 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, and grants AltaLink Management Ltd. the following approvals set out in appendices to this decision:

- Transmission Line Permit and Licence 26785-D03-2021, to alter Transmission Line 161L (Appendix 2).
- Connection Order 26785-D04-2021, to connect Transmission Line 161L to Transmission Line 161AL (Appendix 3).

27. The Commission approves Application 26785-A005, under sections 14, 15 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, and grants Enterprise Solar GP Inc. the following approval set out in an appendix to this decision:

- Transmission Line Permit and Licence 26785-D05-2021, to construct and operate Transmission Line 161AL (Appendix 4).

28. The appendices will be distributed separately.

Dated on October 29, 2021.

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Neil Jamieson  
Commission Member