



2079816 Alberta Ltd.

Hanna Solar Project

April 20, 2022



Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 27178-D01-2022

2079816 Alberta Ltd.

Hanna Solar Project

Proceeding 27178

Application 27178-A001

April 20, 2022

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

Website: 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.

Contents

1 Decision summary..... 1

2 Application 1

3 Findings..... 3

4 Decision 5

Appendix A – Summary of Commission conditions of approval in the decision 6

List of figures

Figure 1. Proposed Hanna Solar Project area 2

1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves an application from 2079816 Alberta Ltd. to construct and operate a 13-megawatt solar power plant, designated as the Hanna Solar Project, and to connect the power plant to the ATCO Electric Ltd. distribution system.

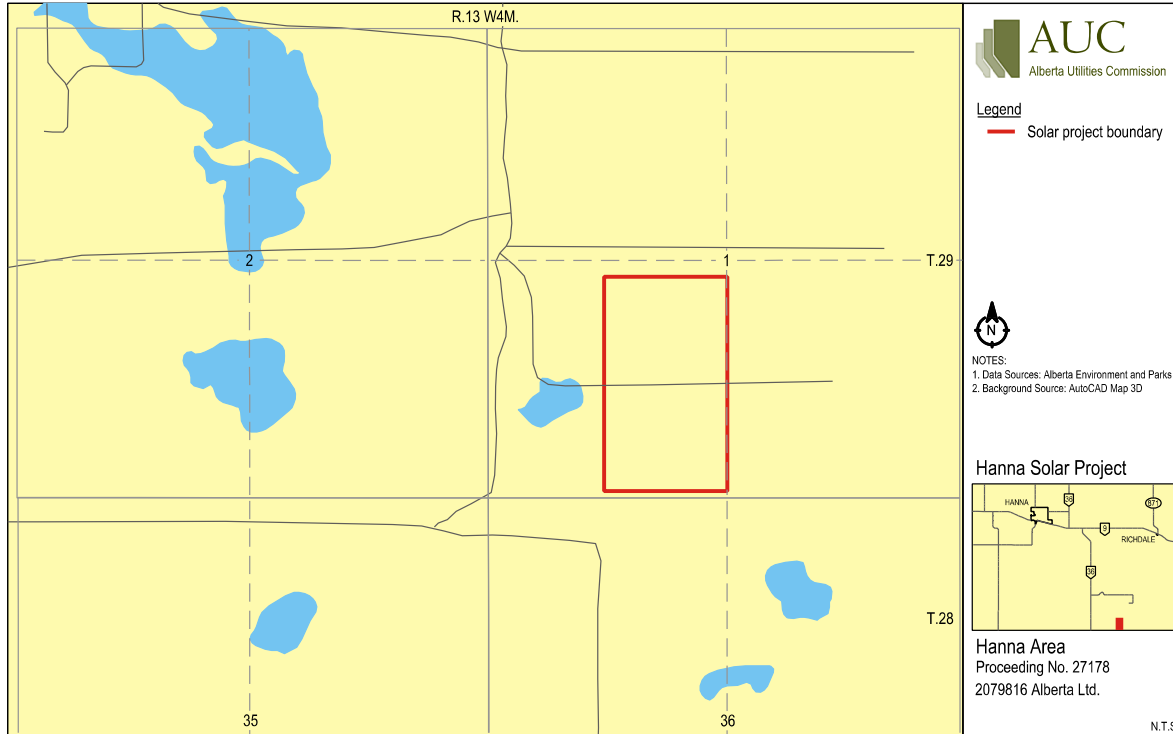
2 Application

2. 2079816 Alberta Ltd., in its capacity as general partner of PACE Canada LP, applied to the Commission for approval to construct and operate a 13-megawatt solar power plant, designated as the Hanna Solar Project (the project), and to connect the power plant to the ATCO Electric Ltd. distribution system. The application was registered on February 18, 2022, as Application 27178-A001.

3. The project consists of an array of solar panels and associated racking systems, electrical inverters and pad-mount transformers. The project also includes access roads, electrical collector systems, distribution interconnection equipment, communications and telecommunications equipment, and other ancillary equipment. The applicant stated that the number of solar array panels and final layout would depend on detailed design and procurement.

4. The project is located on approximately 120 acres of privately owned land within Special Area No. 2, specifically in the southwest quarter of Section 1, Township 29, Range 13, west of the Fourth Meridian, as shown on the map in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Proposed Hanna Solar Project area



5. The project connects to the ATCO Electric Ltd. distribution system at a point in the southwest quarter of Section 1, Township 29, Range 13, west of the Fourth Meridian.

6. The application included:

- A participant involvement program,¹ which confirmed there are no outstanding concerns from adjacent landowners.
- A noise impact assessment summary form,² which determined the project would comply with Rule 012: *Noise Control*.
- A solar glare hazard analysis report³ that predicted the project would pose a low potential for hazardous glare conditions along the road routes assessed.
- A renewable energy referral report⁴ issued by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) that concluded the project would result in an overall low risk to wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- A renewable energy project submission report⁵ that concluded any potential adverse effects of the project on wildlife and wildlife habitat can be effectively mitigated.

¹ Exhibit 27178-X0029, Summary of Participant Involvement Program.

² Exhibit 27178-X0006, Noise Impact Assessment.

³ Exhibit 27178-X0004, Glare Impact Assessment.

⁴ Exhibit 27178-X0002, AEP Referral Letter.

⁵ Exhibit 27178-X0003.01, AEP Submission Report.

- *Historical Resources Act* approval⁶ dated February 23, 2022.
- Confirmation from ATCO Electric Ltd. that it has no objections with the interconnection of the project subject to several feasibility and technical requirements.⁷

7. The applicant expects the project's in-service date to be December 9, 2022.

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

3 Findings

9. 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.

10. The Commission has reviewed the application and has determined that sufficient information has been provided in response to the requirements specified in Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines* such that the Commission is able to make a public interest determination on the project.

11. Details of the participant involvement program identify that the applicant consulted with persons whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by the project. The applicant has confirmed that there are no outstanding objections or concerns and no submissions were received in response to the notice of application. The Commission finds that the participant involvement program satisfies the requirements of Rule 007.

12. The Commission finds that the noise impact assessment summary form meets the requirements of Rule 012 and accepts the conclusion that noise from the project will comply with the permissible sound levels established by Rule 012.

13. The applicant retained Green Cat Renewables Canada Corporation to conduct a glare hazard analysis for the project. The glare hazard analysis identified four transportation routes (Township Road 290, Range Road 125, Range Road 125A and Range Road 130) as receptors. There are no dwellings within 1.5 kilometres of the project. The glare hazard analysis indicated that the solar panels would be installed on a fixed-tilt racking system with a tilted angle of 38 degrees and assumed the project would use anti-reflective coating on the solar panels. Township Road 290 is the most affected route and is predicted to experience a maximum of 53 minutes per year of yellow glare. Range Road 125A is predicted to experience a maximum of 23 minutes per year of green glare and Range Road 125 and Range Road 130 are predicted to experience zero glare from the project.

⁶ Exhibit 27178-X0039, *Historical Resources Act* Approval.

⁷ Exhibit 27178-X0014, Letter of non-objection.

14. The predicted results for the project's solar glare were premised upon the use of an anti-reflective coating applied to the project solar panels. Accordingly, the Commission imposes the following conditions of approval:

- a. 2079816 Alberta Ltd. shall use anti-reflective coating on the project's solar panels.
- b. 2079816 Alberta Ltd. shall file a report detailing any complaints or concerns it receives or is made aware of regarding solar glare from the project during its first year of operation, as well as 2079816 Alberta Ltd.'s response to the complaints or concerns. 2079816 Alberta Ltd. shall file this report no later than 13 months after the project becomes operational.

15. AEP's renewable energy referral report concluded that the project would have an overall low risk to wildlife and wildlife habitat. The renewable energy project submission report to AEP concluded that there are no major impacts predicted on wildlife and wildlife habitat that cannot be effectively mitigated during construction, operation and decommissioning of the project. The Commission relies on the findings of the renewable energy referral report and the renewable energy project submission report and notes that the project is sited entirely on previously disturbed land and the siting of the project aligns with the *Wildlife Directive for Alberta Solar Projects*. On the basis of the above, the Commission is satisfied that the potential environmental effects of the project are limited and can be reasonably mitigated to an acceptable level through adherence to, and implementation of, all of the recommended mitigation measures contained in the renewable energy project submission report and the renewable energy referral report. The Commission expects that 2079816 Alberta Ltd. will adhere to and implement all of those measures.

16. The Commission notes that a stand-alone, project-specific environmental protection plan and the project's initial renewable energy operations conservation and reclamation plan were not submitted with the application. Accordingly, the Commission imposes the following conditions of approval:

- c. 2079816 Alberta Ltd. must file a stand-alone, project-specific environmental protection plan, no later than one month before construction is scheduled to begin.
- d. 2079816 Alberta Ltd. must file the project's initial renewable energy operations conservation and reclamation plan, no later than one month before construction is scheduled to begin.

17. The Commission expects future applications from 2079816 Alberta Ltd. to satisfy all of the information requirements in Rule 007 for the application to be deemed complete.

18. Rule 033: *Post-approval Monitoring Requirements for Wind and Solar Power Plants* requires approval holders to submit to AEP and the AUC annual post-construction monitoring survey reports. Consequently, the Commission imposes the following condition of approval:

- e. 2079816 Alberta Ltd. shall submit a post-construction monitoring survey report to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and the Commission within 13 months of the project becoming operational, and on or before the same date every subsequent year for which AEP requires surveys, pursuant to subsection 3(3) of Rule 033: *Post-approval Monitoring Requirements for Wind and Solar Power Plants*.

19. As 2079816 Alberta Ltd. has not finalized the design or equipment for the project, the Commission imposes the following as a condition of approval:

- f. Once 2079816 Alberta Ltd. has finalized its equipment selection and project layout, it must file a final project update with the Commission to confirm that the project has stayed within the final project update specified allowances for solar power plants. The final project update must be filed at least 90 days prior to the start of construction.

20. The Commission notes that ATCO Electric Ltd. has no objections with the interconnection of the project to its distribution system subject to the technical feasibility of the interconnection, 2079816 Alberta Ltd.'s execution of a final interconnection proposal, and 2079816 Alberta Ltd. meeting ATCO Electric Ltd.'s interconnection requirements and the terms and conditions for connection of distributed generation.

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

4 Decision

22. Pursuant to sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 27178-A001 and grants 2079816 Alberta Ltd. the approvals set out in:

- Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval 27178-D02-2022 to construct and operate the Hanna Solar Project.
- Appendix 2 – Connection Order 27178-D03-2022 to connect the Hanna Solar Project to the ATCO Electric Ltd. distribution system.

23. The appendices will be distributed separately.

Dated on April 20, 2022.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Cairns Price
Commission Member

Appendix A – Summary of Commission conditions of approval in the decision

This section is intended to provide a summary of all conditions of approval specified in the decision for the convenience of readers. Conditions that require subsequent filings with the Commission will be tracked as directions in the AUC's eFiling System. In the event of any difference between the conditions in this section and those in the main body of the decision, the wording in the main body of the decision shall prevail.

The following are conditions of Decision 27178-D01-2022 that require subsequent filings with the Commission and will be included as conditions of Power Plant Approval 27178-D02-2022:

- 2079816 Alberta Ltd. must file a stand-alone, project-specific environmental protection plan, no later than one month before construction is scheduled to begin.
- 2079816 Alberta Ltd. must file the project's initial renewable energy operations conservation and reclamation plan, no later than one month before construction is scheduled to begin.
- 2079816 Alberta Ltd. shall submit a post-construction monitoring survey report to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and the Commission within 13 months of the project becoming operational, and on or before the same date every subsequent year for which AEP requires surveys, pursuant to subsection 3(3) of Rule 033: Post-approval Monitoring Requirements for Wind and Solar Power Plants.
- Once 2079816 Alberta Ltd. has finalized its equipment selection and project layout, it must file a final project update with the Commission to confirm that the project has stayed within the final project update specified allowances for solar power plants. The final project update must be filed at least 90 days prior to the start of construction.

The following are conditions of Decision 27178-D01-2022 that do not or may require subsequent filings with the Commission and will be included as conditions of Power Plant Approval 27178-D02-2022:

- 2079816 Alberta Ltd. shall use anti-reflective coating on the project's solar panels.
- 2079816 Alberta Ltd. shall file a report detailing any complaints or concerns it receives or is made aware of regarding solar glare from the project during its first year of operation, as well as 2079816 Alberta Ltd.'s response to the complaints or concerns. 2079816 Alberta Ltd. shall file this report no later than 13 months after the project becomes operational.