



AltaLink Management Ltd.

Jurassic Solar+ Project Connection

March 24, 2023

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 28064-D01-2023

AltaLink Management Ltd.

Jurassic Solar+ Project Connection

Proceeding 28064

Applications 28064-A001 to 28064-A003

March 24, 2023

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 from 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 approves the facility applications from AltaLink Management Ltd. for the Jurassic Solar+ Project Connection. The proposed development consists of altering an existing transmission line, connecting it to the solar project and constructing a new telecommunications tower.

2 Applications

2. Jurassic Solar GP Ltd. has approval from the Commission to construct and operate the Jurassic Solar+ Project consisting of a 220-megawatt solar power plant, a battery energy storage system with a storage capacity of up to 80-megawatt-hours and the associated Raptor 1080S Substation,¹ located approximately 6.4 kilometres (km) southwest of the hamlet of Iddesleigh in Special Area No. 2 and Cypress County.

3. Jurassic submitted a system access service request to the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) to connect the Jurassic Solar+ Project to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System. The AESO determined a technical solution to meet the need consisting of a new 240-kilovolt (kV) transmission line connecting the approved Raptor 1080S Substation to AltaLink's existing Transmission Line 944L. On February 21, 2023, under ISO Rules Section 501.3 - *Abbreviated Needs Approval Process*, the AESO issued a letter of approval for the need for transmission development to respond to the system access service request from the market participant.² The AESO then directed AltaLink to file a facility application with the Commission.

4. AltaLink Management Ltd. applied to the Commission for approval to alter existing Transmission Line 944L to accommodate the connection and for approval to connect Transmission Line 944L to Jurassic's approved Transmission Line 944AL.³ AltaLink also applied to construct and operate a new telecommunications tower, designated as the Raptor 1080R Radio Site, within Jurassic's approved Raptor 1080S Substation fenceline. The new telecommunications tower will be a self-supported steel lattice structure, up to 33 metres tall, with an antenna at the top.

5. The applications were filed under sections 14, 15, 18 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* and registered as applications 28064-A001 to 28064-A003 on March 2, 2023.

¹ Decision 27623-D01-2022: Jurassic Solar GP Ltd. – Jurassic Solar+ Project, Proceeding 27623, Applications 27623-A001 and 27623-A002, November 16, 2022.

² Exhibit 28064-X0005, Appendix TS5 AESO Direction Letters, PDF pages 1 to 3.

³ Decision 28049-D01-2023: Jurassic Solar GP Ltd. – Jurassic Solar+ Project Connection, Proceeding 28049, Application 28049-A001, March 20, 2023.

6. The targeted in-service date for the proposed development is December 14, 2023.
7. The costs of the proposed development will be contributed by Jurassic and there will be no system costs within AltaLink's scope of work for the connection of the solar project.

3 Findings

8. For the reasons that follow, the Commission finds that approval of the proposed development is in the public interest having regard to the social, economic, and other effects of the proposed facilities, including their effect on the environment.
9. The Commission finds that AltaLink's applications comply with the information requirements set out in Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*. The Commission also finds that the proposed development is consistent with meeting the approved need and the requirements of the AESO's functional specification.
10. AltaLink's participant involvement program meets the requirements of Rule 007. The Commission accepts that no Indigenous consultation was required as the proposed development is located on private land and will not impact Crown land.⁴ Based on the nature of the applications, and AltaLink's statement that no concerns about the proposed development were raised, a notice of application was not issued and a hearing was not required as the Commission considered that its decision or approval would not directly and adversely affect the rights of a person under Section 9 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.
11. The Commission accepts that AltaLink and Jurassic will sign an interconnection agreement allowing AltaLink to access its telecommunications tower within the fenced area of Jurassic's Raptor 1080S Substation for the construction, operation and maintenance of its facility.
12. AltaLink and Jurassic jointly retained Matrix Solutions Inc. to conduct an environmental evaluation and prepare an environmental protection plan. The evaluation considered the Jurassic Solar+ Project plus the connection facilities. Matrix concluded that the transmission line alteration for the connection and telecommunications tower were not expected to have significant residual effects on environmental features. Construction and operation of the proposed development will follow AltaLink's environmental protection plan and relevant AltaLink standards and procedures that include mitigations for soil handling, mitigating potential interactions with wildlife, and invasive species control measures.⁵ Given that the proposed development only involves modifying an existing structure on Transmission Line 944L to accommodate the T-tap connection; the new telecommunications tower is sited within the fenceline of the approved Raptor 1080S Substation; and the facilities are sited on cultivated lands, the Commission agrees that the environmental impacts of the proposed development are not expected to be significant.

⁴ Exhibit 28064-X0015, Appendix TS32 Consultation Material, PDF page 10.

⁵ Exhibit 28064-X0012, Appendix TS24 Environmental Evaluation, PDF page 68.

13. Based on the foregoing, the Commission considers the applications to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

14. In the course of reviewing these applications, the Commission discovered that Permit and Licence U2013-172⁶ for existing Transmission Line 944L incorrectly states and shows that the transmission line terminates at Dome-Empress 163S Substation, rather than Jenner 275S Substation. The Commission will correct this error in the new permit and licence issued as a result of this decision.

4 Decision

15. Pursuant to sections 14, 15, 18 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the applications and grants AltaLink Management Ltd. the following approvals set out in appendixes to this decision:

- Telecommunications Facilities Permit and Licence 28064-D02-2023, to construct and operate a telecommunications tower, designated as Raptor 1080R Radio Site (Appendix 1).
- Connection Order 28064-D03-2023, to connect Transmission Line 944L to Transmission Line 944AL (Appendix 2).
- Transmission Line Permit and Licence 28064-D04-2023, to alter Transmission Line 944L (Appendix 3).

16. The appendixes will be distributed separately.

Dated on March 24, 2023.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Danielle Glover
Director – Electric Transmission, Facilities Division
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

⁶ Transmission Line Permit and Licence U2013-172, Proceeding 2515, Application 1609420, April 9, 2013.