



Alberta Electric System Operator

Wild Rose 1 and Wild Rose 2 Wind Energy Interconnection Needs Identification Document

August 25, 2011

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2011-352: Alberta Electric System Operator
Wild Rose 1 and Wild Rose 2 Wind Energy Interconnection
Application No. 1606722
Proceeding ID No. 913

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1 Introduction

1. On October 29, 2010, the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) filed Application No. 1606722 with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) pursuant to Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act* requesting approval of the needs identification document (NID) for the Wild Rose 1 and Wild Rose 2 Wind Energy Interconnection (the project).
2. On November 25, 2010, AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) filed Application No. 1606789 with the AUC pursuant to sections 14 and 15 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* requesting approval to construct and operate the facilities identified in AESO's NID application (the facility application).
3. In accordance with Section 15.4 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the AESO and AltaLink requested that the AESO's NID application be combined for consideration with AltaLink's facility application. The Commission combined the NID application and the facility application under Proceeding ID No. 913.
4. The Commission issued a notice of applications on April 14, 2011, with a deadline to file submissions on or before May 13, 2011. Seven parties filed submissions, by the deadline date or shortly thereafter, in response to the notice of applications, but none of the submissions indicated concerns with the NID application.

2 Discussion

5. The AESO, in accordance with its responsibilities pursuant to Section 29 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, must provide system access service on the transmission system in a manner that provides market participants with a reasonable opportunity to exchange electricity. The NID was prepared in response to a request by NaturEner Energy Canada Inc., the market participant in this case, for the interconnection of its 200-megawatt (MW) Wild Rose 1 wind power plant and 200-MW Wild Rose 2 wind power plant to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES).
6. The transmission facilities proposed to meet the need for the connection of Wild Rose 1 wind power plant include construction of the new Elkwater 264S switching substation, approximately 36 kilometres (km) of new single circuit 240-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to be designated 978L, approximately 77 km of new single circuit 240-kV transmission line to be designated 1009L, rebuild of 2 km of existing single circuit 138-kV transmission line 668L, alterations to existing Cypress 562S substation and Bowmanton 244S substation (approved by

the Commission in [Decision 2011-250¹](#)) and related connection, switchgear, telecommunication, and protection and control equipment.

7. The transmission facilities proposed to meet the need for the connection of Wild Rose 2 wind power plant include the construction of approximately 1 km of new single circuit 240-kV transmission line to be designated 1076L, interconnection of existing Eagle Butte 274S substation to the AIES, and the interconnection of the new Elkwater 264S substation to 240-kV double circuit transmission line 964/983L.

8. The AESO directed AltaLink to conduct a participant involvement program (PIP) on its behalf with respect to the NID application in accordance with AUC Rule 007: *Rules Respecting Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, and Industrial System Designations* (AUC Rule 007).

9. AltaLink conducted a PIP for its facility application and on behalf of the AESO for the NID application. AltaLink directed mail-outs to all landowners, residents, and occupants within 800 metres of the proposed developments. The AESO advertised its intention to file the proposed NID in the Bow Island Commentator newspaper on October 12, 2010, and the Medicine Hat News on October 15, 2010.

10. The AESO submitted that the project would cost \$94 million (+20/-10%) with the customer portion estimated at \$89 million and the system portion estimated at \$5 million.

11. On May 25, 2011, the Commission received a letter from the AESO requesting approval of the NID application. In its request, the AESO noted that submissions were received from L & D Farms Ltd., Harry Hoffman, Eagle View Farms Ltd., and Coyote Coulee Farms Ltd. in response to the Commission's notice of applications. The AESO submitted that the objections were related to AltaLink's related facility Application No. 1606789 and that it was clear that the submissions did not relate to the determination of the need for the project.

12. Three additional submissions (from Brock and Juanita Weisgerber, Edward Weisgerber and Don Kanewischer Holdings Ltd.) were received by the Commission after the notice of applications deadline date, as well as after the filing of the AESO's letter mentioned above. The Commission notes that none of these submissions raised concerns with respect to the determination of the need for the project.

13. On June 10, 2011, the Commission issued a ruling with respect to the AESO's NID application. The Commission considered that no objection or concern had been raised by the interveners regarding the AESO's NID application and that, pursuant to Section 38(e) of the *Electric Utilities Act, Transmission Regulation*, no person had submitted that the AESO's assessment of the need for the project was technically deficient or against the public interest. The Commission informed the AESO in the ruling that the NID application was approved separately from AltaLink's facility application. The AltaLink application remains before the Commission.

¹ Decision 2011-250: AltaLink Management Ltd. Cassils 324S – Bowmanton 244S – Whitla 251S Substations and Associated 240-kV Transmission Lines, Application No. 1606402, Proceeding ID No. 748, June 8, 2011.

3 Findings

14. Section 38(e) of the *Electric Utilities Act, Transmission Regulation* states that the Commission must consider the Independent System Operator's assessment of the need for a project to be correct unless an interested party satisfies the Commission that the assessment is technically deficient or that approval of the NID would not be in the public interest.

15. Considering that no objection or concern has been raised by the interveners regarding the AESO's NID approval application, and more particularly, that the interveners have stated that they have no concerns or objections to the AESO's NID approval application, in accordance with Section 38(e) of the *Electric Utilities Act, Transmission Regulation*, the Commission approves the NID application as filed.

4 Decision

16. Pursuant to Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act* and Section 38 of the *Transmission Regulation*, the Commission approves Application No. 1606722 grants the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Needs Identification Document Approval No. U2011-266 – August 25, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on August 25, 2011.

The Alberta Utilities Commission



Willie Grieve
Chair



Mark Kolesar
Commission Member



Anne Michaud
Commission Member