

December 5, 2024

Travis Tuhscherer, CFA
Director Energy Marketing and Business Analysis
The City of Medicine Hat
580 First Street S.E.
Medicine Hat, Alta. T1A 8E6

Dear Travis Tuhscherer:

**City of Medicine Hat
Saamis Solar Park Approval Transfer to City of Medicine Hat
Proceeding 29273
Application 29273-A001**

Information request round 1

1. On August 27, 2024, the City of Medicine Hat filed the subject application with the Alberta Utilities Commission. The AUC has reviewed the application and has the following information requests. To maintain application processing timelines, your response would be appreciated by **December 19, 2024**.
2. Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at 403-592-4367 or by email at kloria.wen@auc.ab.ca.

Yours truly,

Kloria Wen
Lead Application Officer
Facilities Division

Attachment

**City of Medicine Hat
Saamis Solar Park Approval Transfer to City of Medicine Hat
Proceeding 29273
Application 29273-A001**

**Alberta Utilities Commission Information Request Round 1 to the
City of Medicine Hat (City)**

City-AUC-2024DEC05-001

References: Exhibit 29273-X0001, 2024-08-27 Transfer of Ownership Cover Letter_Final Signed, PDF pages 2 and 3;

Exhibit 29273-X0014, EUA Section 95 independent assessment report - 2024-11-08, PDF page 3

Issue: Phase 2 ownership

Quotes: Exhibit 29273-X0001, PDF page 2:

“In order to better match the generation from the Project with load growth, the City is exploring options to construct the Project in two or more phases, with the first phase preliminarily being set at no more than 75MWac [megawatt alternating current].”

Exhibit 29273-X0001, PDF page 3:

“If an amending application is required, the City will submit the appropriate application once more details are known.”

Exhibit 29273-X0014, PDF page 3:

“The City proposes to construct the Project in phases. The first phase would add up to 75 MW of solar generation capacity to the City’s fleet of generating units. The Assessment addresses whether adding up to 75 MW of solar capacity to the City’s existing generating units is in accordance with ss. 95(4) of the EUA [*Electric Utilities Act*]. The Assessment does not address whether constructing and operating the remaining 250 MW of Project capacity in subsequent phases would be in accordance with ss. 95(4).”

Preamble: The City is exploring options to split the construction of the project into phases. The independent assessment obtained by the Commission only considered the first phase of the project (75 MW). The Commission wishes to explore whether the City intends to hold an approval for the entire project if it is only intending to construct a portion of it at this time.

Request:

- (a) Please clarify whether the City is of the view that it can hold the current approval of the entire project at this time, given that the independent assessment only considered whether an additional 75 MW of solar capacity is in accordance with Section 95(4) of the *Electric Utilities Act*.
- (b) Please clarify whether the current project owner (Saamis Solar Park Limited) intends or is willing to submit an amendment application prior to the transfer to split up the current approval to reflect the project being constructed in phases.

- (c) Please clarify whether the current project owner (Saamis Solar Park Limited) intends or is willing to retain ownership of Phase 2 of the project.
- (d) When does the City intend to construct the remaining 250 MW of the project?

City-AUC-2024DEC05-002

Reference: Exhibit 29273-X0001, 2024-08-27 Transfer of Ownership Cover Letter_Final Signed, PDF pages 2 to 3

Issue: Site layout

Quote: “In order to better match the generation from the Project with load growth, the City is exploring options to construct the Project in two or more phases, with the first phase preliminarily being set at no more than 75MWac. The changes are anticipated to remain within the outlined allowances within the AUC Approvals and will be reflected in the final project update which must be filed with the AUC at least 90 days prior to the start of construction. The City has contracted Kilo Power to prepare a preliminary site layout for the purposes of this application to ensure feasibility. Design for the remaining 250MW will be completed at a later date. If an amending application is required, the City will submit the appropriate application once more details are known.”

Request:

Please submit the preliminary site layout from Kilo Power and provide a summary of any other technical details regarding the site layout of the proposed 75-MW phase. If the preliminary site layout has not yet been prepared, please explain why.

City-AUC-2024DEC05-003

Issue: Public consultation

Request:

- (a) Please explain whether the City conducted public consultation ahead of its decision to acquire the Saamis Solar Park and provide a summary of any public consultation.
- (b) What are the City’s consultation policies as they relate to asset purchases such as the Saamis Solar Park?
- (c) Was the City’s intention or decision to purchase the project made prior to or during the Commission’s consideration of the original application (Proceeding 27788)?