

## Power Plant Approval 27594-D02-2022

Appendix 1 to Decision 27594-D01-2022	October 24, 2022
Big Sky Solar GP Inc. Big Sky Solar Power Plant	Proceeding 27594 Application 27594-A001

Big Sky Solar GP Inc. (BSS), by Application 27594-A001, registered on August 24, 2022, applied to the Alberta Utilities Commission for approval to construct and operate the Big Sky Solar Power Plant in the Municipal District of Acadia No. 34.

Pursuant to sections 11 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approved the application in Decision 27594-D01-2022,<sup>1</sup> and granted an approval to BSS to construct and operate the power plant, subject to the provisions of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* and the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, any regulations made under the acts, any orders made under the acts, the Commission rules made pursuant to the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, and the following terms and conditions:

1. The power plant shall be located in the southeast quarter of Section 6, Township 26, Range 2, west of the Fourth Meridian and northeast quarter and west half of Section 31 and the west half of Section 32, Township 25, Range 2, west of the Fourth Meridian, as further described in the application.
2. The power plant shall consist of an array of single-axis tracking solar photovoltaic modules with a total generating capability of up to 140-megawatts, 47 inverter/transformer units, an underground collector system, a fence and internal access roads, and as further described in the application.
3. The approval is subject to the following conditions which have been described in the decision:
  - a. Big Sky Solar GP Inc. shall update the environmental protection plan with dates and conditions for bird nest sweeps that are consistent with the Environment and Climate Change Canada recommended nesting period for the project area's nesting zone. Big Sky Solar GP Inc. shall submit the updated environmental protection plan to the Commission no later than 90 days before commencement of the project construction.
  - b. Big Sky Solar GP Inc. shall submit an annual post-construction monitoring survey report to Alberta Environment and Parks and the Commission no later than January 31 of the year following the mortality monitoring period, and on or before the same date every subsequent year for which Alberta Environment and Parks requires surveys pursuant to

<sup>1</sup> Decision 27594-D01-2022: Big Sky Solar GP Inc. - Big Sky Solar Project, Proceeding 27594, Applications 27594-A001 and 27594-A002, October 24, 2022.

subsection 3(3) of Rule 033: *Post-approval Monitoring Requirements for Wind and Solar Power Plants*.

- c. Big Sky Solar GP Inc. shall use an anti-reflective coating on the project solar panels.
  - d. Big Sky Solar GP Inc. shall file a report with the Commission 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 BSS' response to the complaints or concerns. BSS shall file this report no later than 13 months after the project becomes operational.
  - e. Once Big Sky Solar GP Inc. 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 allowances for solar power plants. The final project update must be filed at least 60 days prior to the start of construction.
4. Unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, construction of the power plant shall be completed by January 31, 2025.
  5. BSS shall notify the Commission within 30 days of completing the power plant.
  6. BSS shall obtain Commission approval prior to making any substantive changes to the power plant or substantially varying the design or specifications of the power plant from what was stated in the application or what the Commission has approved.
  7. This approval is not transferable unless approved by the Commission.

The Commission may cancel or suspend this approval, in whole or in part, in accordance with Section 41 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, or may review this approval, in whole or in part upon its own motion, or upon an application by an interested party, in accordance with Section 10 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

The Commission may, no later than 60 days of the date of this approval and without notice, correct typographical, spelling and calculation errors and other similar types of errors and post the corrected approval on its website.

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Renée Marx  
Commission Member