



Hope Solar Investments

Warner Solar Power Project Time Extension

February 26, 2025

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 29791-D01-2025

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Proceeding 29791

Application 29791-A001

February 26, 2025

Published by the:

Alberta Utilities Commission

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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.

Contents

1	Decision summary.....	1
2	Application	1
3	Findings.....	1
4	Decision	2

1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves an application from Hope Solar Investments to extend the completion date of the Warner Solar Power Project.

2 Application

2. Hope Solar Investments, pursuant to Approval 28298-D01-2023,¹ has approval to construct and operate a 4.2-megawatt solar power plant near Warner, designated as the Warner Solar Power Project.

3. Hope filed an application with the Commission for approval to extend the construction completion date for the Warner Solar Power Project from January 31, 2025, to September 30, 2027.

4. Hope stated that construction for the project has not commenced due to regulatory and economic uncertainty of renewable generation projects in Alberta. Hope added that it has not finalized equipment design and procurement and therefore has not yet procured any long-lead equipment. Hope stated that it expects to commence construction in the summer of 2026, with an expected in-service date of September 30, 2027.

5. Hope confirmed that the stakeholders were updated on the revised project schedule and no concerns were raised.

6. Hope indicated that the project's renewable energy referral report is valid throughout the requested construction time.

7. Hope confirmed that FortisAlberta Inc. has no concerns with the revised project schedule.

3 Findings

8. Hope has provided information respecting the need, nature and duration of the requested time extension which supports its request for an extension, and the Commission approves a time extension to September 30, 2027, for the completion of the power plant.

9. The Commission notes that the completion date for the project was January 31, 2025, and that Hope filed the time extension application on January 17, 2025. The Commission acknowledges Hope's reasoning for why the time extension application was filed shortly prior to

¹ Power Plant Approval 28298-D01-2023, Proceeding 28298, Application 28298-A001, July 13, 2023.

the construction completion date. However, the Commission emphasizes the importance of following the requirements as indicated in Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*. The Commission advises that should Hope submit a future time extension application, it should be done well in advance of the approved construction completion date to give the Commission sufficient time to consider the request.

10. While the Commission finds that an extension is reasonable in this case, repeated time extension applications are contrary to an efficient and effective regulatory system. Any subsequent requests for a time extension will require compelling support that demonstrates the delay resulted from exceptional and/or unforeseeable circumstance. Extraordinary circumstances should be construed narrowly. Electrical market certainty and conditions impacting power purchase agreements are now foreseeable factors which should not cause further delay. An example of extraordinary circumstances would be that construction is substantially complete, but adverse weather conditions preclude commissioning necessitating a short time extension.

11. Rule 033: *Post-approval Monitoring Requirements for Wind and Solar Power Plants* requires approval holders to submit to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and the Commission annual post-construction monitoring survey reports. Therefore, the Commission imposes the following condition of approval:

- a. Hope shall submit an annual post-construction monitoring survey report to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) no later than January 31 of the year following the mortality monitoring period and submit the annual post-construction monitoring survey report and the AEPA's post-construction monitoring response letter to the Commission within one month of its issuance to Hope. These reports and response letters shall be subsequently filed with the same time constraints every subsequent year for which AEPA requires surveys pursuant to Section 3(3) of Rule 033: *Post-approval Monitoring Requirements for Wind and Solar Power Plants*.

4 Decision

12. Pursuant to sections 11 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 29791-A001 and grants Hope Solar Investments the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval 29791-D02-2025 to construct and operate the Warner Solar Power Project.

13. The appendix will be distributed separately.

Dated on February 26, 2025.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Matthew Oliver, CD
Commission Member