



Cascade Power GP Ltd.

Cascade Power Plant Project Amendment

April 2, 2025

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 29827-D01-2025

Cascade Power GP Ltd.

Cascade Power Plant Project Amendment

Proceeding 29827

Application 29827-A001

April 2, 2025

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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.

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1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves an application from Cascade Power GP Ltd. to increase the total generating capability of the Cascade Power Plant Project.

2 Application

2. Cascade, pursuant to Approval 28975-D02-2024,¹ has approval to construct and operate a 900-megawatt (MW) combined-cycle natural gas power plant, designated as the Cascade Power Plant Project, in the Edson area.

3. Cascade filed an application with the Commission for approval to increase the total generating capability of the power plant from 900 MW to 932 MW, achieved by additional duct firing and tuning of the gas and steam turbines.

4. On August 24, 2023, Cascade submitted a System Access Service Request (SASR) to the Alberta Electric System Operator for the additional capability.² On September 26, 2023, Cascade provided funding to AltaLink Management Ltd. to participate in the SASR stages 1 and 2 cluster process.³

3 Findings

5. For the reasons outlined below, the Commission finds that approval of the project amendment is in the public interest having regard to the social, economic, environmental and other effects of the project.

6. Cascade stated that it consulted with the Yellowhead Synergy Group along with industrial stakeholders near the site and no concerns were raised regarding the potential power plant capability increase. The Commission finds that Cascade's participant involvement program satisfies the requirements of Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*.

7. Due to the nature of the application, a notice of application was not issued and, therefore, a hearing was not required as the Commission considered that its decision or order would not

¹ Power Plant Approval 28975-D02-2024, Proceeding 28975, Application 28975-A002, April 25, 2024.

² Exhibit 29827-X0002, Exhibit 2.

³ Exhibit 29827-X0004, Exhibit 3.

directly and adversely affect the rights of a person pursuant to Section 9 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

8. Cascade retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to conduct a noise impact assessment (NIA) for the project amendment. In the NIA, Stantec concluded that the sound levels from the project are below the prescribed permissible sound levels and will comply with Rule 012: *Noise Control*. Cascade clarified that the baseline case has not changed but changes proposed for the power plant, including equipment layouts, reduction in equipment quantity and decrease in acoustic specification for the air-cooled condenser resulted in a decrease in sound levels for the Project Case.⁴ Consequently, the overall cumulative sound levels have decreased. The Commission accepts the conclusion in the NIA that noise from the amended project will remain compliant with Rule 012.

9. The Cascade Power Plant Project currently has an *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA)* Approval 00427377-00-00 that defines the current nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emission limits.⁵ The Commission understands that with the increase in generating capability there will also be an increase in NO_x emissions beyond what is currently allowed within the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* Approval. Cascade is seeking an amendment to this limit.⁶

10. The Commission accepts this approach and expects Cascade to strictly comply with all approved emission limits as provided in the current *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* Approval 00427377-00-00 and any forthcoming amendments.

11. Based upon the information provided, the Commission is satisfied that the proposal is of a minor nature, no person is directly and adversely affected by the proposal and no significant adverse environmental impact will be caused by the proposed alterations, thereby meeting the requirements of Section 2(1) of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*.

12. Cascade submitted that substantial completion of the power plant was achieved on June 16, 2024. The Commission has removed conditions 3 and 4 from Approval 28975-D02-2024.

4 Decision

13. Pursuant to sections 11 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 29827-A001 and grants Cascade Power GP Ltd. the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval 29827-D02-2025 to alter and operate the Cascade Power Plant Project.

⁴ Exhibit 29827-X0011, 29827_AUC information requests Cascade-AUC2025FEB27-001 to 004 Cascade response.

⁵ Exhibit 29827-X0011, 29827_AUC information requests Cascade-AUC2025FEB27-001 to 004 Cascade response, PDF page 1 and 2.

⁶ Exhibit 29827-X0011, 29827_AUC information requests Cascade-AUC2025FEB27-001 to 004 Cascade response, PDF page 1.

14. The appendix will be distributed separately.

Dated on April 2, 2025.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Carolyn Dahl Rees
Chair