

Halkirk 2 Wind Project Virtual Workshop's Q&As

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 @ 5 pm

How big will the proposed substation be in comparison to the existing Tinchebray Substation?

The proposed substation for Halkirk 2 Wind will be approximately the same size or a little bit smaller than the existing Tinchebray Substation.

How does Capital Power define the difference between a stakeholder and a landowner?

Every one that is impacted by the project is a stakeholder. The stakeholders are the residents that live within the project footprint, landowners whether they live on the land within the project area or are an absentee landowner, Indigenous groups and the municipality (Paintearth County). There are many different types of stakeholders. The landowners are the people who are on title and are the participating landowners that have project infrastructure proposed on their land.

How will Capital Power notify stakeholders who do not reside in the project area about road closures?

Capital Power will notify all residents and interested stakeholders about road closures and the daily schedule for concrete, gravel and turbine components via email. Any stakeholders can request to be added to the distribution list. Additionally, we understand the County of Paintearth has an App that we will explore using to share traffic-related information.

You mentioned that the lighting is in your plans. What would prevent this new system from being installed or can we get assurance that it will be installed?

Subject to applicable approvals, Capital Power plans to install an Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS).

Is Capital Power willing to sign up additional residents?

We're always willing to listen to resident's interested in participating in the project. If there's an agreement to be had, we can talk about it for sure.

How does Capital Power decide on the placement of wind turbines?

There are several factors that are considered for the placement of wind turbines, including siting on participants land, setbacks from wetlands, road right-of-ways and existing infrastructure such as power lines and pipelines. This determines what are considered buildable areas for constructing the project and then infrastructure is sited in the best way to capture the wind resource. Constraints are the primary factor we look at when siting the wind turbines. When we layer those together, we get a buildable area that captures the wind resource.

Who is the manufacturer of the wind turbines that are being proposed?

Currently, we do not have a manufacturer selected for Halkirk 2 Wind. The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) Rule 007 has been updated to allow project proponents to have flexibility around the vendor. We've outlined characteristics of the proposed wind turbines and upon final selection of the wind turbine those characteristics must be in line with what we submit in our application. i.e., blade length, noise, etc.

When the wind turbines are sited, you consider the residents. Is that the only thing that is considered?

There are several setbacks that we're required to follow whether they're environmental, part of existing right-of-ways or infrastructure. We layer all these setbacks together, which presents a buildable area where we can site wind turbines to best capture the wind resource and abide by all the regulatory requirements. We also talk to landowners to understand their preference for the location of sites within that buildable area and wherever possible consider feedback or concerns that we've heard from neighbours to determine the best possible location.

How can a Noise Impact Assessment be completed if the make and model of the wind turbine is not yet confirmed?

The Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) will be modelled using the parameters under consideration, such as hub height, noise emissions and quantity of wind turbines. The NIA is initially done with the parameters (i.e., tallest, largest and highest emissions) and as the design evolves and is finalized, the NIA will be updated to reflect those final design parameters for the selected wind turbine and quantity of wind turbines.

Are the proposed changes to the project required to follow the AUC's revised Rule 007? Or more clearly is the whole new application to follow the new Rule 007? Are any parts grandfathered due to the previous approval?

Yes, the proposed changes to the project must follow the AUC's revised Rule 007 that came into effect on Sept. 1, 2021. The proposed changes will be filed as an amendment application to Halkirk 2 Wind's existing approval, but must follow the updated Rule 007. To keep all stakeholders informed about the proposed changes, Capital Power has maintained the greater notification requirement (2,000 metres) under the previous iteration of Rule 007 rather than decreasing the notification area to 1,500 metres, which is required under the revised Rule 007.

If the revised project design changes are not approved by the AUC, does that mean Capital Power would proceed with the approved (Proceeding 25047) project design with 74 wind turbines?

It's unlikely that we would revert to the approved layout given the substantial changes in the wind turbine technology over the past few years.

In your noise evaluation do you consider shift workers? Many residents work nights and sleep days.

The permissible sound limits under AUC Rule 012, which governs noise have different noise limits for daytime and nighttime, which are 50 dBA and 40 dBA respectively. While it's lower for nighttime, typically the project (wind turbines) has the same noise emissions for daytime and nighttime. The primary driver for the difference in the cumulative noise (total sound) are other ambient noise sources. E.g., traffic. In short, any noise emissions specifically from the project will be the same regardless of whether it's daytime or nighttime.

How will Capital Power ensure that traffic will continue to flow and is safe on Twp 400?

Community safety is of utmost importance. We will enforce a strict speed limit with our contractors. Construction traffic on Twp 400 will probably be limited to 30 km/h. We do not have any construction activities that will require extended road closures on Twp 400. There will likely be only very brief closures of a few minutes to accommodate oversized loads turning off Twp 400. Traffic control will be present to ensure it's managed safely.

If residents or landowners witness unsafe driving practices during construction they can notify Capital Power, so we can address those concerns.

Where will Capital Power get the water needed for roads and concrete?

We understand the community need for water, that it's a precious resource and that supply is limited in the community. Water used for the project (e.g., concrete production) needs to be treated and would be trucked from a location outside the project area to a batch plant.

What is a safe distance between a wind turbine and an aerodrome?

Capital Power will follow all required Transport and Nav Canada requirements. For additional safety measures and at the request of the community, we have engaged an aviation expert. We will abide by the recommendations of their report.

Due to the complexity of this topic, the concerns from the community and because Capital Power is working with an external expert, we'd like to arrange a meeting with yourselves, other community members and us with the aviation expert to discuss the details of the report, answer questions about the report and discuss concerns.

Would Capital Power consider relocating the lay down area near the new proposed substation along RR151?

Yes, Capital Power has heard the suggestion to relocate the laydown yard from its proposed location to another location located on Range Road 151 near the proposed substation location. We understand and appreciate the traffic, emergency services and safety concerns. We're evaluating the suggested location with our design and engineering team and will share an update with the community in the future.

Thursday, December 2, 2021 @ 10 am

How much water will be used for the concrete for the bases?

Each turbine foundation would require about 50-60 cubic meters of water for the concrete mix.

Where will the water required for use in the foundations come from?

Water used for the project (e.g., concrete production) needs to be treated and would be trucked from a location outside the project area to a batch plant. Likely from a municipality like the Town of Stettler that has a water treatment facility.

Will the volume of water vary depending on the size of the wind turbine we choose? i.e., does a larger turbine = a larger foundation.

Generally, there will not a big difference. There could be a 20-30% difference in the volume of concrete required depending on the size of concrete we will use.

Is the size of the proposed substation based on the current proposed project or will it be larger to accommodate a future expansion or capacity? i.e., Halkirk Wind 3

The substation is being sized with a transformer to meet the requirements for this project up to 150 MW and nothing larger. The transformer limits the amount of power that can go onto the grid. It's being sized for 150 MW and not for anything more than that, which means it's not possible to put through more power in the future. Additional capacity would require another transformer or a substation expansion, which is not being considered.

There are two local water hauling companies in the area. Will they be given any consideration or option to supply that service?

Yes, absolutely. We want to use local vendors whenever possible. With that said, we have an EPC contractor that we cannot necessarily direct to use specific contractors, but we encourage them to use local contractors as much as possible.

Will a camp be built to house construction staff? If so, where would it be located?

No, definitely not. Based on construction of Halkirk 1, workers would likely commute from the surrounding area, including Stettler. They would rent houses, use local hotels and campgrounds. We've never built a wind project that included a work camp.