

**PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
NOTICE OF MINISTERIAL DECISION
PURSUANT TO SECTION 15
*THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT***

**SEVEN STARS ENERGY INC.
SEVEN STARS ENERGY PROJECT**

WHEREAS:

- A. Pursuant to subsection 8(1) of *The Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act), Seven Stars Energy Inc. (Seven Stars, the proponent), a subsidiary of Enbridge Inc., applied for ministerial approval to construct, operate and decommission a 200-megawatt wind energy facility approximately 5 kilometers southeast of Weyburn in the Rural Municipalities of Griffin No. 66 and Weyburn No. 67 (the development).
- B. Pursuant to section 10 of the Act, the Minister of Environment (the Minister) gave notice of the assessment to be conducted.
- C. Pursuant to clause 9(1)(b) of the Act, an environmental impact statement, consisting of a document entitled “Seven Stars Energy Project Environmental Impact Statement” dated April 2026 (the statement), was submitted to the Minister.
- D. Pursuant to section 11 of the Act, the Minister has reviewed the statement and has made the statement and review available for public inspection.
- E. The Minister is satisfied that all the requirements of the Act have been met, including those required of the proponent, and has concluded that the development ought to be approved subject to terms and conditions.

NOW THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE THAT, pursuant to clause 15(1)(a) of the Act, Ministerial Approval is hereby given to the proponent to proceed with the development subject to the following terms and conditions:

- 1. The proponent shall proceed with the development in the manner described in the statement except where alterations are required by the subsequent terms and conditions of this approval.
- 2. The proponent shall inform the Minister, in the manner described in subsection 16(1) of the Act, of any change to the development that does not conform to the terms and conditions of this approval.

3. The proponent shall follow the requirements of the laws and regulations of the Province of Saskatchewan, respecting the design, construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the development.
4. This approval is not an environmental approval with respect to any ancillary feature of this development, for example, but not limited to power transmission lines, natural gas pipelines and water supply lines and provincial or rural municipality roads, that is the responsibility of a party other than the proponent. If required, such features will be considered under separate application to be submitted by the responsible party.
5. Where there is discrepancy between a condition of this approval and any document submitted by the proponent, the condition of this approval shall take precedence.
6. The proponent shall notify the Ministry of Environment's Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch (the ministry) in writing of the date the development begins operation.
7. The proponent shall adhere to the management triggers and post-construction monitoring requirements of the *Adaptive Management Guidelines for Saskatchewan Wind Energy Projects*.
8. The proponent shall submit post-construction monitoring results by February 1 following the years when monitoring is required as outlined in the *Adaptive Management Guidelines for Saskatchewan Wind Energy Projects*.
9. The proponent shall submit a revised adaptive management plan for review by the ministry by February 1 following the fifth and tenth years of operation.
10. The proponent shall submit for ministry approval a plan for ongoing community engagement and complaint resolution, prior to initiating construction of the development. The plan shall include, at a minimum:
 - a. Plans for engaging with residents and landowners, municipalities, Indigenous communities and other interested stakeholders, including a proposed schedule;
 - b. Procedures for receiving, tracking, responding to and resolving complaints in a reasonable and timely manner. The proponent shall maintain confidential records of all complaints and make such records available to the ministry, upon request;
 - c. A publicly available mechanism and schedule for reporting on compliance with commitments in the statement and approval conditions; and,
 - d. A commitment to periodically reviewing and updating the plan, with any material revisions submitted to the ministry for approval.

The approved plan shall be implemented upon commencement of construction and remain in effect until completion of decommissioning and reclamation activities,

unless otherwise approved by the ministry.

11. The proponent shall submit a post-construction monitoring report outlining how applicable commitments in the commitments register were met during construction. The report will be publicly posted on Saskatchewan's Publication's Centre.
12. The development must commence within five years of the issuance date of this approval. If it has not commenced within five years of the issuance date of this approval, the Minister shall give the proponent 30 days to rectify the breach or to make representations as to why an extension of the five-year time period is warranted. If the breach is not rectified and an extension of time is not granted by the Minister, this approval expires.
13. This Ministerial Approval takes effect on the date of signing.

Dated at Regina, Saskatchewan this 14 day of July, 2026

original signed by

ISSUED BY:

Darlene Rowden
Minister of Environment

**REASONS FOR DECISION
MINISTERIAL APPROVAL
PURSUANT TO SECTION 15
*THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT***

**SEVEN STARS ENERGY INC.
SEVEN STARS ENERGY PROJECT**

Introduction

In February 2025, Seven Stars Energy Inc. (Seven Stars, the proponent), a subsidiary of Enbridge Inc., submitted an application for the Seven Stars Energy Project (the project). Seven Stars self-declared the project a “development” under *The Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act) and requested a ministerial decision under section 15 of the Act. Prior to receiving a decision, the project is required to undergo an environmental impact assessment (assessment). The assessment provides information needed by the Minister of Environment (the Minister) to determine if adequate environmental safeguards are in place for a proposed project to proceed and, if so, under what conditions.

Seven Stars is proposing to construct, operate and decommission a 200-megawatt wind energy facility located approximately 5 kilometres (km) southeast of Weyburn in the Rural Municipalities of Griffin No. 66 and Weyburn No. 67. SaskPower has signed a power purchase agreement with Seven Stars to provide energy to the electrical grid.

Application of *The Environmental Assessment Act*

Under subsection 8(1) of the Act, a person shall not proceed with a “development” until ministerial approval has been received. The Act further sets out process requirements for the undertaking of the assessment.

On February 6, 2025, Seven Stars submitted a draft terms of reference, self-declared the project to be a development and requested approval under section 15 of the Act. The draft terms of reference was circulated for technical review and accepted on March 26, 2025. Pursuant to section 10 of the Act, public notice announcing an assessment was underway for the project was placed in local newspapers in June 2025. A draft environmental impact statement (statement) was received on February 9, 2026.

The draft statement underwent technical review which identified environmental and technical issues that required revisions and additional clarification before the assessment process could proceed. The proponent submitted a revised statement on April 14, 2026. Following review of the additional information provided, the

ministry accepted the statement on May 5, 2026. Public review of the statement was completed between May 23 and June 23, 2026.

Comments received during the technical and public review of the statement allow for an informed decision regarding the technical merits and potential environmental impacts of the project. The ministry conducted detailed analysis of all information collected during the assessment and this information has been considered in the decision on the project.

Ministerial decision options under subsection 15(1) of the Act are:

- a) Give approval to proceed with the development and impose any terms and conditions considered necessary or advisable; or
- b) Refuse to approve the development.

The ministry conducted detailed analysis of all information presented in the statement. I have carefully considered this analysis and information in the course of reaching my decision on the project.

Engagement and Public Review

Seven Stars engaged with stakeholders including residents and landowners, the RMs of Griffin and Weyburn, the City of Weyburn, as well as First Nation and Métis communities near the project. Engagement methods included in-person meetings, phone calls, a project website and email address, and public open houses. Comments received during engagement activities related to the proximity of the project to populated areas, health and safety concerns, visual impacts, noise and shadow flicker, impacts to property values, liability for turbine failures and decommissioning, environmental impacts and road use and maintenance. Concerns were also raised regarding the need for the project, perception of division within the communities, and trust in and the adequacy of the engagement process.

In response to feedback received during the assessment, the proponent modified the project layout to increase setbacks from non-participating residences to 1,500 meters (m); committed to utilizing an aircraft detection lighting system; and will conduct well water quality testing before and after construction for interested local residents (within 2 km). Seven Stars has also committed to continuing engagement over the life of the project and will implement a complaint resolution process to investigate and resolve concerns in a timely manner.

The public review period of the statement and the ministry's technical review comments provided an additional opportunity for the public to review the project details and provide feedback directly to the ministry. During the review period, 30 comments were received. Copies of two petitions from 2025 expressing opposition to the project were also submitted during the review period; one petition was

originally submitted to the local MLA and the second to the RM of Griffin. The majority of comments raised concerns around potential impacts to human health and the use of studies from other regions in the evaluation of health impacts. Several comments also indicated concerns related to operational noise, potential impacts to wildlife, livestock and property value, the validity of studies, and the adequacy of engagement.

The project area is located on private land with no right of access to exercise Treaty and Aboriginal rights. As such, the duty to consult was not triggered for the project. The province does, however, strongly encourage proponents to engage with First Nation and Métis communities. The proponent worked with Cowessess First Nation, George Gordon First Nation, Kahkewistahaw First Nation, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Pasqua First Nation and White Bear First Nation to establish an equity partnership agreement for the project.

Seven Stars also engaged with Flying Dust First Nation, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Eastern Region III, Ocean Man First Nation, Pheasant Rump First Nation and Piapot First Nation. Ocean Man First Nation expressed concern regarding the lack of consultation for the project. Pheasant Rump First Nation and Piapot First Nation also expressed initial concerns related to economic benefits and a lack of engagement. The proponent committed to continuing to share information with these Nations on the project moving forward. There were no other concerns raised by First Nation or Métis communities during engagement activities.

The ministry is satisfied with the proponent's efforts to engage with stakeholders and respond to their concerns during the assessment. The ministry has also considered the issues raised during public review. The ministry is satisfied that the issues have been reasonably considered during the assessment and can be addressed by the commitments in the statement and through terms and conditions of a ministerial approval under the Act. The ministry recognizes the importance of engagement throughout the project life and has included conditions in the approval to ensure the proponent continues to maintain meaningful public engagement efforts. This includes publicly reporting on how commitments and approval conditions have been fulfilled for the project.

Reasons for Decision

I am satisfied that Seven Stars has met all the requirements of the Act, thereby requiring a decision to be made pursuant to section 15 of the Act. Having made my decision to issue a Ministerial Approval, the Act requires me, pursuant to subsection 15(2), to state the reasons for the decision.

General Siting Considerations

Seven Stars assessed environmental and land use data and desired setbacks for project infrastructure to identify suitable wind turbine locations that avoided or minimized impacts to native grassland, wetlands, species of conservation concern (SOCC), residences, property lines and highways. Project planning also incorporated local RM land use bylaws. The project is sited outside the wind energy avoidance zones identified in the ministry's *Wildlife Siting Guidelines for Saskatchewan Wind Energy Projects*.

Terrestrial Environment

The construction development area (CDA) for the project will utilize approximately 242 hectares (ha) of predominantly cultivated land and tame grassland. The operational footprint where project infrastructure will be located is 21.61 ha, with 13.33 ha of cultivated land, 6.83 ha of tame grassland, and small areas of wetlands (1.25 ha), developed land (0.18 ha) and treed area (0.02 ha). Should Seven Stars request significant changes to the layout after this approval is issued, Seven Stars would require approval under section 16 of the Act prior to proceeding with the change.

The project, including the CDA, was sited to avoid native grassland, wetlands and designated critical habitat. Three plant SOCC – three-parted bur-marigold (S1; critically imperiled/extremely rare), narrow-leaved water plantain (S3; vulnerable/rare to uncommon) and aster-like boltonia (S3) – were detected in the CDA. A 30-m buffer from plant SOCC occurrences will be maintained in accordance with the *Saskatchewan Activity Restriction Guidelines for Sensitive Species*, except for one aster-like boltonia occurrence, located about 23 m from an alternate turbine location. To minimize impacts to vegetation, Seven Stars will use best management practices such as delineating all work areas, using erosion and sediment control, avoiding grading and groundwork during wet conditions, implementing minimum disturbance techniques, maintaining and cleaning equipment, monitoring reclaimed areas, and implementing a weed management plan.

Wildlife SOCC observed during surveys included species listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* such as northern leopard frog (Special Concern), barn swallow (Threatened), bobolink (Threatened), chestnut-collared longspur (Endangered), common nighthawk (Special Concern), ferruginous hawk (Threatened), short-eared owl (Special Concern) and Sprague's pipit (Threatened). Little brown myotis (Endangered) was detected in small numbers during bat acoustic monitoring. In addition, three migratory bat species (eastern-red bat, hoary bat and silver-haired bat) that are under consideration for federal listing as Endangered were detected. Multiple sharp-tailed grouse leks were observed within the project area, with four located within the activity restriction guideline setback of 400 m. The proponent

has identified additional mitigations to avoid impacts to leks, such as reduced work hours and regular assessments by an environmental monitor to assess for changes in habitat use.

Potential impacts to wildlife were reduced by siting the project to avoid environmentally sensitive habitats; however, impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat are expected. During construction and decommissioning Seven Stars will work outside of breeding/nesting periods and implement setbacks in accordance with the activity restriction guidelines, where possible. If work must occur during those periods, wildlife sweeps will be completed by qualified professionals to assess for the presence of breeding wildlife and develop appropriate mitigation measures.

To evaluate risk to wildlife during operation, Seven Stars completed spring and fall bird migration and bat surveys. Waterfowl was the most common avian guild observed during spring and fall migration, accounting for 96 and 90 per cent, respectively. Bat activity in the spring and fall was predominantly migratory bat species. The most abundant species in the spring and fall were silver-haired bat, big brown bat and hoary bat. Eastern-red bat was also detected, with most activity in the fall. Small numbers of little brown myotis were recorded in the spring and fall but accounted for less than one per cent of all bat activity. The project is located within a Whooping Crane Migration Corridor. Over the last 20 years, six unique whooping cranes observances were documented, suggesting whooping cranes have the potential to travel through the area in low numbers.

Siting project infrastructure on agricultural land is expected to reduce potential wildlife collisions with wind turbines. Seven Stars will feather turbine blades to prevent rotation during periods of low wind (three meters per second) from May 1 to October 15, when bats are more likely to be active, and has developed an adaptive management plan that outlines mitigation and monitoring strategies to reduce avian fatalities during operations. Seven Stars is required to follow the post-construction monitoring and reporting requirements outlined in the *Adaptive Management Guidelines for Saskatchewan Wind Energy Projects*. Should monitoring results indicate bird or bat fatalities that meet or exceed the guideline's management triggers, additional mitigation measures will be implemented in consultation with the ministry. Additional mitigation may include extending monitoring and reporting requirements, increasing cut-in speeds, curtailment, and/or compensation for fatalities.

Water and Aquatic Environment

Up to 11 intermittent watercourses will be crossed by underground electrical cables. The cables will be installed using horizontal directional drilling, where feasible, to avoid direct effects on the watercourse and surrounding riparian corridor. No permanent watercourses overlap the CDA and no impacts are expected to fish and fish habitat.

Approximately 14.38 ha of wetland habitat is located within the CDA. The majority of these wetlands are Class I to III (ephemeral to seasonal) with low to moderate water permanency and have been disturbed by ongoing agricultural activities. Two Class IV (semi-permanent) wetlands (0.03 ha) within the CDA will be impacted by construction. Approximately 1.25 ha of wetland habitat will be lost over the life of the project due to infrastructure placement.

Project design avoided wetland habitat to the extent possible, while accommodating other setback requirements. In addition to the mitigations identified above to reduce impacts to vegetation, the existing grade will be maintained within 30 m of any wetland or watercourse to allow over-land flow, or a suitable culvert will be installed to maintain existing hydrology. Areas disturbed by construction will be reclaimed to return original surface drainage patterns.

Atmospheric and Sensory Environment

Minor amounts of air and dust emissions will be generated during construction and decommissioning from site clearing as well as traffic and equipment. Air and dust emissions will be short term and managed by standard industry and best management practices. Emissions during operation and maintenance of the project are expected to be negligible. The operation of the project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions.

Increased noise levels are expected during construction and decommissioning. Noise will be temporary, localized to work areas, and comparable to regular construction and agricultural activities already occurring in the area. Noise will also be generated by turbines and the substation during operation. Seven Stars will comply with the Alberta Utilities Commission's *Rule 012: Noise Control* permissible sound levels of 40 A-weighted decibels (dBA) (night-time) and 50 dBA (daytime) for all dwellings within 2 km of a turbine. Modelling results presented in the statement are conservative and predict cumulative sound levels during operation will be compliant with permissible sound levels. Seven Stars has committed to investigating any noise complaints and taking correction action, as appropriate.

Heritage and Socio-Economic Environment

The project will not impact any known archaeological resources. If the project layout changes, heritage clearance from the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport's Heritage Conservation Branch (HCB) will be required. In the event heritage resources are encountered, the proponent will stop work and contact HCB for further advice.

The impact of the project on existing land use is expected to be temporary and minimal, with potential benefits including local employment, business

opportunities, and generation of municipal revenue. Construction will generate up to 200 full-time equivalent jobs, and four to eight full-time equivalent jobs during operation. Seven Stars has also developed a community fund to provide annual contributions to local community programs in support of diversity, safety and sustainability.

Minor impacts to local infrastructure may arise during construction due to increased traffic from heavy vehicles and equipment. To manage these impacts, Seven Stars will establish a road use and maintenance agreement and traffic management plan with the RMs.

Some temporary loss of agricultural land will occur from the project during construction and decommissioning. The operational footprint will result in longer-term loss of agricultural land; however, this is expected to be negligible, as less than 0.2 per cent of a quarter section per installed turbine will be impacted. Landowners will be compensated for the use of their land through private lease agreements. This effect will be temporary and reversible upon decommissioning.

Human Health

Potential human health effects were assessed using accepted practices and guidance for wind energy projects in Saskatchewan. The assessment considered pathways for potential effects, including sensory disturbance associated with noise and shadow flicker. Noise emissions are discussed above and are predicted to remain within permissible sound levels at receptors. A shadow flicker assessment was also completed and conservatively predicts annual shadow flicker exposure at receptors will remain below the standard of 30 hours per year.

The proponent will implement a complaints resolution process throughout construction, operation and decommissioning to facilitate timely investigation and response to any concerns that are identified. The assessment of potential human health effects and mitigation measures was reviewed by technical reviewers, and no outstanding concerns were identified. Residual effects to human health are expected to be negligible.

Decommissioning, Reclamation and Closure Plan

During construction, Seven Stars will conduct progressive reclamation to minimize disturbance. The project has an anticipated life of 30 years, after which the project will either be decommissioned or updated and repowered. Seven Stars may be required to obtain approval under Section 16 of the Act prior to repowering the project.

Seven Stars has provided a conceptual decommissioning and reclamation plan in the statement. A detailed decommissioning plan will be prepared at least six

months before full decommissioning. The plan will be based on industry best practices, requirements, regulations in place at the time of decommissioning, and in consultation with landowners.

Decommissioning and reclamation activities will occur over a period of approximately two years and will involve the removal of turbines and other above-ground infrastructure, including buildings and roads. Below-ground foundations will be removed to a depth of at least 36 inches and underground collector lines will be deenergized and terminated at connection points. All materials will be refurbished, recycled or disposed of at a licensed facility. Disturbed lands will be recontoured, reclaimed and monitored to assess recovery and identify any concerns with the spread of invasive species.

Conclusion

The ministry and technical reviewers are satisfied the overall environmental impacts of the project are well understood, and that if the mitigations and environmental protection measures outlined in the statement are implemented, and terms and conditions are imposed as presented in my approval, adverse effects can be minimized, and benefits enhanced.

This conclusion is based on the proponent's adherence to the commitments as documented in the statement, on my ability as the Minister of Environment to impose specific conditions at this time, and on the knowledge that additional environmental protection requirements can be imposed through terms and conditions forming parts of permits and licences required by provincial and federal legislation.

The Ministerial Approval for the development includes terms and conditions designed to promote the elimination and control of adverse environmental effects associated with the development. Included are requirements that Seven Stars Energy Inc.:

- a) Proceed with the development in accordance with the statement;
- b) Provide notification of any change; and
- c) Follow the requirements of other applicable laws and regulations.

These conditions, plus the measures proposed in the statement, and the regulatory framework applicable to the project, now and in the future, are adequate to address all issues related to the project.

Dated at Regina, Saskatchewan this 14 day of July, 2026

original signed by

ISSUED BY: _____

Darlene Rowden
Minister of Environment