



ATCO Electric Ltd.

Exemption of Emergency Back-up Generators for
Drumheller, Wintering Hills, and Chain Lakes
Telecommunication Towers

February 3, 2010

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Decision 2010-062: ATCO Electric Ltd.

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Drumheller, Wintering Hills, and Chain Lakes Telecommunication Towers

Application No. 1605729

Proceeding ID. 438

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**ATCO ELECTRIC LTD.
EXEMPTION OF EMERGENCY BACK-UP GENERATORS
FOR DRUMHELLER, WINTERING HILLS, AND
CHAIN LAKES TELECOMMUNICATION TOWERS**

**Decision 2010-062
Application No. 1605729
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1 INTRODUCTION

1. ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) for an order pursuant to section 13 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* seeking an exemption from section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* for three 20-kW propane-fueled back-up generators (Power Plants) to provide emergency power supply for the Drumheller, Wintering Hills, and Chain Lakes telecommunication towers (Application). The Drumheller Power Plant will be located in the northeast quarter of Section 26, Township 28, Range 20, West of the 4th Meridian. The Wintering Hills Power Plant will be located in the northeast quarter of Section 21, Township 26, Range 18, West of the 4th Meridian. The Chain Lakes Power Plant will be located in the northwest quarter of Section 31, Township 33, Range 15, West of the 4th Meridian. The Application was registered on December 17, 2009, as Application No. 1605729 (the Application).

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

2 DISCUSSION

3. As set out in the Application, the Power Plants would be located in telecommunication tower sites. The Power Plants are intended to be used only in emergency situations when electric power supply, normally provided by the utility to the telecommunication towers, is interrupted. Further, in the event that ATCO must operate the Power Plant, the power generated will be used solely for its own use.

4. ATCO stated that the generators are electrically isolated from the grid using transfer switches, which automatically transfer power in the event of an outage, and return the load to the primary power source once power is restored. ATCO further stated that with the exception of a power failure at the site, the Power Plants would only be tested for up to one hour per month to ensure reliable operation in the event of an emergency.

5. A Noise Impact Assessment (the NIA) was completed for the Power Plants. The NIA indicated that the Power Plants are predicted to comply with the requirements of *AUC Rule 012: Noise Control*.
6. The Drumheller telecommunication tower site is located approximately two kilometres (km) southeast of the Town of Drumheller; the nearest residence is approximately 460 metres (m) west of the tower site. The Wintering Hills telecommunication tower site is approximately 32 km southeast the Town of Drumheller; the nearest residence is approximately 1,500 m away. The Chain Lakes telecommunication tower site is approximately 40 km northwest of the Town of Hanna; the nearest residence is approximately 1,500 m away.
7. ATCO conducted a participant involvement program where it identified stakeholders within 2,000 m of each of the telecommunication tower sites including representatives of pertinent government agencies, landowners, occupants, and residents. Site specific information packages were sent to stakeholders. ATCO stated that it followed up by personal communication with stakeholders located within 800 m of each tower site, and with pertinent agencies. No objections were received.
8. ATCO stated that it will undertake the power plant installations in adherence to Alberta Environment's C&R/IL/95-2, Environmental Protection Guidelines for Electric Transmission Lines.

3 FINDINGS

9. ATCO brought its application pursuant to section 13 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* which states:

Exemptions

13 (1) Sections 9, 10 and 11 do not apply to a person generating or proposing to generate electric energy solely for the person's own use, unless the Commission otherwise directs.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a person generating or proposing to generate electric energy solely for the person's own use shall, if required by regulation to do so, immediately notify the Commission of the use or proposed use and provide any details of the generation and use that the Commission requires.
10. Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* states:

No person shall construct or operate a power plant unless the Commission, by order, has approved the construction and operation of the power plant
11. The Commission has reviewed the Application and is satisfied that ATCO has met the requirements of section 13 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.

4 DECISION

12. Pursuant to section 13 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the Application and grants the exemptions as set out in the Appendices – Power Plant – Exemption Nos. U2010-42, U2010-43 and U2010-44 – February 3, 2010, to ATCO to construct and operate the Power Plants (the Appendices will be distributed separately).

Dated in Calgary, Alberta on February 3, 2010.

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

(original signed by)

Thomas McGee
Commissioner