



The City of Red Deer

15-kW Solar Power Plant for City of Red Deer
Civic Yards Building

April 5, 2010

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Decision 2010-148: The City of Red Deer

15-kW Solar Power Plant for City of Red Deer Civic Yards Building

Application No. 1605875

Proceeding ID 496

April 5, 2010

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**THE CITY OF RED DEER
15-kW SOLAR POWER PLANT FOR
CITY OF DEER CIVIC YARDS BUILDING**

**Decision 2010-148
Application No. 1605875
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1 INTRODUCTION

1. On February 4, 2010, the City of Red Deer (Red Deer) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or Commission), pursuant to sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, requesting approval to install a total of 75 panels of solar array manufactured by Sanyo for a total of 15 kilowatts (Power Plant) at its Civic Yards Building. Red Deer also requested approval to interconnect the Power Plant to the City of Red Deer distribution system. The application was registered as Application No. 1605875 and assigned Proceeding ID 496 (Application).

2 DISCUSSION

2. As set out in the Application, Red Deer requested approval to construct and operate its proposed Power Plant by installing a solar array consisting of Sanyo 200-Watt solar modules mounted in three rows of 25 solar modules on a steel structure extending above the Civic Yards Building.

3. The legal land description for the Civic Yards Building is Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 0722157 and the street address for the site is 900, 7721 – 40 Avenue, City of Red Deer.

4. Red Deer advised that the solar energy produced by the Power Plant will be used solely by the City at the Civic Yards Building and that it will be connected to Red Deer's distribution system. In addition, Red Deer obtained the necessary municipal development permit for the Power Plant.

5. Given the nature of the facility a participant involvement program or noise impact assessment was not prepared. The site retailer, ENMAX Commercial Energy Marketing, was notified about the proposed Power Plant. No submissions have been received in response to this notification. As well, Red Deer states that the utility company has agreed to connect the Power Plant to its distribution system.

3 FINDINGS

6. The Application was filed pursuant to sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* and in accordance with the *Micro-Generation Regulation*.

7. Subsection 1(1)(h) of the *Micro-Generation Regulation* defines a “micro-generation generating unit” to be one that:

- (i) exclusively uses sources of renewable or alternative energy;
- (ii) is intended to meet all or a portion of the customer’s electricity needs;
- (iii) is, at the time of construction or installation of the generating unit, sized to the customer’s load or anticipated load or a portion of it, as evidenced by a total nominal capacity of the generating unit that does not exceed the rating of the customer’s service,
- (iv) has a total nominal capacity not exceeding 1 MW; and
- (v) is located on the customer’s site, on a site owned by, or leased to the customer that is adjacent to the customer’s site;

8. After reviewing the information filed in the Application, the Commission finds that the Micro-Generation Project meets the requirements outlined on paragraph 7.

9. Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* states:

11. No person shall construct or operate a power plant unless the Commission, by order, has approved the construction and operation of the power plant;

10. Section 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* states, in part:

18(1) The owner or operator of a power plant, transmission line or electric distribution system shall not connect that power plant, transmission line or electric distribution system, or cause or permit it to be connected,

- (a) to any other power plant, transmission line or electric distribution system, unless the connection is in accordance with an order under this section, ...

11. Due to the nature of the Application, a Notice of Application and a hearing were not required as the Commission considered that its decision or order may not directly and adversely affect the rights of a person pursuant to section 9 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

12. The Commission has reviewed the Application and is satisfied that the City of Red Deer has met the requirements of sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*. The Commission notes that the Power Plant will be used to generate electric energy solely for the City of Red Deer’s use.

4 DECISION

13. Pursuant to section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application No.1605875 and grants the approval set out in the Appendix 1 – Power Plant – Approval No. U2010-97 – April 5, 2010 to the City of Red Deer to install and to operate the Power Plant as applied for (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

14. Pursuant to section 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission grants the approval set out in the Appendix 2 – Connection Order – No. U2010-98 – April 5, 2010 to the City of Red Deer to interconnect the Power Plant to the City of Red Deer distribution utility as applied for (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated April 5, 2010.

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

(original signed by)

N. Allen Maydonik, Q.C.
Commissioner