



AUC

Alberta Utilities Commission

D. Cuku

**Solar Power Plant
Section 26-51-27-W4**

January 18, 2012



The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2012-021: D. Cuku

Solar Power Plant

Application No. 1607798

Proceeding ID No. 1525

January 18, 2012

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The Alberta Utilities Commission

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1 Introduction

1. Howell Mayhew Engineering Inc. (Howell Mayhew) filed an application on behalf of D. Cuku with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval to construct, operate and connect a 16.8-kilowatt (kW) solar power plant. The application was registered on October 21, 2011, as Application No. 1607798. The solar plant will be located in the southeast quarter of Section 26, Township 51, Range 27, west of the Fourth Meridian in a rural setting near Devon, Alberta on a site surrounded by trees. There are no environmental impacts associated with the project.
2. The solar plant would consist of two solar photovoltaic generator sub-arrays. Each array will be mounted on an axis tracking facility located on the ground, each feeding an inverter, both of which will be housed nearby in a small inverter house. Each sub-array will constitute a single solar panel. Each panel is approximately 10 metres wide and 7.1 metres high. At the sub-array's maximum tilt angle, the height of the sub-array would extend approximately 7.7 metres off the ground.
3. Parkland County advertised a development permit for the solar plant in the Stony Plain Reporter and Spruce Grove Examiner newspaper. The County also mailed a notice to all landowners with property adjacent to the solar plant. No objections were received.
4. FortisAlberta Inc. (Fortis) has agreed to connect the solar plant to its distribution system, in accordance with the *Electric Utilities Act Micro-Generation Regulation*.
5. Howell Mayhew advised that the owner of the solar plant has obtained electrical permits for the project and has met all applicable municipal and zoning requirements.
6. Pursuant to sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, no person shall construct or operate a power plant or connect a power plant to another power plant, transmission line or electric distribution system without applying to the Commission for prior approval. All power plant applications submitted to the Commission must also comply with AUC Rule 007: *Rules Respecting Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, and Industrial System Designations* (AUC Rule 007), including public consultation in preparation of the application. Pursuant to Section 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, upon receipt of an application to construct, operate and connect a power plant, the Commission may grant the approval, grant the approval subject to terms and conditions, or deny the approval.

7. The *Micro-Generation Regulation* and corresponding AUC Rule 024: *Rules Respecting Micro-Generation* (AUC Rule 024) govern micro-generating units respecting the definition of a micro-generating unit, the development, connection and operation of micro-generation units and which provisions of the *Electric Utilities Act* do not apply to micro-generation units.

8. Notwithstanding the above, a person proposing to construct or operate a power plant must also obtain prior Commission approval pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* unless the proposed project qualifies for an exemption under Section 13 of the act. A power plant is defined in the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* as “facilities for the generation and gathering of electric energy from any source.” AUC Rule 007 requires that a power plant application be submitted to the Commission. Based on the information contained in the application, the Commission will determine if the proposed power plant qualifies for an exemption under Section 13 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.

2 Findings

9. The application involves the installation of a solar plant with a capacity of 16.8 kW. The energy produced will be used primarily by the owner (customer) and is derived from a renewable source. The Commission is satisfied that the solar plant meets the definition of a micro-generator pursuant to the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and meets the requirements under the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and AUC Rule 024.

10. The Commission has reviewed the application and determined that the technical, siting, and environmental requirements of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* and the AUC Rule 007 small power plant information requirements have been met.

11. Parkland County provided notice of the proposed development and no objections were received. Therefore, the Commission considered that its decision or order would not directly and adversely affect the rights of any person and, therefore, did not issue a notice of application or require a hearing pursuant to Section 9 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

12. Based on the foregoing, the Commission considers the project to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

3 Decision

13. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Approval No. U2012-20 – dated January 18, 2012, to construct and operate the solar plant (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

14. Pursuant to Section 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants the approval set out in Appendix 2 – Connection Order No. U2012-21 – dated January 18, 2012, to connect the solar plant (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on January 18, 2012.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Neil Jamieson
Commission Member