



The City of Calgary

30-kW Solar Power Plant

March 8, 2012



The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2012-065: The City of Calgary

30-kW Solar Power Plant

Application No. 1607869

Proceeding ID No. 1563

March 8, 2012

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The Alberta Utilities Commission

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1 Introduction and background

1. The City of Calgary (the City) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval to operate a 30-kilowatt (kW) solar power plant and connect that solar plant to the ENMAX Power Corporation (ENMAX) distribution system. The application was registered on November 7, 2011, as Application No. 1607869.
2. The application was filed under the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.
3. The solar plant will consist of two rows of solar panels on the rooftop of the existing four storey West LRT parkade (LRT parkade). The south row is made up of 82 panels and the north row is made up of 44 panels. Each panel measures 165.2 cm x 100.0 cm and each panel is mounted at 45 degrees from the vertical facing south.
4. The solar plant will be located in the city of Calgary at the intersection of 69 Street S.W. and Springborough Boulevard S.W. (Section 10, Township 24, Range 2, west of the Fifth Meridian).
5. A new high school is located to the south of the LRT parkade, a recreational center is located to the east and commercial development is located to the west of the LRT parkade. A residential condominium complex is located to the north and across the street from the LRT parkade.
6. The City held a series of community meetings with respect to the LRT parkade, including the solar plant, as a part of the approval process for the LRT parkade. The community meetings attracted approximately 1,600 people over four nights. The City indicated that it mailed out an information package to the Condominium owners that live adjacent to the LRT parkade and solar power plant.
7. The City also consulted with the Sprinbank Hill, Strathcona, Christie Park and Aspen Wood community associations, as well as Rundle College, Ambrose University and the Westside Recreation centre, with respect to the project. The City indicated that there were no objections received with respect to the solar power plant.
8. As the solar panels face south, there should be no reflection towards the residents of the condominium complex. There are no other environmental impacts associated with the project as it is located on the roof of the LRT parkade.

9. In an information response to the Commission, the applicant stated that the solar panels are installed and operating but are not yet connected to a meter system.
10. ENMAX has agreed to connect the solar plant to its distribution system, in accordance with the *Electric Utilities Act* and *Micro-Generation Regulation*.
11. The *Micro-Generation Regulation* and corresponding AUC Rule 024: *Rules Respecting Micro-Generation* (AUC Rule 024) govern micro-generating units. The definition of a micro-generating unit includes, *inter alia*, a unit that exclusively uses sources of renewable or alternative energy, is intended to meet all or a portion of the customer's electricity needs, and has a total nominal capacity not exceeding one megawatt.

2 Findings

12. The proposed solar power plant would have a capacity of 30kW. The energy produced by the solar power plant would be used by the City and is derived from a renewable and non-polluting 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.
13. 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: *Rules Respecting Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, and Industrial System Designations* small power plant information requirements have been met.
14. The City undertook extensive public consultation regarding the LRT parkade and solar plant and no objections were received regarding the solar plant.
15. 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*.
16. 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

17. 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. U2012-104 – March 8, 2012 to operate the solar plant (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).
18. 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. U2012-105 – March 8, 2012 to connect the solar plant (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on March 8, 2012.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Mark Kolesar
Commission Member