



AUC

Alberta Utilities Commission

EECOL Electric Corp.

51.8 kW Solar Power Plant

April 4, 2012



The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2012-096: EECOL Electric Corp.

51.8-kW Solar Power Plant

Application No. 1608204

Proceeding ID No. 1764

April 4, 2012

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The Alberta Utilities Commission

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1 Introduction and background

1. EECOL Electric Corp. (EECOL) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval to construct and operate a 51.8 kilowatt (kW) solar power plant and connect the solar plant to ENMAX Power Corporation's (ENMAX) distribution system. The application was registered on February 28, 2012, as Application No. 1608204.
2. EECOL filed the application under the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.
3. The solar plant will consist of nine arrays. Each array consists of twenty four 240-watt solar panel modules with a total capacity of 51.8 kW. The solar plant will be located at an existing commercial building located at 11004 - 48 Street S.E., Calgary, Alberta. The building is located on a 6.1 acre lot. The dimensions of the commercial building are approximately 239 feet wide, 333 feet long and 32 feet high. The solar plant will be set back approximately 30 feet from the west edge and 10 feet from the south edge of the roof top of the commercial building, and faces in a southerly direction.
4. The solar plant is located in an industrial area and there are no residences in the vicinity. A commercial distribution center is located south of the solar plant, approximately 210 feet away. There should be no sunlight reflection on the distribution center as there are no windows on the side of the distribution centre facing the solar plant. Additionally, EECOL indicated that the solar panels should not be visible, due to the height of the commercial building and the solar plant set backs.
5. ENMAX has no concerns regarding the connection of the solar plant to its distribution system, in accordance with the *Electric Utilities Act* and the *Micro-Generation Regulation*.
6. On March 21, 2012, the Commission received a submission from Howell Mayhew Engineering Inc. regarding the application. Howell Mayhew Engineering Inc. did not object to the application and stated that it was affected by the regulation and interconnection of solar-electric systems in Alberta and that it wished to stay informed on the regulatory process for the interconnection of solar-electric systems and promote the economic development of these systems.
7. The *Micro-Generation Regulation* and the corresponding AUC Rule 024: *Rules Respecting Micro-Generation* (AUC Rule 024) govern applications for micro-generating units. The *Micro-Generation Regulation* defines a micro-generation generating unit, and this definition 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 (MW).

2 Findings

8. The proposed solar power plant will have a capacity of 51.8-kW and the electric energy produced by the solar power plant will be derived from a renewable and non-polluting source. Therefore, the Commission is satisfied that the solar plant meets the definition of a micro-generating unit pursuant to the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and meets the requirements under the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and AUC Rule 024.

9. 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.

10. The solar plant will be located on top of an existing commercial building and should not impact or be visible to adjacent industrial development in the area. The commercial building to the south does not have any windows facing the solar plant.

11. Therefore, the Commission considers 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. U2012-184 – April 4, 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. U2012-185 – April 4, 2012 to connect the solar plant (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on April 4, 2012.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Neil Jamieson
Commission Member