



**G. Bles**

**14.4-kW Photovoltaic Micro-generation System**

**June 13, 2012**



**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 2012-161: G. Bles

14.4-kW Photovoltaic Micro-generation System

Application No. 1608412

Proceeding ID No. 1862

June 13, 2012

Published by

The Alberta Utilities Commission

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## 1 Introduction and background

1. Skyfire Energy Inc. (Skyfire) filed an application on behalf of Mr. G. Bles (Mr. Bles) with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval to construct, operate and connect a 14.4-kilowatt (kW) solar power plant to FortisAlberta Inc.'s distribution system. The application was registered on May 2, 2012, and assigned Application No. 1608412. The solar power plant will be located within Legal Subdivision 16 of Section 18, Township 47, Range 24, west of the Fourth Meridian on Mr. Bles's property.
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 power plant will consist of sixty individual 240-watt solar modules. The solar power plant will be mounted on the roof of Mr. Bles's shed, approximately six metres above the ground. The dimensions of the solar power plant will be eight metres by 20.7 metres.
4. FortisAlberta Inc. has agreed to connect the solar power plant to its distribution system in accordance with the *Electric Utilities Act Micro-Generation Regulation*.
5. The local county advised Skyfire that a development permit is not required for the solar power plant.
6. Skyfire indicated that the solar modules have an anti-reflective, tempered glass design to absorb light. Any reflection from the modules will be minimal and less than that of a skylight or window.
7. Skyfire stated that Mr. Bles had personally consulted with adjacent landowners within 800 metres of the solar power plant and received no objections.

## 2 Findings

8. The Commission recognizes that the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and the related 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. However, 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 requirement for public consultation in preparation of the application, and comply with AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control* (AUC Rule 012).

9. The solar power plant will have a capacity of 14.4-kW. The energy produced will be used primarily by the owner 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 finds that the application complies with all requirements in sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, AUC Rule 007 and AUC Rule 012.

11. Mr. Bles provided notice of the solar power plant to adjacent landowners 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. Having considered all of the evidence before it, and in the absence of any outstanding objections or concerns, the Commission, having regard for the technical, social, economic and environmental impacts, finds the proposed project to be in the public interest.

### **3 Decision**

13. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants to Mr. Bles approval to construct and operate the solar power plant as set out in Appendix 1 – Approval No. U2012-267 – June 13, 2012 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

14. Pursuant to Section 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission grants to Mr. Bles an order to connect the solar power plant as set out in Appendix 2 – Connection Order No. U2012-268 – June 13, 2012 (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on June 13, 2012.

### **The Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Tudor Beattie, QC  
Commission Member