



**James Arnold Harder**

**12.48-kW Photovoltaic Micro-generation System**

**June 13, 2012**



**The Alberta Utilities Commission**  
Decision 2012-165: James Arnold Harder  
12.48-kW Photovoltaic Micro-generation System  
Application No. 1608432  
Proceeding ID No. 1875

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 of behalf of Mr. James Arnold Harder (Mr. Harder) with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval to construct, operate and connect a 12.48-kilowatt (kW) solar power plant. The application was registered on May 9, 2012, as Application No. 1608432. The solar power plant will be located within LSD 14 of Section 17, Township 28, Range 2, west of the Fifth Meridian on Mr. Harder'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. In addition to the proposed solar power plant on the property, Mr. Harder operates a 3.7-kW wind turbine that has been previously approved also under the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and has an interconnection and operating agreement with FortisAlberta Inc. (Fortis). Mr. Harder also has an 18-kW natural gas fuelled generator for backup purposes that is not connected to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.
4. The solar power plant will consist of fifty-two individual 240-Watt solar modules. The solar power plant will be mounted on the roof of Mr. Harder's shop, approximately 7.7 metres (m) above the ground. The dimensions of the solar power plant will be 13.4 m by 7.2 m.
5. Fortis has agreed to connect the solar power plant to its distribution system in accordance with the *Electric Utilities Act Micro-Generation Regulation*.
6. Skyfire stated that Mr. Harder personally consulted with the three neighbours surrounding his property and received no objections to the solar power plant.
7. Skyfire submitted that the solar power plant is visible to his neighbor approximately 650 metres to the southeast. However, the solar modules have an anti-reflective, tempered glass design to absorb light and not reflect it. Furthermore, any reflection from the modules will be minimal and less than that of a skylight, window or wet surface.

## 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 12.48-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. Mr. Harder requested approval pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, to construct and operate his proposed micro-generation unit and pursuant to Section 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, to connect his solar power plant to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.

11. Since the proposed micro-generation plant is solar-inverter based system, it would not generate discernable levels of noise.

12. Mr. Harder had provided notice of the solar power plant to his surrounding neighbours 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*.

13. The Commission finds that the application complies with all requirements in sections 11 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, AUC Rule 007 and AUC Rule 12.

14. 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**

15. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants to Mr. Harder approval to construct and operate the solar power plant as set out in Appendix 1 – Approval No. U2012-269 – June 13, 2012 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

16. Pursuant to Section 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission grants to Mr. Harder an order to connect the solar power plant as set out in Appendix 2 – Connection Order No. U2012-270– June 13, 2012 (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on June 13, 2012

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Mark Kolesar  
Vice-Chair