



L. Neumeister

14.04-kW Photovoltaic Micro-generation System

July 30, 2012



The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2012-204: L. Neumeister

14.04-kW Photovoltaic Micro-generation System

Application No. 1608593

Proceeding ID No. 1994

July 30, 2012

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1 Introduction and background

1. Skyfire Energy Inc. (Skyfire) filed an application on behalf of L. Neumeister (Mr. Neumeister) with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking an approval to construct, operate and connect a 14.04-kilowatt (kW) solar power plant to FortisAlberta Ltd.'s (Fortis) distribution system. The application was registered on June 26, 2012, and assigned as Application No. 1608593. The solar power plant will be located at 252 – 23033 Wye Road, Strathcona County, Alberta on Mr. Neumeister'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 270 solar modules with a total capacity of 14.04-kW. The solar power plant faces south and will be mounted on Mr. Neumeister's residence.
4. Fortis has agreed to connect the solar power plant to its distribution system in accordance with the *Electric Utilities Act* and *Micro-Generation Regulation*.
5. Skyfire indicated that they have contacted all pertinent departments in Strathcona County and met all applicable municipal and zoning requirements.
6. Skyfire indicated that the solar modules have an anti-reflective and tempered glass design to absorb sun light. Any sun light reflection from the modules will be minimal and less than that of a skylight or window.
7. Skyfire indicated that Mr. Neumeister's residence is located at the end of a cul-de-sac. The solar array would be visible to two residences. The residence of C. Giese, located approximately 49 kilometres to the southeast and Dr. Francescutti's residence, located one-half kilometre away from the proposed solar power plant.
8. Skyfire stated that Mr. Neumeister consulted with adjacent landowners within 800 metres of the solar power plant and received no objections. C. Giese has written a consent letter in support of Mr. Neumeister's solar plant project.

2 Findings

9. 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 AUC for prior approval. All power plant applications submitted to the AUC 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.

10. The *Micro-Generation Regulation* and corresponding AUC Rule 024: *Rules Respecting Micro-Generation* (AUC Rule 024) govern 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 and is intended to meet all or a portion of the customer's electricity needs.

11. The solar power plant will have a capacity of 14.04-kW. The Commission is satisfied that the solar plant meets the definition of a micro-generator pursuant to the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and the terms and conditions set out in AUC Rule 024.

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

13. Mr. Neumeister has consulted with adjacent landowners and no objections or complaints were received. The Commission considered that its decision 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*.

14. 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

15. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants to Mr. Neumeister approval to construct and operate the solar power plant as set out in Appendix 1 – Approval No. U2012-366 – July 30, 2012 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

16. Pursuant to Section 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission grants to Mr. Neumeister an order to connect the solar power plant as set out in Appendix 2 – Connection Order No. U2012-367 – July 30, 2012 (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on July 30, 2012.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Neil Jamieson
Commission Member