



## **Lakeland College**

**3.5 kW Wind Turbine and 12.9 kW Solar Plant**

**October 12, 2012**

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 2012-280: Lakeland College  
3.5 kW Wind Turbine and 12.9 kW Solar Plant  
Application No. 1608355  
Proceeding ID No. 1842

October 12, 2012

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The Alberta Utilities Commission  
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## **1 Introduction**

1. Lakeland College (Lakeland) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval to construct and operate a 3.5-kilowatt (kW) wind turbine and 12.9-kW solar photovoltaic modules (the power plant) and to connect the facilities to ATCO Electric Ltd.'s (ATCO) distribution system. The application was registered on April 20, 2012, as Application No. 1608355.
2. Lakeland filed the application under the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.
3. The power plant would consist of one 21.3 metre tall wind turbine and, pole and roof mounted solar photovoltaic modules. The facilities would be located in the southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 50, Range 7, west of the Fourth Meridian.
4. Lakeland submitted that there would be no visible glare from the solar panels to neighbours of the project during the entire year due to their location, operation, geometry and design.
5. ATCO had no concerns regarding the connection of the wind turbine and solar plant to its distribution system.
6. On May 30, 2012, the Commission received a submission from Howell Mayhew Engineering Inc. Howell Mayhew Engineering Inc. did not object to the application. It desired to stay informed on the regulatory process for the interconnection of solar-electric systems in Alberta.
7. Lakeland issued a public notification to all potentially directly and adversely affected occupants, residents and landowners within 2,000 metres of the proposed project. Lakeland received no response to the notification.
8. Additionally, Lakeland completed a noise impact assessment for the purpose of the proposed project which stated that the anticipated noise levels would be within the permissible sound levels as specified under AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control* (AUC Rule 012). The proposed project facilities will have a very small footprint and will be located on existing farmland directly adjacent to the Lakeland College Vermilion Campus.

## 2 Findings

9. 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-Generating 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).

10. The proposed power plant would consist of one 3.5-kW wind turbine and one 12.9-kW solar plant. The electric energy produced by this power plant would be derived from a renewable and non-polluting source, supplying a portion of the customer's electrical need and would not exceed one MW. Therefore, the Commission is satisfied that the power 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.

11. The Commission has reviewed the application and determined the technical and siting, requirements of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* and the AUC Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, and Industrial System Designations* small power plant requirements have been met. Because the proposed project facilities will have a very small footprint located on existing farmland, no environmental impact is expected.

12. Furthermore, the Commission is satisfied that the noise assessment submitted by Lakeland fulfils the requirements of AUC Rule 012.

13. 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*.

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 the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Approval No. U2012-487 – October 12, 2012, to Lakeland College construct and operate the power plant (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

16. 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. U2012-488 – October 12, 2012, to connect the power plant (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on October 12, 2012.

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Anne Michaud  
Commission Member