



TransAlta Corporation

Time Extension to Complete the Spray Hydro Power Plant Transformer Replacement

November 8, 2012

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2012-301: TransAlta Corporation

Time Extension to Complete the Spray Hydro Power Plant Transformer Replacement

Application No. 1608825

Proceeding ID. No. 2135

November 8, 2012

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1 Introduction and background

1. TransAlta Corporation (TransAlta), by Application No. 1608482 registered on May 25, 2012, applied to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) for approval to alter and operate the Spray Hydro Power Plant (the power plant) in the Canmore area. The alteration was to replace the existing 138/13.2-kilovolt (kV), 27/40/50-megavolt-ampere (MVA) transformer with a 138/13.2-kV, 45/60/75-MVA transformer. TransAlta submitted that the replacement was required due to the age of the existing transformer. The Commission approved Application No. 1608482 in Decision [2012-243](#),¹ and issued Power Plant Approval No. [U2012-455](#)² to TransAlta. The stipulated alteration completion date was June 30, 2013.

2. TransAlta, pursuant to Section 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, filed Application No. 1608825 with the AUC on September 14, 2012, for a time extension to October 31, 2013, to complete the alteration of the power plant.

2 Discussion

3. In the application, TransAlta explained that due to delays in the acquisition and delivery of the replacement transformer, it would not be able to meet its spring 2013 project schedule. It further explained that normal high-water levels in the late spring and early summer months would not allow for the installation of the transformer during that time.

4. The AUC issued information requests to TransAlta on October 5, 2012, requesting further information on the impacts of high-water levels during the late spring and early summer months. In its information request response, filed on October 19, 2012, TransAlta stated that during high-water levels, it must ensure that all generating units are available for operation to let water to go through the turbine and produce power preventing water levels from exceeding the reservoir's capacity. The existing transformer would then have to remain in service and, thus, would effectively prevent the alteration during that time.

¹ Decision 2012-243: TransAlta Corporation – Spray Hydro Transformer Replacement, Application No. 1608482, Proceeding ID No. 1904, September 13, 2012.

² Power Plant Approval No. U2012-455, Application No. 1608482, Proceeding ID No. 1904, September 13, 2012.

3 Findings

5. The Commission considered the application pursuant to Section 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*. Section 19 provides, in part:

19(1) On an application for an approval, permit or licence under this Part, or for an amendment of an approval, permit or licence, the Commission may grant the approval, permit, licence or amendment subject to any terms and conditions that it prescribes or may deny the application.

...

6. The Commission reviewed the application and considers that a time extension to October 31, 2013 to complete the transformer replacement is reasonable.

7. The Commission did not issue notice for the application because the application relates to a time extension for an approved facility alteration and would therefore, not result in any additional impact on adjacent landowners or the environment.

8. Based on the foregoing, the Commission considers the application to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

4 Decision

9. The Commission approves the application as filed, pursuant to sections 11 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, and grants Power Plant Approval No. U2012-485 – November 8, 2012, to TransAlta for a time extension to complete the alteration of the power plant as set out in Appendix 1 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on November 8, 2012.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Tudor Beattie, QC
Commission Member