



## **Landmark Homes (Edmonton) Inc.**

### **15-kW Photovoltaic Micro-generation System**

**November 23, 2012**



**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 2012-313: Landmark Homes (Edmonton) Inc.

15-kW Photovoltaic Micro-generation System

Application No. 1608860

Proceeding ID No. 2166

November 23, 2012

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The Alberta Utilities Commission

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## 1 Introduction and background

1. Landmark Homes (Edmonton) Inc. (Landmark) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission), pursuant to sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, seeking approval to construct, operate and connect a 15-kilowatt (kW) solar micro-generation power plant in the Edmonton area. This application was registered on September 25, 2012, as Application No. 1608860. The solar power plant would be located at 7520 May Common N.W., Edmonton, Alberta (the home).
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 would consist of fifty 327-watt solar modules with a total capacity of 15 kW. The solar power plant faces south and would be mounted on the roof of the home. Landmark also indicated that the closest resident is seven lots away.
4. EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc. agreed to connect the solar power plant to its distribution system in accordance with the *Electric Utilities Act* and *Micro-Generation Regulation*.
5. Landmark indicated that the home is located in a subdivision which is under development and dedicated to sustainable living and construction. Landmark stated that every home would be a solar friendly development. Potential buyers would be notified that all homes built in the subdivision would be solar ready.

## 2 Discussion

6. 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.
7. All power plant applications submitted to the AUC must also comply with AUC Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, and Industrial System Designations* (AUC Rule 007), including public consultation in preparation of the application.
8. The *Micro-Generation Regulation* and corresponding AUC Rule 024: *Rules Respecting Micro-Generation* (AUC Rule 024) provide for the connection of 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.

### 3 Findings

9. The solar power plant will have a capacity of 15 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.

10. Landmark has indicated that they have contacted all pertinent departments in the area, and met all applicable municipal and zoning requirements.

11. Landmark has indicated that the home's lot, as well as the lot directly north are both owned by Full House Lottery Commission. The builder of the lot to the north, Perry Signature Homes Inc., is aware of and consents to have solar power installed in the dwellings of the neighbour. The lot directly south of the lottery home, where multi-family townhomes are being developed, is owned by Landmark. The closest existing resident is seven lots away and has been informed of the project.

12. The Commission has reviewed the application and determined that the technical, siting, emissions, environmental and noise aspects of the power plant have been met. Landmark's participant involvement program has been conducted and there are no outstanding public or industry objections or concerns.

13. Due to the nature of the application, the extent of public notification that has been completed, and that adjacent lots will also have solar modules installed, a notice of application was not issued and, therefore, a hearing was not required as the Commission considered that its decision or order would not directly and adversely affect the rights of a person 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*.

### 4 Decision

15. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants to Landmark approval to construct and operate the solar power plant as set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval No. U2012-607 – November 23, 2012 (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 to Landmark an order to connect the solar power plant as set out in Appendix 2 – Connection Order No. U2012-608 – November 23, 2012 (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on November 23, 2012.

### The Alberta Utilities Commission

*(original signed by)*

Neil Jamieson  
Commission Member