



**K. Morris**

**17.4-kW Photovoltaic Micro-Generation System**

**May 6, 2013**

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 2013-170: K. Morris

17.4-kW Photovoltaic Micro-Generation System

Application No. 1609403

Proceeding ID No. 2509

May 6, 2013

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The Alberta Utilities Commission

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## 1 Introduction and background

1. K. Morris (Mr. Morris) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) requesting an approval to expand his existing micro-generation system located in Spruce Grove, Alberta. This application was registered pursuant to the *Micro-Generation Regulation* on March 20, 2013, as Application No. 1609403 (application).

2. The proposed power plant would be located on the roof of Mr. Morris' residence located at 1 – 26126 Highway 16, Spruce Grove, Alberta. Mr. Morris advised that the application was for the expansion of an existing mini micro-generation system. The existing mini micro-generation system was installed with a total generating capacity of 9.675-kilowatts (kW).

3. AUC Rule 024: *Rules Respecting Micro-Generation* (AUC Rule 024) defines a mini micro-generator as having a generation capacity of no more than 10-kW of electrical energy. Mini micro-generators require wire owner approval, not Commission approval. For this reason, Mr. Morris did not apply to the Commission for approval of the existing system. However, pursuant to the application, Mr. Morris proposed an addition of 7.740-kW, increasing the capacity of the solar power plant into the small micro-generator category<sup>1</sup> which requires both Commission and wire owner approval. The Commission therefore considered both the existing mini micro-generation system and the proposed addition when reviewing the application.

4. The proposed power plant would consist of a total of 81 solar modules each rated at 215-watts with a total capacity of 17.415-kW.

5. On April 8, 2013, the Commission issued a first round of information requests to Mr. Morris regarding the participant involvement program, the single-line diagrams, the location of the power plant, and the Micro-Generation Notice of Application form. Mr. Morris responded to the information requests on April 12, 2013.

## 2 Discussion

6. Mr. Morris indicated that all applicable municipal and zoning requirements for the proposed project were met.

7. FortisAlberta Inc., the wire owner in the area, agreed to connect the solar power plant to its distribution system in accordance with the *Electric Utilities Act* and *Micro-Generation Regulation*.

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<sup>1</sup> A small micro-generator has a total nominal capacity of less than 150-kW, pursuant to the *Micro-Generation Regulation*.

8. Mr. Morris indicated that the retailer, ENMAX Energy Corporation, had been informed of his intent to become a micro-generator in January 2012, for his mini micro-generation system.

9. Mr. Morris advised that the power plant would be on the roof of his residence facing south towards the Yellowhead Highway, not visible to any other residence in the neighbourhood.

10. Due to the nature of the application, 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*.

### 3 Findings

11. The Commission recognizes that the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and the related AUC Rule 024 govern micro-generating units respecting the definition of a micro-generating unit, the development, and connection and operation of micro-generation units. In addition, all power plant applications submitted to the Commission must also comply with AUC Rule 007: *Rules Respecting Applications for Power Plants, Substation, Transmission Lines, and Industrial System Designations* (AUC Rule 007), including requirements for public consultation in preparation of the application, and comply with AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control* (AUC Rule 012), unless otherwise directed by the Commission.

12. The Commission has reviewed the application and has determined that the technical, siting, environmental, and noise control aspects of the power plant have been met.

13. The rated capacity of the solar power plant is 17.4-kW and the energy produced is derived from a renewable source. The Commission is satisfied that the solar power 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.

14. The Commission finds that the application complies with all requirements in sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, AUC Rule 007, and AUC Rule 012.

15. 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

16. Pursuant to sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants Mr. Morris the following:

- Power Plant Approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval No. U2013-227 – May 6, 2013 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately)
- Connection Order set out in Appendix 2 – Connection Order No. U2013-228 – May 6, 2013 (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on May 6, 2013.

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Henry van Egteren  
Commission Member