



B. St. Pierre

13.05-kW Photovoltaic Micro-Generation System

May 15, 2013



The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2013-180: B. St. Pierre

13.05-kW Photovoltaic Micro-Generation System

Application No. 1609500

Proceeding ID No. 2569

May 15, 2013

Published by

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Fifth Avenue Place, Fourth Floor, 425 First Street S.W.

Calgary, Alberta

T2P 3L8

Telephone: 403-592-8845

Fax: 403-592-4406

Website: www.auc.ab.ca

1 Introduction and background

1. SkyFire Energy Inc. (SkyFire) filed an application, on behalf of B. St. Pierre (Mr. St. Pierre), with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) requesting an approval to construct and operate a 13.05-kilowatt (kW) solar power plant (power plant), in the Bragg Creek area, pursuant to the *Micro-Generation Regulation* and sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*. The application was registered on April 23, 2013, as Application No. 1609500 (application).

2. The proposed power plant would be located on the roof of Mr. St. Pierre's residence located at 134 Hawk Eye Road, Rocky View County, Alberta. SkyFire advised that the application was for expansion of the existing mini micro-generation capacity of 2.19-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. Distribution system wire owners are mandated to connect mini micro-generators. For this reason, Mr. St. Pierre did not need to apply to the Commission for approval of the existing system. However, by way of the application, Mr. St. Pierre proposed to add 10.86-kW of the solar power generated to the existing power plant. Should the additional capacity be approved, the power plant would be elevated into the small micro-generator category¹ which requires Commission approval before the wire owner would facilitate the connection of the power plant.

4. The proposed power plant would consist of 39 solar modules rated at 250-watts, 12 solar modules rated at 185-watts, and six solar modules rated at 180-watts, for a total generating capacity of 13.05-kW.

5. On May 1, 2013, the Commission issued information requests to SkyFire regarding the site plan drawing, the existing system, and the location. SkyFire responded to the information requests on May 7, 2013.

2 Discussion

6. SkyFire indicated that all applicable municipal and zoning requirements for the proposed project had been met.

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

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*.
8. SkyFire advised that the power plant would be located on the roof of Mr. St. Pierre's residence not visible to any neighbours or public roads, as Mr. St. Pierre's residence is surrounded by a spruce forest.
9. Due to the nature of the application and the location specific information provided, 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

10. 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. 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).
11. The Commission has reviewed the application and has determined that the technical, siting, environmental, and noise aspects of the power plant have been met.
12. The capacity of the solar power plant is 13.05-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.
13. 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.
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 sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants Mr. St. Pierre the following:

- Power Plant Approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval No. U2013-256 – May 15, 2013 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).
- Connection Order set out in Appendix 2 – Connection Order No. U2013-255 – May 15, 2013 (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on May 15, 2013.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Tudor Beattie, QC
Commission Member