



AltaGas Ltd.

Parkland Gas-fired Power Plant Change in Operating Hours

October 30, 2014



The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2014-301: AltaGas Ltd.

Parkland Gas-fired Power Plant

Change in Operating Hours

Application No. 1610815

Proceeding No. 3392

October 30, 2014

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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. AltaGas Ltd. (AltaGas), pursuant to Approval No. [U2014-87](#),¹ is the owner and operator of a 10.275-megawatt (MW) power plant designated as the Parkland gas-fired power plant (the power plant) in the Stavely area.
2. AltaGas filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) for approval to amend the operating hours of the power plant from the daytime period of 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., to 24 hours per day. The application was registered on September 2, 2014, as Application No. 1610815.
3. AltaGas requested approval to operate the power plant 24 hours per day pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.
4. On September 19, 2014, the Commission issued a notice of application to all directly affected parties with a deadline of October 17, 2014 for submissions. No objections to the application were received.

2 Discussion

5. AltaGas conducted a noise impact assessment respecting the proposed amendment to the power plant and stated that the anticipated noise levels would be within the permissible sound levels specified in AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control* (AUC Rule 012) during the daytime period. AltaGas also stated that additional noise control measures would be required because the noise impact assessment indicated that the anticipated noise levels would exceed the permissible sound levels specified in AUC Rule 012 during the nighttime period. AltaGas confirmed that it would install acoustical blankets on the power plant generator exhaust silencer shells, by September 5, 2014, in order to meet the permissible sound levels specified in AUC Rule 012 during the nighttime period.
6. AltaGas stated that there would be no changes to the existing connection point to the FortisAlberta Inc. distribution system resulting from the amendment of the operating hours of the power plant.
7. AltaGas submitted that there would be no new environmental effects created by the proposed amendment because there would be no construction or equipment changes as a result of amending the operating hours of the power plant.

¹ Power Plant Approval No. U2014-87, Application No. 1610070, Proceeding No. 2916, March 11, 2014.

8. AltaGas submitted that the power plant emissions would be compliant with the current Alberta Source Emission Standards and the emission rates would not be affected by the proposed amendment, because the application is only to amend the operating hours of the power plant. AltaGas stated that the air emissions would meet Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives.

9. AltaGas submitted that it conducted a participant involvement program that included notifying all potentially affected parties within 2,000 metres of the power plant and providing them with the project information. AltaGas confirmed that there were no outstanding concerns regarding the proposed amendment.

3 Findings

10. The Commission considered the application pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.

11. The Commission finds that the application meets the information requirements stipulated in AUC Rule 007: *Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines and Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments* (AUC Rule 007).

12. The Commission finds that the noise impact assessment submitted by AltaGas fulfills the requirements of AUC Rule 012, with the condition that AltaGas installs the acoustical blankets on the power plant generator exhaust silencer shells to meet the permissible sound levels specified in AUC Rule 012 during the nighttime period.

13. The Commission notes that a participant involvement program was conducted by AltaGas through a notification and personal consultation process and no public, industry or agency objections were received.

14. Furthermore, the Commission is satisfied that no environmental impacts are expected from the proposed amendment because there would be no construction or equipment changes as a result of amending the operating hours of the power plant. Emissions and emission rates from the power plant are expected to be compliant with Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives.

15. The Commission further finds that the application complies with all requirements of Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*. Having considered all of the evidence before it, the Commission finds the proposed work at the power plant to be in the public interest pursuant to Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, having given consideration to the environmental, economic and social impacts of the proposed work.

4 Decision

16. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants AltaGas the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval No. U2014-432 –October 30, 2014 to operate the Parkland gas-fired power plant 24 hours per day (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on October 30, 2014.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Henry van Egteren
Commission Member