



AltaGas Holdings Inc.

Gordondale Power Plant

February 2, 2012



The Alberta Utilities Commission
Decision 2012-034: AltaGas Holdings Inc.
Gordondale Power Plant
Application No. 1607864
Proceeding ID No. 1574

February 2, 2012

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1 Discussion

1. AltaGas Holdings Inc. (AltaGas) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) requesting an approval to construct and operate two 1.6 megawatt (MW) gas driven generators at the Gordondale power plant. The application was registered on November 4, 2011, as Application No. 1607864.
2. The two gas driven generators proposed in the application will initially provide power to the plant until such time as ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) can provide power to the site. AltaGas requested an approval from ATCO to connect and operate distributed connected generation. ATCO had no objection to the connection.
3. When ATCO connects to the site, the generators will serve as emergency back-up generation to the power plant providing heat, light and safety requirements in the event of an outage to ATCO's distribution system.
4. The proposed project, located on Crown land in LSD 16, Section 31, Township 78, Range 11, west of the Sixth Meridian, will be constructed on the same lease as the AltaGas plant and will require no new land.
5. AltaGas filed a noise impact assessment respecting the power plant and stated that anticipated noise levels will be within the permissible sound levels specified in AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control*.
6. AltaGas consulted with government agencies and local jurisdictions informing them of the proposed Project to ascertain if there were any stakeholder concerns. No concerns were identified. The nearest residence is located 3.3 kilometres north of the plant site, just south of Highway 49.
7. AltaGas has filed an application with Alberta Environment and Water to amend the existing approval to include the two generators. There are no outstanding issues.

2 Findings

8. The Commission considered the application pursuant to sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.
9. The Commission finds that the application meets the requirements stipulated in AUC Rule 007: *Rules Respecting Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines and Industrial System Designations* (AUC Rule 007).

10. The Commission finds AltaGas's participant involvement program consistent with the requirements of AUC Rule 007.
11. AltaGas contacted stakeholders regarding the project and submitted that there are no outstanding objections or concerns to the application. As well, the proposed power plant would be located within the site of an existing oil field development. There are no residences located within 3.3 kilometres of the project nor are there any environmental issues with respect to the project.
12. Therefore, a notice of application was not issued 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*.
13. Having considered all of the evidence before it, the Commission finds the proposed work at the power plant is in the public interest pursuant to Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, having given consideration to the environmental, economic, noise aspect and social impacts of the proposed work.
14. The Commission further finds that the application complies with all requirements in Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.

3 Decision

15. Pursuant to sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants AltaGas the approval set out in Appendix 1—Approval No. U2012-36 – February 2, 2012, and Appendix 2 – Connection No. U2012-37 – February 2, 2012 to alter, connect and operate the power plant (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on February 2, 2012.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Neil Jamieson
Commission Member