



2113260 Alberta Ltd.

**Community Generation Designation for
Oyen Community Solar Project**

June 17, 2020

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 24845-D04-2020

2113260 Alberta Ltd.

Community Generation Designation for Oyen Community Solar Project

Proceeding 24845

Application 24845-A001

June 17, 2020

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1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission considers whether to approve an application from 2113260 Alberta Ltd., operating as Oyen Solar Partners, to qualify its 15-megawatt solar power plant, designated as the Oyen Community Solar Project, as a community generating unit. After consideration of the record of the proceeding, and for the reasons outlined in this decision, the Commission approves the application and qualifies the power plant as a community generating unit.

2 Introduction and background

2. Oyen Solar Partners (OSP), in accordance with sections 11 and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, filed an application with the AUC for approval to construct and operate the Oyen Community Solar Project.

3. OSP requested that the Commission consider the project for designation as a community generating unit as defined in Section 3 of the *Small Scale Generation Regulation*. At the time, OSP was unable to provide responses to the Commission's information requests on the community generation aspect of the application. OSP requested that the Commission defer the decision on the community generation designation and continue to process the power plant application.

4. The Commission approved the application to construct and operate the Oyen Community Solar Project in Decision 24845-D01-2020.¹ In this decision, the Commission considers OSP's request for the Oyen Community Solar Project to be designated as a community generator under Section 3 of the *Small Scale Generation Regulation*.

3 Discussion

5. In support of its application to be qualified as a community generating unit, OSP provided a community benefits agreement signed by OSP and the Town of Oyen.²

6. ATCO Electric Ltd. confirmed that it had qualified the project as a small-scale generator under the *Small Scale Generation Regulation*. ATCO stated that it would be responsible for the metering of the project should the Commission approve the community generating unit application.

¹ Decision 24845-D01-2020: 2113260 Alberta Ltd. – Oyen Community Solar Power Plant, Proceeding 24845, Application 24845-A001, February 18, 2020.

² Exhibit 24845-X0021, Proceeding 24845 Information Response 1, PDF pages 9-17.

7. ATCO stated that it was waiting for the Commission's confirmation that the project would be designated as a community generator prior to finalizing the costs associated with the interconnection of the project. OSP stated that based on preliminary guidance it expects the cost of the project meter to range between \$50,000 and \$60,000.³

4 Findings

8. Section 3 of the *Small Scale Generation Regulation* allows a small-scale power producer who owns a small-scale generating unit that is the subject of a community benefits agreement or a community benefits statement to apply to the Commission to have it qualified as a community generating unit. That section requires that the application be in a form established by the Commission and include the community benefits agreement or community benefits statement that applies to the small-scale generating unit and any other information required by the Commission.

9. Upon receipt of an application and related information, the Commission must determine whether the small-scale generating unit qualifies as a community generating unit. If it is qualified, the Commission must determine the amount of costs for which the distribution owner should be compensated, as described in either subsections 5(2)(a) or (3)(a)(i) of the *Small Scale Generation Regulation*.

10. OSP filed its application in the form established by the Commission and included the community benefits agreement with its application. OSP also provided additional information about costs estimates by way of responses to information requests from the Commission.

11. The Commission finds that OSP's application for the project's designation as a community generating unit satisfies the requirements of the *Small Scale Generation Regulation*. ATCO has qualified the project as a small-scale generating unit and OSP has provided a signed community benefits agreement which outlines the economic benefits of the Oyen Community Solar Project to the Town of Oyen.

12. The Commission therefore qualifies the project as a community generating unit under the *Small Scale Generation Regulation*.

13. Section 5 of the *Small Scale Generation Regulation* specifies the costs for which a small-scale power producer is responsible. Specifically, in the case of a community generating unit that is not within an isolated community, as is the case with OSP's generating unit, Subsection 5(3)(a)(i) requires that the distribution owner purchase the meter that is installed for the community generating unit, to a maximum of one meter per facility.

14. The Commission is satisfied that as the distribution owner, ATCO is entitled to recover the costs incurred to purchase the meter for the project (estimated to be \$60,000), pursuant to Subsection 5(3)(a)(i) of the *Small Scale Generation Regulation*. Accordingly, the Commission imposes the following condition:

- a. Once the distribution owner has purchased the meter for the community generating unit, OSP must provide the Commission with written confirmation of the actual cost to purchase the meter.

³ Exhibit 24845-X0048, IR3 Response, PDF page 2.

5 Decision

15. Pursuant to Section 3 of the *Small Scale Generation Regulation*, the Commission qualifies the Oyen Community Solar Project as a community generating unit.

Dated on June 17, 2020.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Anne Michaud
Vice-Chair

(original signed by)

Kristi Sebalj
Commission Member

(original signed by)

Tracee Collins
Commission Member

Appendix A – Summary of Commission directions and conditions with required deliverables

This section is intended to provide a summary of those directions and conditions that require follow-up with the Commission, for the convenience of readers. It is not intended to summarize all of the conditions imposed on the applicant. In the event of any difference between the directions and conditions in this section and those in the main body of the decision, the wording in the main body of the decision shall prevail. These directions and conditions will be tracked as conditions of Decision 24845-D04-2020 using the AUC's eFiling System.

- a. Once the distribution owner has purchased the meter for the community generating unit, OSP must provide the Commission with written confirmation of the actual cost to purchase the meter.