



## **Hilda Wind G.P. Inc**

**Application for an Order Permitting the Sharing  
of Records Not Available to the Public  
Regarding the Hilda Wind Power Plant**

**March 8, 2023**

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 28019-D01-2023

Hilda Wind G.P. Inc

Application for an Order Permitting the Sharing

of Records Not Available to the Public

Regarding the Hilda Wind Power Plant

Proceeding 28019

Application 28019-A001

March 8, 2023

Published by the:

Alberta Utilities Commission

Eau Claire Tower

1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W.

Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5

Telephone: 310-4AUC (310-4282) in Alberta

1-833-511-4AUC (1-833-511-4282) outside Alberta

Email: [info@auc.ab.ca](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca)

Website: [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca)

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Decision summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction and procedural background.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>The Commission’s authority to allow record sharing.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Submissions of the applicant .....</b>	<b>2</b>
	4.1 Is the proposed sharing of records reasonably necessary .....	2
	4.2 Fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the electricity market.....	3
	4.3 Offer control.....	3
<b>5</b>	<b>Commission findings .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Order.....</b>	<b>5</b>

## **1 Decision summary**

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission considers whether to approve an application brought under Section 3 of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*, by Hilda Wind G.P. Inc. (Hilda GP) for the preferential sharing of records that are not available to the public between Hilda GP, Hilda Wind L.P. (Hilda LP), Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc. (RES), RES Canada Support Services L.P. (RES LP) and URICA Energy Real Time Ltd.

2. As discussed in greater detail below, Hilda GP established that the sharing of such records is reasonably necessary for it to carry out its business and that the shared records will not be used for any purpose that will not support the fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the electricity market. On this basis, and noting the support of the Market Surveillance Administrator (MSA), the Commission has granted the application to permit the sharing of records pertaining to the Alberta electricity market under Section 3(3) of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*.

## **2 Introduction and procedural background**

3. On February 14, 2023, Hilda GP filed an application<sup>1</sup> with the AUC pursuant to Section 3 of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*. The application seeks an order from the Commission permitting the sharing of records not available to the public between Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES, RES LP and URICA. The requested order relates to the Hilda Wind Power Plant (asset ID HLD1), which will consist of 20 5-megawatt (MW) wind turbines, with a total generating capability of 104 MW. Hilda LP is the owner of HLD1.

4. In its application, Hilda GP indicated that it has entered into commercial arrangements with URICA, which, among other things, appoint URICA as an agent of Hilda GP to provide 24-hour real-time dispatch-desk service for operational electric energy-market services and electric energy restatements for events at HLD1. These arrangements will make it necessary for Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES, RES LP and URICA to share with each other certain records that are not otherwise available to the public, including energy price, volume pairs and available capability. The agreement between the companies is for services to be provided until the earlier of June 1, 2029, or the termination of the commercial arrangements.

5. The AUC issued a notice of the application on February 15, 2023. In the notice, the Commission advised that the parties granted standing in the proceeding were limited to Hilda GP and the MSA, in accordance with Section 3(5) of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*.

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<sup>1</sup> Application 28019-A001.

6. On February 28, 2023, the MSA advised the Commission that it supports the application of Hilda GP and does not require further evidentiary process.
7. The Commission considers the record for this proceeding closed as of February 28, 2023.
8. The Commission reviewed the entire record for this proceeding in coming to this decision; lack of reference to a matter addressed in evidence or argument does not mean that it was not considered.

### **3 The Commission's authority to allow record sharing**

9. Section 3(1) of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation* establishes that an electricity market participant shall not share records that are not available to the public relating to any past, current or future price and quantity offers made to the power pool or for the provision of ancillary services. Section 3(2) establishes instances where records that are not available to the public may be shared. Section 3(3) allows the Commission to issue an order permitting the sharing of records, stating:

(3) The Commission may, on application by a market participant that is otherwise prohibited from sharing records referred to under subsection (1), issue an order permitting the sharing of those records on any terms and conditions the Commission considers appropriate where the market participant establishes that

- (a) the records will not be used for any purpose that does not support the fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the electricity market, including the conduct referred to in section 2, and
- (b) the sharing of the records is reasonably necessary for the market participant to carry out its business.

10. Another factor that the Commission considers in making a determination on the sharing of records is market-share offer control. Section 5(5) of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation* states that a market participant shall not hold offer control in excess of 30 per cent of the total maximum capability of generating units in Alberta.

11. The Commission is also cognizant of the requirement in Section 6 of the *Electric Utilities Act* that “[m]arket participants are to conduct themselves in a manner that supports the fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the market.”

### **4 Submissions of the applicant**

#### **4.1 Is the proposed sharing of records reasonably necessary**

12. Hilda GP does not have an internal 24-hour real-time dispatch desk in order to address events at power producers as required by the independent system operator (ISO) rules. URICA provides this dispatch-desk service to clients for operational electric energy-market services, dispatch-down services and energy restatements for events at generators as required by the ISO rules and has the necessary expertise and resources to assist Hilda GP.

13. For this reason, Hilda GP asserted that the sharing of non-public records relating to HLD1 is reasonably necessary in order for it to carry out its business regarding HLD1. Written representations from senior officers of Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES and RES LP attesting to the necessity for the sharing of records with URICA, were filed with the application.

#### **4.2 Fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the electricity market**

14. As part of the application, written representations from senior officers of Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES and RES LP were filed indicating that the records subject to preferential information sharing will not be used for any purpose that does not support the fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the Alberta electricity market, including, but not limited to, the conduct referred to in Section 2 of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*.

15. The senior officers' written representations also identified that Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES and RES LP have formal systems of controls and policies which ensure that the information shared with URICA will be handled appropriately, including adherence to Section 2 of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*.

16. Additionally, the written representations from the senior officer of Hilda GP and Hilda LP confirmed that they have in place a *Code of Business Conduct and Ethics Policy*, relating to compliance with all laws, rules and regulations, and pertaining to the confidentiality of information, which all directors, officers, employees, contractors and agents must comply with.

17. Similarly, the representations from a senior officer of RES and RES LP indicated that they have in place a *Corporate Code of Conduct and Performance Standards*, relating to compliance with all laws, rules and regulations, and pertaining to the confidentiality of information, which all directors, officers, employees, contractors and agents must comply with. All employees are required to execute an *Employee Confidential Information and Inventions Agreement*, regarding information that is confidential in nature.

18. A written representation from a senior officer of URICA was filed with the application, which confirms that any records shared with URICA will not be used for any purpose that does not support the fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the Alberta electricity market, including but not limited to the conduct referred to in Section 2 of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*. The senior officer of URICA confirmed that URICA has a formal compliance plan and program in place to safeguard confidential and commercially sensitive information and access to such information, including non-public quantity-offer information and the confidential information of companies with which URICA does business. All of URICA's employees, officers and affiliates are required to acknowledge and comply with the compliance plan and the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*. Access to secured information is strictly controlled and monitored.

#### **4.3 Offer control**

19. Hilda GP advised that the total offer control of Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES and RES LP is 0.7 per cent and that URICA's offer control is zero per cent, both of which are less than the offer-control limit of 30 per cent, as set out in Section 5(5) of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*.

## 5 Commission findings

20. Section 3(3) of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation* authorizes the Commission to issue an order permitting the sharing of records on any terms and conditions that the Commission considers appropriate, provided that certain requirements are satisfied. For the reasons that follow, the Commission finds that those requirements have been met.

21. The Commission is satisfied that Hilda GP has demonstrated that (i) the sharing of records with URICA is reasonably necessary for Hilda GP to carry out its business; and (ii) the subject records will not be used for any purpose that does not support the fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the Alberta electricity market, including the conduct referred to in Section 2 of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*. The Commission is further satisfied that Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES, RES LP and URICA will conduct themselves in a manner that supports the fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the market. In making these findings, the Commission has relied on:

- (a) Submissions from Hilda GP stating that it does not have an internal 24-hour real-time dispatch desk in order to address events at power producers as required by the ISO rules.
- (b) Written representations from senior officers of Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES and RES LP confirming that any records subject to preferential information sharing will not be used for any purpose that does not support the fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the Alberta electricity market and that they will conduct themselves in a manner that supports the operation of the market.
- (c) Written representations from Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES and RES LP confirming that they have formal systems of controls and policies that ensure the information shared with Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES and RES LP will not be used for any purpose that does not support the fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the Alberta electricity market, including the conduct referred to in Section 2 of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*. The Commission understands that all employees and others conducting business on behalf of Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES and RES LP are required to comply with these policies.
- (d) Written representations from URICA stating that it has a formal system of controls and policies that ensure the information shared with URICA will not be used for any purpose that does not support the fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the Alberta electricity market, including the conduct referred to in Section 2 of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*. The Commission understands that all officers and employees of URICA are required to comply with these policies.

22. The Commission also finds that offer-control figures for all entities involved (both before and after any approval to share records) are less than the offer-control limit of 30 per cent, as set out in Section 5(5) of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*.

23. Finally, the Commission considers the MSA's support of this application to be a contributing factor in its determination to permit the sharing of records, given the MSA's mandate under Section 39(2)(a)(vi) of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, to survey, investigate or enforce the "arrangements, information sharing and decisions relating to

electricity market participants exchanging or wishing to exchange electric energy and ancillary services or any aspect of those activities.”

24. For all of the above reasons, the Commission is prepared to issue an order allowing Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES and RES LP to share records not available to the public with URICA, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) The order applies to the sharing of non-public price, quantity and availability information, between Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES, RES LP and URICA, pertaining to HLD1, that may relate to HLD1’s participation in the Alberta electricity market, as described in the application.
- (b) Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES, RES LP and URICA must notify the Commission of the termination of the commercial arrangements between Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES, RES LP and URICA as soon as is practicable and within 30 days of the termination of such commercial arrangements.
- (c) Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES, RES LP and URICA must notify the Commission of any material changes to the information and continued applicability of any representations included within this application that may affect the compliance of Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES, RES LP or URICA with the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation* as soon as is practicable and within 30 days of the material changes.

25. The order shall be effective from the date of this decision until the earlier of June 1, 2029, or the termination of commercial arrangements between Hilda GP, Hilda LP, RES, RES LP and URICA.

## 6 Order

26. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 3 of the *Fair, Efficient and Open Competition Regulation*, the Commission grants the application for the sharing of records as set out in the following order granted to Hilda Wind G.P. Inc., Hilda Wind L.P., Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc., RES Canada Support Services L.P. and URICA Energy Real Time Ltd., which is a separate disposition in this proceeding:

- (1) Preferential Sharing of Records – Hilda Wind Power Plant –  
Order 28019-D02-2023

Dated on March 8, 2023.

### Alberta Utilities Commission

*(original signed by)*

Fino Tiberi  
Executive Director, Market Oversight and Enforcement Division  
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission