



**Peace River Power GP Ltd.**

**98-Megawatt Power Plant Equipment Alteration**

**December 6, 2016**

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 22176-D01-2016

Peace River Power GP Ltd.

98-Megawatt Power Plant Equipment Alteration

Proceeding 22176

Application 22176-A001

December 6, 2016

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## **1 Decision summary**

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission must decide whether to approve an application from Peace River Power GP Ltd. (Peace River Power) for the alteration of a 98-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired power plant in Northern Sunrise County. After consideration of the record of the proceeding, and for the reasons outlined in this decision, the Commission finds that approval of the project is in the public interest having regard to the social, economic, and other effects of the project, including its effect on the environment.

## **2 Introduction and background**

2. Peace River Power, pursuant to Approval 21793-D02-2016,<sup>1</sup> has approval to construct and operate a 98-MW natural gas-fired power plant in Northern Sunrise County, approximately 40 kilometres northeast of the town of Peace River.

3. Peace River Power filed an application with the AUC for approval to alter and operate the power plant. The application was registered on November 16, 2016, as Application 22176-A001.

4. The Commission issued information requests to Peace River Power on November 24, 2016. Peace River Power filed responses to the information requests on November 28, 2016.

5. Due to the nature of the application, 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 Discussion**

6. Peace River Power requested approval to alter the type of transformers at the power plant. It proposed to change the step-up transformers from the approved two 13.8/144-kilovolt (kV) transformers to two 13.8/240-kV transformers. The new transformers would have the same rating of 45/60/75 megavolt-ampere as the previous transformers.

7. Peace River Power explained that the change was necessary because it intended to expand the power plant at a later date and that in order to accommodate this expansion, the

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<sup>1</sup> Approval 21793-D02-2016, Proceeding 21793, Application 21793-A001, August 31, 2016.

interconnection would require a voltage level of 240-kV instead of the originally planned 144-kV.

8. Peace River Power provided copies of the original and new transformer specifications to show that the new transformers would have similar noise emissions and submitted that it was therefore not necessary to update the noise impact assessment for the project.

9. Peace River Power consulted on the equipment change with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP). AEP indicated that it had no concerns with the change in transformers.

10. Peace River Power notified potentially affected or interested parties within 3,000 metres of the power plant of the proposed change. No concerns or objections were raised by participants.

#### **4 Findings**

11. The Commission has reviewed the application and has determined that the technical, siting, emissions, environmental and noise aspects associated with the power plant alteration have been met. Peace River Power's participant involvement program has been conducted and there are no outstanding public or industry objections or concerns.

#### **5 Decision**

12. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants Peace River Power the approval set out in Appendix 1– 98-Megawatt Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant – Approval 22176-D02-2016 – December 6, 2016 to construct and operate the power plant (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on December 6, 2016.

#### **Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Henry van Egteren  
Commission Member