



Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.

**Time Extension to Complete Construction
of a 5.2-Megawatt Biogas Power Plant**

December 9, 2015

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 21045-D01-2015

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Proceeding 21045

Application 21045-A001

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1 Introduction

1. Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. (Millar Western), pursuant to Approval 20856-D02-2015,¹ is the owner of a proposed 5.2-megawatt biogas power plant to be located on its existing manufacturing site in the town of Whitecourt, Alberta.
2. Millar Western filed Application 20856-A001 on September 23, 2015, with the Alberta Utilities Commission requesting approval of a time extension to June 30, 2016, in order to complete construction of the power plant. The Commission approved the application on October 19, 2015, in Decision 20856-D01-2015² and granted the requested time extension.
3. On November 19, 2015, Millar Western filed Application 21045-A001 with the AUC requesting approval of a further time extension from June 30, 2016 to June 30, 2017, in order to complete construction of the power plant.

2 Discussion

4. Millar Western stated that due to repairs to the concrete foundations of the three anaerobic-hybrid-digester (AHD) tanks, the subject of the requested time extension in Application 20856-A001, the tank seeding would be delayed to late October or mid-November 2015. Millar Western has since determined that activating a new biological system under winter conditions would entail significant risk and has therefore decided to postpone seeding of the AHD tanks until spring 2016.
5. Millar Western stated that the AHD tanks would be producing sufficient quantities of biogas to fuel the reciprocating engines by mid-to-late summer 2016, but requested a time extension until mid-2017 to allow additional time to deal with any issues that may arise or in the event that the tanks require re-seeding.
6. Due to the nature of the application, a notice of application was not issued and a hearing was not required because 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*.

¹ Power Plant Approval 20856-D01-2015, Proceeding 20856, Application 20856-A001, October 19, 2015.

² Decision 20856-D01-2015: Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. – Time Extension to Complete Construction of a 5.2-Megawatt Biogas Power Plant, Proceeding 20856, Application 20856-A001, October 19, 2015.

3 Findings

7. Millar Western has provided information respecting the need, nature and the duration of the requested time extension. Based upon the information provided, Millar Western has demonstrated that the requested time extension is of a minor nature, but necessary in order for Millar Western to complete construction of the power plant.

8. Given the considerations discussed above, the Commission finds the application to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act* and approves the requested time extension to June 30, 2017.

4 Decision

9. Pursuant to sections 11 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants Millar Western the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval 21045-D02-2015 – December 9, 2015 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on December 9, 2015.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Anne Michaud
Commission Member