



# AUC

Alberta Utilities Commission

## **MEG Energy Corp.**

**85-MW Power Plant**

**Christina Lake Regional Project Phase 3A**

**July 16, 2013**



**The Alberta Utilities Commission**  
Decision 2013-267: MEG Energy Corp.  
85-MW Power Plant  
Christina Lake Regional Project Phase 3A  
Application No. 1609602  
Proceeding ID No. 2613

July 16, 2013

Published by

The Alberta Utilities Commission  
Fifth Avenue Place, Fourth Floor, 425 First Street S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 3L8

Telephone: 403-592-8845  
Fax: 403-592-4406

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

## **1 Introduction**

1. MEG Energy Corp. (MEG) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) for approval to construct and operate a natural gas fuelled 85-megawatt (MW) cogeneration (power/steam) plant, designated Co-gen 3, as part of its expanded Christina Lake Regional Project (CLRP) Phase 3A in the Christina Lake area. MEG's application is pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, and was registered as Application No. 1609602 and assigned Proceeding ID No. 2613 on May 17, 2013.

2. The 85-MW cogeneration power plant would consist of one natural gas fuelled turbine-drive generator and be located in LSD 4 of Section 29, Township 76, Range 4, west of the Fourth Meridian and as further described in the application.

3. MEG provided a noise impact assessment in which it was predicted that the noise levels would be in compliance with AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control* (AUC Rule 012).

4. With respect to the environmental impacts of the project, MEG received approval from the Energy Resources Conservation Board and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development for Phase 3 of the CLRP. The biophysical and water impacts due to the 85-MW cogeneration power plant application were considered as part of the environmental impact assessment completed for Phase 3 of the CLRP.

5. MEG submitted that the environmental impacts due to the cogeneration power plant would be minimal in comparison to the overall environmental impacts of the CLRP. As a result, the overall environmental impacts of the cogeneration power plant were deemed acceptable.

6. The required footprint of the power plant facilities and related infrastructure would be within the footprint of the approved CLRP.

7. MEG conducted a participant involvement program to notify occupants, residents and landowners within 2,000 metres of the project, and other potentially affected parties. There are no full-time occupied residences within 2,000 metres of the project area. There are trap line holders within 2,000 metres, however, MEG stated that no project-specific concerns have been raised and no additional agreements with stakeholders will be necessary to carry out the project.

8. The AUC issued two rounds of information requests to MEG on June 4 and June 13, 2013. The information requests involved clarifications regarding the noise impact assessment, the environmental impacts, the resubmission of clearer and higher resolution figures/diagrams to replace those in the application, and a confirmation that MEG's current application is pursuant to only Section 11 of *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* with respect to the

85-MW cogeneration facility. MEG filed its responses to the information requests on July 15, 2013.

## **2 Findings**

9. The Commission has reviewed the application and has determined that the technical, siting, emissions, and environmental requirements of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* and AUC Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, and Industrial System Designations* (AUC Rule 007) have been met.

10. The Commission is satisfied that the project would not cause additional adverse environmental impacts since the power plant facilities and related infrastructure are within the footprint of the approved MEG CLRP.

11. The Commission finds that MEG's public involvement project was reasonable and consistent with the requirements of AUC Rule 007 and notes that no objections were received.

12. The Commission relies on MEG's statement that there are no objections to the project. Therefore, a notice of application was not issued and a hearing was not required as the Commission considered that its decision or order would not directly or adversely affect the rights of a person pursuant to Section 9 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

13. The Commission accepts the results of the noise impact assessment whereby the predicted noise levels are predicted to be in compliance with AUC Rule 012.

14. Various government agencies were consulted in respect of the project and the Commission relies on MEG's submission that no agencies raised any concerns with the project.

15. Based on the foregoing, the Commission considers the proposed Phase 3A cogeneration facility to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

## **3 Decision**

16. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants MEG the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant – Approval No. U2013-342 – July 16, 2013 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on July 16, 2013.

### **The Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Tudor Beattie, QC  
Commission Member