



**BowArk Energy Ltd.**

**Queenstown Power Plant Amendment**

**March 15, 2016**

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 20995-D01-2016

BowArk Energy Ltd.

Queenstown Power Plant Amendment

Proceeding 20995

Application 20995-A001

March 15, 2016

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## **1 Decision summary**

1. In this decision, BowArk Energy Ltd. asked the Alberta Utilities Commission to approve an amendment to the Queenstown power plant that would allow it to install generating units that are different than those previously approved and which would increase the capability of the power plant from 90 megawatts (MW) to 94 MW. For the reasons outlined below, the Commission finds that the power plant amendment is in the public interest and approves the application.

## **2 Introduction and background**

2. BowArk Energy Ltd. (BowArk), pursuant to Approval 3460-D02-2015,<sup>1</sup> has approval to construct and operate a 90-megawatt (MW) power plant designated as the Queenstown power plant (power plant), in the Vulcan area.

3. BowArk filed its application with the Commission for approval to amend the power plant to install generating units that are different than those that were previously approved on November 3, 2015. It was registered as Application 20995-A001.

4. The Commission issued four rounds of information requests to BowArk, on December 3, 2015, January 14, 2016, February 19, 2016, and March 8, 2016. BowArk responded to these information requests on December 22, 2015, February 10, 2016, March 2, 2016, and March 10, 2016 respectively.

5. Due to the nature of the application, a notice of application was not issued and, therefore, 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*.

## **3 Discussion**

6. BowArk proposed that the power plant would now consist of five 18.76-megawatt (MW) simple-cycle natural gas-fuelled reciprocating generating units with a total capability of 94 MW. The previously-approved power plant was to consist of two 45 MW natural gas turbines with a total capability of 90 MW. The power plant would be located in LSD 4, Section 17, Township 19, Range 22, west of the Fourth Meridian.

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<sup>1</sup> Approval 3460-D02-2015, Proceeding 3460, Application 1610912-1, March 6, 2015.

7. BowArk conducted a participant involvement program in order to notify stakeholders of the new technology and capacity change to 94 MW. It stated that there were no residents within 2,000 metres of the proposed power plant. BowArk mailed out an information package to stakeholders within 2,000 metres of the proposed power plant, followed up with stakeholders within 800 metres of the proposed power plant, and published information about the project changes in the local newspaper.

8. BowArk submitted a noise impact assessment with respect to the power plant and stated that the anticipated noise levels would be within the permissible sound levels specified in Rule 012: *Noise Control*.

9. BowArk conducted an air quality assessment as part of its application, which predicted that the concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO) would be in compliance with *Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives*. BowArk submitted an amendment application to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) in parallel with its application to the AUC. In response to AEP concerns about nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions from the proposed power plant, BowArk stated that it is committed to installing selective catalytic reduction on each of the five generating units.

#### **4 Findings**

10. The Commission is satisfied that the application meets the information requirements stipulated in Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments*.

11. The Commission finds that the noise impact assessment submitted by BowArk fulfills the requirements of Rule 012 and the power plant will not exceed the permissible sound level.

12. The Commission also finds that BowArk's participant involvement program has been satisfactory and there are no outstanding public, industry or agency objections or concerns.

13. The Commission acknowledges BowArk's commitment to address AEP's concerns with NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and is satisfied that no significant environmental impacts are expected as a result of the change in generating units and capability.

14. Having considered all of the evidence before it, the Commission finds the proposed power plant amendment to be in the public interest pursuant to Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, having given consideration to the environmental, economic and social impacts.

## 5 Decision

15. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the application and grants BowArk the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval 20995-D02-2016 – March 15, 2016, to construct and operate the Queenstown power plant (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on March 15, 2016.

### **Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Anne Michaud  
Commission Member