



**Pteragen Canada Inc.**

**Time Extension to Construct the  
Peace Butte Wind Power Project**

**October 17, 2016**

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 21779-D02-2016

Pteragen Canada Inc.

Time Extension to Construct the Peace Butte Wind Power Project  
Proceeding 21779

Applications 21779-A001 and 21779-A003

October 17, 2016

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## **1 Decision summary**

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission must decide whether to approve applications from Pteragen Canada Inc. (Pteragen) for a time extension to complete construction of a power plant designated as the Peace Butte Wind Power Plant and Tothill 219S Substation. After consideration of the record of the proceeding, and for the reasons outlined in this decision, the Commission approves the time extension.

## **2 Introduction and background**

2. Pteragen is the owner of the Peace Butte Wind Power Plant and Tothill 219S Substation in the Medicine Hat area, pursuant to Approval U2014-245<sup>1</sup> and Permit and Licence U2014-246.<sup>2</sup>

3. Pteragen filed applications with the Commission requesting approval for a time extension, from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2018, to complete construction of the power plant and substation. The applications were registered on July 4, 2016, as applications 21779-A001 and 21779-A003.

4. The Commission issued information requests to Pteragen on July 7, 2016 and September 7, 2016, seeking clarification on its consultation with local stakeholders and Alberta Environment and Parks. Pteragen provided responses on September 6, 2016 and September 12, 2016, respectively.

5. The Commission issued a notice of applications on September 13, 2016. The notice was sent to potentially directly and adversely affected persons or interested parties identified by Pteragen as being located within 2,000 metres of the project area. The notice was also published on the AUC website and notification was automatically emailed to eFiling System users that had chosen to be notified of notices of application issued by the Commission. The deadline for filing submissions with the AUC was October 4, 2016. No submissions were received by the submission deadline.

## **3 Discussion**

6. Pteragen stated that the uncertainty associated with the Government of Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan, the transition of the *Specified Gas Emissions Regulation* to the *Carbon Competitiveness Regulation* and the unknown schedule for the accelerated retirement of

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<sup>1</sup> Power Plant Approval U2014-245, Proceeding 3256, Application 1610614, June 11, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Substation Permit and Licence U2014-246, Proceeding 3256, Application 1610614, June 11, 2014.

coal power plants made it difficult to finalize commercial arrangements for the project. Pteragen also stated that a time extension to December 31, 2018 would allow it to participate in the Government of Alberta's Renewable Electricity Program request for proposals, which it anticipated to call for submissions in the December 2016 timeframe.

7. Pteragen submitted a project change proposal to the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) to reflect the change to the anticipated construction completion date. The AESO approved the project change proposal on May 18, 2016.

8. Pteragen provided a written update to all landowners that have lands under lease as part of the Peace Butte Wind Power Project on August 4, 2016. Pteragen also provided periodic verbal updates to the landowners and Cypress County. Pteragen stated that there has been no new residential development in or around the project area that would require the search for newly affected stakeholders. Pteragen further stated that the primary impact to affected residences would be noise and that the project continues to be compliant with Rule 012: *Noise Control*.

9. Pteragen stated that once it receives clarity on the Renewable Electricity Program request for proposals, it can begin to finalize construction timelines, road access layouts and collector systems, and would work collaboratively with the landowners in the area to mitigate any potential concerns.

10. Pteragen consulted with the local wildlife biologist from Alberta Environment and Parks Wildlife Management (AEP-WM) office in Medicine Hat with regard to the time extension request. To maintain the continued support from AEP-WM for wind power projects, wildlife survey data cannot be more than two years old prior to the commencement of construction. AEP-WM will require the following wildlife surveys to be completed prior to construction:

- reptiles
- sharp-tailed grouse lek
- raptor nest searches within a one-kilometre buffer
- breeding bird surveys: early species (May 1 to June 15) and late species (June 16 to July 15)
- acoustic bat surveys during the fall migration (August 1 to September 30)

11. AEP-WM also stated the following commitments from the original AEP sign-off referral letter were outstanding and must be satisfied:

- a detailed post-construction wildlife monitoring program
- a wildlife management plan, which includes mitigation during construction and operation
- conservation offsets are to be in place to mitigate impacts on native grassland

12. AEP-WM stated that an updated sign-off referral letter was not required for the project.

## 4 Findings

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

14. Pteragen has provided periodic project updates to all landowners. Its participant involvement program has been conducted and there are no outstanding public or industry objections or concerns. The Commission notes that there were no responses to its notice of applications.

15. The Commission is also satisfied that Pteragen has conducted consultations with AEP-WM respecting the time extension request. Pteragen is aware of its outstanding surveys and commitments required for AEP-WM sign-off, all of which the Commission expects Pteragen to fulfill. The Commission notes that AEP-WM did not require an updated sign-off referral letter for the time extension.

16. 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*.

## 5 Decision

17. Pursuant to sections 11 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 21779-A001 and grants Pteragen the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Power Plant Approval 21779-D03-2016 – October 17, 2016 for a time extension to construct the Peace Butte Wind Power Plant (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

18. Pursuant to sections 14, 15 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 21779-A003 and grants Pteragen the permit and licence set out in Appendix 2 – Substation Permit and Licence 21779-D04-2016 – October 17, 2016 for a time extension to construct Tothill 219S Substation (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on October 17, 2016.

### Alberta Utilities Commission

*(original signed by)*

Anne Michaud  
Commission Member