Bulletin 2020-18

May 12, 2020

Tracking and reporting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on utility operations, costs and revenues

In a letter to the Alberta Utilities Commission, the Consumers’ Coalition of Alberta (CCA) requested that the Commission direct regulated utilities to record and eventually report on current and ongoing decisions, positions and actions due to the impact of COVID-19 relating to the following:

1. Any unique or material changes to staffing plans as they arise, which would include a description of the measures being taken with respect to necessary staffing.
2. What unit or other costs, if any, are expected to or will uniquely or materially change, both increases and decreases, as a result of continuing operations (i.e., protective measures), and what costs related to operations or capital can or are being suspended, deferred or cancelled.
3. Plans for acceleration, continuation, deferral or cancellation of capital construction.
4. Reports on impacts to overall returns. This would include any gains or losses that may occur as a result of pandemic-related activities or costs being different (both decreases and increases) from forecasts. The CCA recognizes that there may also be revenue decreases from forecast as well.
5. Reporting on efforts undertaken to engage with the other utilities and the entities such as customers, the government or the Alberta Electric System Operator, where necessary, to obtain input on the suspension, deferral or cancellation of projects particularly in the context of the current and forecast impacts on the Alberta economy.
6. A list of mandatory and more discretionary or optional projects and work activities.

The Commission would like to give regulated utilities and other stakeholders, such as customer groups, the opportunity to address the CCA’s request.

Comments are being collected through the Engage platform for use by the AUC in determining whether any tracking or reporting requirements are necessary at this time and, if so, how this information will assist the Commission in fulfilling its mandate. Any stakeholder wishing to comment should do so through the AUC’s Engage platform by Wednesday, May 20, 2020.
Should you have questions regarding this consultation, please contact Kristjana Kellgren by email at kristjana.kellgren@auc.ab.ca or by telephone at 780-427-8558, or Heather Gnenz by email at heather.gnenz@auc.ab.ca or by telephone at 403-592-4419.

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