

Notice of Application

Town of Coalhurst (Coalhurst)
Application No. 1605940
ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO Gas)

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or Commission) is a quasi-judicial regulatory body responsible for making decisions about utility-related applications.

Coalhurst filed an application with the AUC on February 25, 2010 for approval to renew its natural gas franchise agreement (agreement) with ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd.

Take notice:

Any parties having concerns with application no. 1605940 (the application) should file an intervention with the AUC by 2:30 p.m. on April 7, 2010. If no bona fide objections are received by the above date, the AUC will process the application without further notice.

Nature of the application:

The franchise renewal agreement gives ATCO Gas the exclusive right to deliver natural gas to the residents of Coalhurst for 10 years.

The agreement has been based on a standard natural gas franchise agreement commonly used in the province. Some of the noteworthy changes from the current agreement include a change in responsibility for utility relocation costs caused by municipal purposes, provision of extra services, options for purchase of the distribution system by the municipality, and provisions respecting third party use of the distribution system.

The franchise fee provided in the proposed agreement would remain at 12.44 per cent of the charges of ATCO Gas. However, the agreement allows Coalhurst to increase the level of the franchise fee at its own discretion on an annual basis to a maximum of 35 per cent without any further review by the AUC. If Coalhurst was to implement the maximum franchise fee at current rates for distribution, the yearly gas billings for an average residential customer in Coalhurst would increase by about \$79.50 from the amount paid with the original fee.

Additional information:

Copies of application no. 1605940 are available for viewing through the home page of the AUC website at www.auc.ab.ca by selecting the Applications link followed by the Current Applications link and entering the application number or by the following URL:

https://www.auc.ab.ca/eub/dds/iar_query/ApplicationAttachments.aspx?AppNumber=1605940

To obtain additional information or a paper copy of the application, contact the applicant at:

The Town of Coalhurst
PO Box 456
Coalhurst, Alberta T0L 0V0
Attention: Mr. R. Kim Hauta, Chief Administrative Officer
Telephone: 403-381-3033 Fax: 403-381-2924

- or -

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd.
410 Stafford Drive North
Lethbridge, Alberta T1H 2A9
Attention: Mr. Derek Harding, Manager, Lethbridge District Operations
Telephone: 403-380-5401 Fax: 403-380-5428

For information about AUC procedures contact Wanda Goudy, Rates Division at the number listed below.

Intervention submissions:

Any party with concerns respecting application no. 1605940 should submit a statement of intent to participate (SIP) letter setting out the party's name or organization name, address and/or legal land description, telephone number and e-mail address (if available) prior to 2:30 p.m. on April 7, 2010.

Please note that the SIP submission must contain:

- A description of the nature of the party's interest in the proceeding (i.e. how the party will be affected by the Commission's decision); and
- An explanation of the party's position including reasons why the party believes that the AUC should decide in the manner the party recommends, and information in support of the party's position.

Subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, all documents filed in this application, including documents filed prior to the start of the application must be placed on the public record. Also your written submissions and any other documents you file will be accessible to the public through the Proceeding Search System on the AUC website. Please ensure that any document you file is free of information that you do not want to appear on a public record. If you do not want your document or part thereof placed on the public record, you must apply to the Commission under section 13 of the *AUC Rules of Practice* for a confidentiality order before you file your document.

Electronic copies of intervention letters can be submitted to:

E-mail: filings@auc.ab.ca
Subject: Application no. 1605940

Paper copies of intervention letters can be sent to:

Wanda Goudy, Rates Division
Alberta Utilities Commission
10055 - 106 Street, 10th Floor
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2Y2
Telephone: 780-427-4903 Fax: 780-427-6970; Email: wanda.goudy@auc.ab.ca

For information about AUC procedures, contact the AUC at:

Telephone: 780-427-4903
Email: utilitiesconcerns@auc.ab.ca

Issued at Calgary, Alberta, on March 19, 2010.

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION
Doug A. Larder, Q.C., General Counsel