

## Bulletin 2006-25

July 12, 2006

### **Announcing the Approval in Principle of the Form and Content of a Uniform System of Accounts and Minimum Filing Requirements for Alberta Electric Utilities**

The Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB/Board) has a number of initiatives under way to improve the efficiency of regulation in Alberta through collaborative efforts between the utilities and customers. One such initiative is the establishment of a Uniform System of Accounts (USA) to allow the comparability and completeness of operating results. A companion initiative is to improve the consistency and completeness of applications made to the EUB by the establishment of Minimum Filing Requirements (MFRs).

The EUB believes that the adoption and use of an activity-based USA similar to that used by the United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will improve the ability to compare financial information from year to year for a utility and, to the extent possible, across utilities when testing the reasonableness of a utility's filings and budgets. The EUB and interveners will have greater confidence that the costs being considered are comparable. This increased confidence, combined with MFRs based on information from the USA, should result in more complete and comprehensive General Tariff Applications (GTAs), a more efficient interrogatory process, and reduced cross-examination time at hearings.

In a letter dated December 6, 2004, the EUB established the USA project committee (USA Committee), consisting of representative membership from Alberta electric utilities and intervener groups, with an EUB representative serving as the USA Committee chairperson. The USA Committee was charged with the task of collaboratively developing a USA and MFRs that can be cost effectively implemented for use in GTAs filed with the EUB for approval by the owners of electric transmission facilities and the owners of electric distribution facilities.

By letter dated May 8, 2006, the USA Committee advised the EUB that it had reached an agreement with respect to a USA and MFRs that reflected the consensus views of the USA Committee membership. The USA Committee filed the consensus USA and MFR documents (Consensus Documents) with the EUB and requested that the Board approve in principle the contents of the Consensus Documents.

The Board has reviewed the Consensus Documents and has approved in principle their form and content.

Having endorsed the form and content of the Consensus Documents, the Board must now determine whether it would be in the public interest to proceed with the implementation of a USA and MFRs for the regulated electric utility companies in Alberta. This determination will be made in a future public process in which submissions from interested parties will be considered to arrive at a decision.

The Consensus Documents are available on the EUB Web site at [www.eub.ca/docs/documents/bulletins/bulletin-2006-25-ConsensusDocs.pdf](http://www.eub.ca/docs/documents/bulletins/bulletin-2006-25-ConsensusDocs.pdf).

R. D. Heggie  
Executive Manager, Utilities Branch