

AUC Rule 004: Alberta Tariff Billing Code Meeting with AESO Regarding Billing of Transmission-Connected Sites March 1 Meeting Summary

Meeting date	March 1, 2012	Time	1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Location	<u>AUC office</u> Fourth floor, 425 First St. S.W., Calgary <u>Teleconference</u> Phone: 1-866-792-1318 Conference code: 8665992	Facilitator	AUC staff

1. Introductions

Name	Company
Ena Gibbons	AESO
John Martin	AESO
Ella Kulyk	ATCO Electric (by phone)
Nap Pepin	ATCO Electric (by phone)
Anne Glass	AUC
Will Chow	AUC
Keith Taylor	Cognera
Lisa Zuger	EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc.
David Jackman	FortisAlberta
John Hutchison	Valeo Power

2. Background

- The AUC is seeking to standardize how distributors bill transmission-connected sites in the Tariff Bill File. Since the transmission charges from the AESO for transmission-connected sites are passed through to the retailer by the distributor, industry is favouring an approach whereby the Tariff Bill File would should a lump-sum amount, and all of the detail would be provided to the retailer by the distributor forwarding individual records contained in the invoice spreadsheet that details the charges sent by the AESO to the distributor. Two problem scenarios were identified:
 - When a site switches retailers mid-month – In this scenario, the charges from the AESO do not have a corresponding mid-month split. Therefore, the distributor would not be able to just flow through the charges from the AESO to the retailer.
 - When a POD is shared by two sites, especially when the sites belong to different retailers – In this scenario, the charges from the AESO result from the consumption and demand of both sites combined and, again, cannot just be flowed through to the retailer.
- The AUC hosted this meeting with the AESO and interested parties to enlist the help of the AESO in identifying possible solutions to the above scenarios.

3. Mid-month enrolments of transmission-connected sites

- The group discussed that, while transmission-connected sites do not switch retailers very often, when they do and when the switch occurs mid-month, flowing through the AESO charges poses a problem because the AESO charges are for a whole month of billing.
- The group discussed whether the AESO could split the charges on the enrolment date. The AESO indicated that its tariffs are based on calendar months and, therefore, cannot split the charges based on days. The AESO also explained that in its terms and conditions (T&Cs) it restricts account setup and billing changes to the first of the month.
- It was decided during the meeting that the group would propose disallowing mid-month enrolments (retailer switches) for transmission-connected sites. Distributor T&Cs could be reworded, in these cases, to align with the AESO T&Cs.
- Distributors around the table agreed that this solution would be preferable and less costly than the manual effort caused by allowing mid-month enrolments for transmission-connected sites. Retailers present did not express objections. Note: ENMAX Power was not present at the meeting and would need to weigh in on this potential solution.
- This potential solution would have an impact on Rule 021, and the AUC Rule 021 and Rule 028 Industry Consultation group would need to agree with the proposed change. In addition, the group would need to create a reason code for enrolment failures in situations where mid-month enrolments for transmission-connected sites have been requested.

ACTION: The disallowing of mid-month enrolments for transmission-connected sites will be proposed to the AUC Rule 021 and Rule 028 Industry Consultation group and to the AUC Rule 004 Tariff Billing Code Industry Consultation group.

4. Shared POD issue

- The group brainstormed how best to handle the billing of those transmission-connected sites that share a single POD. There are not many of them in the province, so a manual approach would be doable. The AESO charges for the POD represent more than one customer's information, and so providing the information to both, especially where there are two different retailers involved, would inadvertently provide information about the other customer/retailer.
- A number of ideas were discussed and rejected, including having the AESO split the charges.
- One promising idea discussed was for the AESO to help build a tool to calculate AESO charges according to DIM data. In this way, distributors could use the DIM data for both sites to calculate the individual charges and balance them to the POD charges. The output from the calculation tool would then be provided to the retailers.

ACTION: EDTI and ATCO Electric to check what AESO rates and riders currently apply for their t-connect sites and provide this information to the AUC to send to the AESO.

ACTION: AESO to inquire within its own organization as to the possibility of creating a calculation tool, building on the current estimator on the AESO website.