

AUC Rule 004: Alberta Tariff Billing Code Industry Consultation Meeting Summary

Meeting date	June 6, 2012	Time	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location	<u>Video conference AUC offices</u> Tenth floor, 10055 - 106 St., Edmonton 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
Chad Crossland	AltaGas Utilities Inc.
Nap Pepin	ATCO Electric
Stacey Zinyk	ATCO Electric
Carol Benoit	ATCO Gas
Trevor Fenton	ATCO Gas
Anne Glass	AUC
Rob Thomas	AUC
Will Chow	AUC
Kyle Patterson	Cognera Corp.
Donna Sanderow	Encana
Brian Neufeld	ENMAX Encompass
Leo Scarcelli	ENMAX Power
Lorne McKay	ENMAX Power
Lisa Zuger	EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc.
Tammy Haydey	EPCOR Energy Alberta Inc.
David Jackman	FortisAlberta
Ngan Duong	Just Energy
John Hutchison	Valeo Power

2. Review of last meeting's summary and Rule 004 Action Item List

- The group made the following correction to the RIM Issue 496 section of the April 4 meeting summary:

As written in the April 4 summary:

- The group decided to review ENMAX Encompass' proposed transaction layout within their organizations and determine approximate costs of implementation and whether they have any concerns with the proposal.

ACTION: Parties to review the transaction layout proposed by ENMAX Encompass for inclusion of MU and MD records for reporting

micro-generation determinants in the TBF and come up with approximate costs of implementation.

Changes to April 4 summary:

- Also discussed were the possibilities of using a new commodity code for generation, using the miscellaneous determinant (DM) record type and using the OTC record type. The group concluded that the DM record approach would likely be the simplest and lowest cost approach. Parties agreed to research the approximate cost of implementing the DM approach and whether or not they have any concerns with this approach.

ACTION: Parties to review with their organization the approximate costs of implementation of the miscellaneous determinant approach for reporting micro-generation determinants in the TBF and whether this approach would likely cause problems.

3. Billing transmission-connected (direct-connect) sites

- The AUC updated the group regarding the results of the discussion that took place at the AUC Rule 021 and AUC Rule 028 Industry Consultation meeting held April 18, 2012. At that meeting, the group had discussed restricting enrolments of transmission-connected sites to the first of the month only, and that recommendation was accepted and a new failure code will be added to AUC Rule 021 for enrolments that are submitted for any other day of the month. At the June 13, 2012, AUC Rule 021 and AUC Rule 028 Industry Consultation meeting, EPCOR Distribution and Transmission will provide proposed wording as to the mechanics of the enrolments for the next version of AUC Rule 021.
- The AUC has followed up with the AESO to find out the results of the AESO's internal discussions regarding whether or not the development and maintenance of a calculation tool would be a possibility. The AUC is awaiting response to its email from the AESO.

4. RIM Issue 474 – Cancels and rebills involving charge periods more than one year old

- Retailers had been tasked with checking within their organizations as to whether or not they would object to allowing distributors to optionally collect directly from the customer for periods beyond a year in circumstances involving errors where non-residential customers have been undercharged for more than a year and only correcting the errors through TBFs to the retailer for periods up to a year. EPCOR Energy indicated that this approach would likely lead to customer confusion but would not stand in the way of this approach in order to facilitate consensus. ENMAX, Cognera and Just Energy agreed with EPCOR Energy.
- ATCO Electric presented an alternative proposal that would restrict both debits and credits for non-RRO customers to two years. EPCOR Energy wondered why not three and three. ENMAX Encompass wondered what would happen if the customer was only on the RRO for only a portion of the time. ATCO Gas and EPCOR Distribution and Transmission were both in favour of ATCO Electric's proposal.
- ENMAX Power indicated that it would no longer consider moving away from its current approach of limiting both debits and credits to one year. It indicated that with its current rate regime (similar to performance based rates), it could not justify the expense of the system changes required without an industry cost-benefit analysis conducted.

- The AUC indicated that it did not see a consensus approach for this issue to be feasible. The AUC would do more research and perform an analysis. The AUC would then develop a rule for time limits for debits and credits. The AUC would be contacting the various companies to obtain statistics and other information to assist in making a decision.

ACTION: AUC to perform an analysis and develop a rule for time limits for debits and credits.

- The group discussed standardizing how debits and credits going past a year should be presented in the TBF.
- EPCOR Distribution and Transmission currently will cancel and rebill two years of data in TBF format. If required to limit the debit to 11 months, it will reverse some of the charges using a one-time charge (credit) to ensure 11 month limit. If required to credit for periods longer than two years, it will use a one-time charge (credit) to credit back more than two years. In the case of retailer switches, it allocates the one-time charge to each retailer.
- FortisAlberta uses the same approach as EPCOR Distribution and Transmission but indicated that it would follow-up to confirm whether or not the one-time charges are back dated to when each retailer was the retailer of record in the cases of retailer switch.
- ENMAX Power cancels and rebills all charges going back a few years in TBF format and then reverses all debits and credits past one year using a one-time charge record for each tariff bill period. Each one-time charge is dated for the end of each bill period and is sent to the retailer that was the retailer of record on that date.
- ATCO Electric uses two types of one-time charges – one to reverse debits greater than a year for RRO eligible sites, and one to extend a debit or a credit beyond two years for a non-RRO eligible site.
- ATCO Gas was not sure of its approach and will confirm. It did indicate that it sends an email and a spreadsheet to go along with the one-time charges.
- AltaGas cancels and rebills 24 months and uses a one-time charge for periods greater than 24 months.
- Valeo does all the cancels and rebills in TBF format.
- Retailers were most in favour of the approach whereby the one-time charges align with the bill periods and wanted one-time charges to split when there is a customer switch. Retailers also wanted to be informed in advance when there will be a cancel/rebill covering an extended period of time. Ideally there should be a standard spreadsheet to provide information that cannot be provided in the one-time charge.

ACTION: For those distributors that do not currently split their one-time charges to align to bill periods, research approximate cost of the change with their systems.

5. RIM Issue 489 – Include Micro-Generation Consumption in the Tariff Bill File (TBF)

- The group again discussed the various options for reporting micro-generation in the TBF. One idea discussed was a new record type that would include the GCM and GIM data and would be equal to the One-Time Charges record type in the hierarchical structure of the TBF. With this approach, there would be two tariff period header records – a usage

tariff period header record and a generation tariff period header record. The format would be very similar to that of the One-Time Charges record with the addition of four new fields: from date, to date, GCM kWh and GIM kWh. The group agreed to investigate approximate costs and drawbacks if any to this approach.

ACTION: Parties to review with their organization the approximate costs of implementation of the new generation tariff period header record type, similar to the One-Time Charge record type (with the addition of four new fields for from and to dates and GCM and GIM kWhs), for reporting micro-generation determinants in the TBF and whether this approach would likely cause problems.

- The group also discussed that it would be necessary to change the requirements to make the GCM due to retailers at five business days and not eight in order to have GCMs align to the TBF billing cycle.

6. RIM Issue 491 – Not possible for Distributor to create TBF lines for Retired or Salvaged

- The AUC confirmed with the group whether it could now close this RIM issue.

ACTION: AUC to close RIM Issue 491.

7. Other new issues

- No new issues were raised in the meeting.