

## Bulletin 2015-12

July 24, 2015

### **Draft amendments to AUC Rule 007 to streamline application requirements for needs identification documents and abbreviated needs identification documents**

The Alberta Utilities Commission is responsible for making timely decisions on the need, siting, construction, alteration, operation and decommissioning of electricity transmission facilities. The AUC is proposing changes to its Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments* to streamline application requirements with respect to needs identification documents, and to establish the requirements for abbreviated needs identification documents as enabled by recent legislative amendments.

The *Transmission Regulation* was amended by the *Transmission Amendment Regulation* (AR 175/2014) and the *Transmission Deficiency Regulation* (AR 176/2014) came into force on September 22, 2014.

The legislative changes were part of an Alberta Energy initiative to improve regulatory efficiency of the transmission connection process. The changes to the *Transmission Regulation* and the *Transmission Deficiency Regulation* provide for a number of improvements, including:

- (a) Certain exemptions to the requirement to file needs identification documents with the Commission for minor capital maintenance types of projects, minor system enhancement and upgrade projects, and certain types of connection projects.
- (b) The creation of an independent system operator (ISO) abbreviated needs approval process which will replace certain Commission needs identification documents approvals.
- (c) Clarification and amendment of the requirements with respect to needs identification documents and abbreviated needs identification documents still requiring Commission approval.
- (d) The enabling of market participants to apply for approval from the Commission to construct transmission facilities and transfer them to the transmission facility owner.
- (e) The use of approved cost estimates.

In AUC [Bulletin 2015-06](#) issued on March 17, 2015, the AUC announced changes to Rule 007 and the repeal of Rule 008: *Rules Respecting Use of Abbreviated Needs Process* to implement some of the above-mentioned legislative amendments.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to *AUC Bulletin 2015-06* issued on March 17, 2015 for specifics.

With respect to item (b), the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) filed with the AUC a new ISO Rule Section 501.3 – Abbreviated Needs Approval Process<sup>2</sup> on July 6, 2015. The AESO rule takes effect on July 31, 2015, as specified in the AESO’s notice of filing, because no market participant filed a notice of objection.

To address item (c), the proposed requirements with respect to needs identification documents and abbreviated needs identification documents are reflected in the draft revision of Rule 007 (along with a black-lined version to assist your review). The AESO, the stakeholder most impacted, has been consulted extensively on the proposed amendments. The Commission is hereby providing other stakeholders an opportunity to submit comments. Submissions, if any, must be made to the AUC before August 14, 2015.

The draft rule is also available on the AUC website. If you have questions or feedback with respect to the changes outlined in this bulletin, please contact AUC Executive Director of Facilities Wade Vienneau at [wade.vienneau@auc.ab.ca](mailto:wade.vienneau@auc.ab.ca), or by telephone at 403-592-4470.

*(original signed by)*

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Chief Executive

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<sup>2</sup> AUC Proceeding 20589.