

Bulletin 2018-12

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Electric facility applications with major deficiencies will no longer be processed

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) regulates electric facilities to ensure they are sited, constructed, operated, altered and decommissioned in a safe, and environmentally responsible manner. The AUC regularly assesses its regulations, rules and processes to identify innovative and efficient regulatory solutions for Alberta. A recent review identified inefficiencies related to the processing of incomplete applications. The AUC is amending its application process to better focus its staff and resources on those applications without deficiencies, effective immediately.

AUC Rule 007: Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments already states:

The Commission does not process any application that contains major deficiencies.

If the application contains major deficiencies, it will be closed and the applicant will receive an explanation via electronic mail. An example of a major deficiency is the omission of key information, such as neglecting to include participant involvement information or a noise impact assessment when applying to build a power plant in proximity to residences.

Another example of a major deficiency is the omission of environmental information, such as the wildlife referral report provided by Alberta Environment and Parks (Fish and Wildlife) for wind and solar power plants.

The AUC has rarely closed applications on the basis of major deficiencies, and where it has taken such steps, it was generally after AUC staff had invested a significant amount of time and effort processing the application. Processing applications with major deficiencies usually results in the repetition of reviews and administrative tasks due to the amount of time applicants typically require to address the deficiencies. The completion of the deficient portion of the application frequently results in amendments to other portions of the application.

The AUC considered a number of options to improve its application process and has decided that:

- Administrative and technical reviews will be suspended on active applications that contain major deficiencies, and a decision will be made whether or not to close the application.
- All new applications will be assessed for completeness and those with major deficiencies will be closed.

Applicants may reapply when the application satisfies the Rule 007 information requirements and is free from major deficiencies.

The AUC has had performance standards for processing facility applications since 2009. Details were provided in Bulletin 2009-25. We have been successful in consistently meeting or exceeding those performance standards. The AUC considers that the process changes described in this bulletin will support its efforts to meet its performance standards for applicants that submit a complete application.

If you have questions or feedback with respect to the changes outlined in this bulletin please contact AUC Executive Director, Facilities JP Mousseau at jp.mousseau@auc.ab.ca or by telephone at 403-592-4452.

(original signed by)

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