

# Notice

## Commission-initiated electric distribution system inquiry

### Proceeding 24116

The Alberta Utilities Commission, the independent utilities regulator, is opening an inquiry into Alberta's changing electric distribution system, to ensure that the delivery of Alberta's utility service takes place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public interest. The purpose of the inquiry is to map out the key issues related to the future of the electric distribution grid, to aid the Commission in developing the necessary regulatory framework to accommodate the evolution of the electric system. In general, the inquiry is intended to help answer three fundamental questions:

- How will technology affect the grid and incumbent electric distribution utilities; and how quickly?
- Where alternative approaches to providing electrical service develop, how will the incumbent electric distribution utilities be expected to respond and what services should be subject to regulation?
- How should the rate structures of the distribution utilities be modified to ensure that price signals encourage electric distribution utilities, consumers, producers, prosumers and alternative technology providers to use the grid and related resources in an efficient and cost effective way?

Bulletin 2018-17<sup>1</sup> posted on the AUC website provides more details concerning the inquiry.

### Participation

In carrying out the electric distribution system inquiry, the Commission shall hear from all interested stakeholders.

The Commission has pre-registered the electric distribution facility owners regulated by the AUC to participate in this inquiry. They are:

- ATCO Electric Ltd. (distribution)
- ENMAX Power Corporation (distribution)
- EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc. (distribution)
- FortisAlberta Inc.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bulletin 2018-17, Electric Distribution System Inquiry, December 6, 2018.

In addition, given the interrelated nature of the electric distribution and transmission systems, the Commission has pre-registered the Alberta Electric System Operator as a participant.

All other parties that wish to participate in this proceeding are asked to file a statement of intent to participate no later than **4 p.m. on January 4, 2019**. If a party is represented by another party, the contact information for that representative should be included. If a submission is being made on behalf of a group, the contact person for the group and the details of the group members should be provided. Parties with similar interests are encouraged to participate as a group. All interested parties are encouraged to register to participate using the Commission's eFiling System.

**Registration to participate deadline is January 4, 2019, 4 p.m.**

To register for the inquiry, please visit the AUC website and log in to the eFiling System to file your submission for Proceeding 24116. If required, the submission can be filed with the AUC by mail or fax. Please contact the AUC's information services group at [info@auc.ab.ca](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca) or 310-4AUC (4282) if you require assistance with the eFiling System or if you do not have internet access and they will assist you with your submission. For efficiency, please identify any communication with the AUC about this review by indicating the proceeding number.

To learn more about the inquiry and review process, contact Olexandr Vasetsky at 403-592-4417 or email your questions to [olexandr.vasetsky@auc.ab.ca](mailto:olexandr.vasetsky@auc.ab.ca).

**Cost recovery**

Parties who have been directed to participate in the inquiry by the Commission may apply for recovery of their costs, which will be assessed in accordance with AUC's Rule 022: *Rules on Costs in Utility Rate Proceedings*.

Cost claims from other parties will be assessed in accordance with the eligibility criteria, cost recovery principles and the scale of costs set out in Rule 022. The Commission is prepared, however, to modify the eligibility criteria set out in Rule 022 for the purposes of enabling certain parties to participate in this inquiry who would otherwise be financially unable to do so, where the Commission considers their participation may assist it in its understanding of the matters to be addressed in the inquiry. Submissions must demonstrate a substantial interest in, and the potential to significantly contribute to, the Commission's understanding of the issues to be addressed in the inquiry.

The Commission will determine costs eligibility on a case-by-case basis upon receiving submissions from interested parties. The process for these submissions will be communicated after the Commission finalizes the scope and process for the inquiry.

**Comments**

The Commission invites parties to provide comments on the matters the Commission intends to examine in this inquiry. Initial comments should be limited to the scope and process for the inquiry. Please provide your comments using the Commission's eFiling System under Proceeding 24116 by January 18, 2019.

**Written submissions with comments on the scope and process are due January 18, 2019, by 4 p.m.**

**Privacy**

To support an open and transparent process, information you send to the AUC will be publicly available through the AUC's eFiling System. If there is confidential information you would like to file, a request must be made in advance of filing your submission.

Issued on December 12, 2018.

Alberta Utilities Commission  
Douglas A. Larder, QC, General Counsel