

Announcement

March 26, 2020

Carolyn Dahl Rees appointed to Alberta Utilities Commission

Veteran utility and regulatory lawyer Carolyn Dahl Rees is rejoining the AUC as a Commission member. Ms. Dahl Rees was the AUC's first interim chair at its launch in 2008, and served as a vice-chair with our former chair, the late Willie Grieve, until July 2012.

Ms. Dahl Rees brings an extraordinarily strong legal and regulatory background to the AUC. Her background includes roles as a utilities lawyer, as counsel for industry and for government, as a drafter of regulations and of legislation and as a member of multiple regulatory tribunals.

Ms. Dahl Rees comes to the AUC from TransAlta Corporation, where she was most recently special legal counsel, after having previously held at various times the positions of vice-president regulatory and compliance, managing director, legal and compliance and general counsel. Prior to her first stint at the AUC, Ms. Dahl Rees was a former acting board member of the Alberta Natural Resources Conservation Board, and acting member of the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board.

Ms. Dahl Rees was appointed for a five-year term as a Commission member on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, by the lieutenant-governor in council (the provincial government cabinet) on a recommendation from Energy Minister Sonja Savage, following a third-party executive search process. Ms. Dahl Rees will start March 31.

Ms. Dahl Rees's appointment brings the AUC's complement of members to nine, the maximum under the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*. The AUC had been operating with eight, which as an expert regulator was unsustainable in effectively fulfilling the AUC's legislated mandate, and had requested the addition. Ms. Dahl Rees will be working from Calgary.

In her previous tenure with the AUC, Ms. Dahl Rees chaired or served on panels adjudicating some of the AUC's most challenging applications and made major contributions to some of the AUC's most innovative decisions. A prominent example is a pioneering formula-based ratemaking decision, in 2009. Ms. Dahl Rees was also at the forefront of AUC decision-making related to Alberta's wholesale electricity market, contributing to decisions on applications from the Alberta Market Surveillance Administrator and regarding the independent system operator, the Alberta Electric System Operator.

Ms. Dahl Rees was born in Kansas and first studied English at Rice University in Houston, Texas and then received a graduate degree in medieval studies and later law at the University of Toronto.