

## Bulletin 2020-06

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### **AUC defers live proceedings to reduce COVID-19 risk**

The Alberta Utilities Commission is implementing steps immediately to mitigate the risk represented by COVID-19 to its employees, operations and participants who appear before it. These steps are precautionary and are informed by expert advice and best practices from provincial and federal health authorities.

The coronavirus has proven to be both unpredictable and disruptive. The AUC is taking steps to ensure that it can continue to prudently perform its work critical to Alberta's essential utility services and economy.

As part of its response to COVID-19, the Commission is immediately deferring all public hearings, consultations or information sessions until further notice. Should there be an essential economic requirement to proceed with a hearing or other normally public proceeding, written or remote-participation options will be explored with parties.

Further, AUC employees will not attend live gatherings hosted by industry or professional associations.

The Commission is not alone in adopting this approach, as recently some participants to the AUC Distribution System Inquiry have advised that they will not attend upcoming technical meetings because of the risk of COVID-19. Similarly, parties to a prominent AUC hearing have said they will not attend AUC public gatherings due to the same concerns.

If you are concerned that a Commission hearing, consultation or other live event is not proceeding at this time, please contact AUC General Counsel Doug Larder so options may be discussed and explored.

We recognize and emphasize that the situation with respect to COVID-19 is very fluid. We will continue to monitor the status of COVID-19 and evaluate further approaches to ensure our workplace is safe and healthy, and maintain the Commission's ability to do its work.

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