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Alberta Utilities Commission discussion paper on power plant self-supply and export

In the fall of 2019, the Alberta Utilities Commission conducted stakeholder engagement on the issue of power plant self-supply and export. In the first round of engagement, the AUC sought stakeholder feedback on the policy itself, and identified three options for the future of power plant self-supply and export. In the second round of engagement, the AUC asked stakeholders to provide comments on the market and tariff implications of unlimited power plant self-supply and export.

The submissions filed by stakeholders in both rounds were thoughtful and provided considerable insight into the issues associated with power plant self-supply and export.

On June 5, 2020, the AUC provided the Department of Energy with a discussion paper which detailed the background and evolution of power plant self-supply and export in Alberta and summarized the views of market participants on how best to address that issue in the future. Following its review of the discussion paper, the Department of Energy will continue its ongoing evaluation of the policy surrounding power plant self-supply and export. In an effort to continue the AUC's commitment to transparency, the discussion paper is available on the AUC's website in the [Industry reference section](#).

As noted in the discussion paper, the AUC has identified 21 legacy facilities that appear to be engaged in self-supply and export without an industrial system designation (ISD). Approximately two-thirds of the legacy facilities (representing 90 per cent of capacity) are cogeneration units that may be eligible for an ISD. The AUC is prepared to work directly with these operators to assess proactive ISD qualification.

The AUC has also stated that the approval holders for these legacy facilities have been operating their plants based upon a reasonable reliance on the approvals granted to them and confirmed that it does not consider that these approval holders have engaged in any form of intentional misconduct or non-compliance. Both the AUC and the Market Surveillance Administrator have stated that they are not investigating legacy facilities and do not intend to investigate legacy facilities while the Department of Energy's consideration on the policy pertaining to power plant self-supply and export is ongoing.

The AUC will consult with the Department of Energy on next steps in the stakeholder engagement process and stakeholders will be advised of those steps in due course.

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