

Bulletin 2020-30

August 7, 2020

Revised draft version of AUC Rule 007 and interim changes to AUC participation involvement program

The Commission is seeking feedback on a revised draft version of AUC Rule 007

The Alberta Utilities Commission asked for stakeholder feedback on proposed amendments to AUC Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments* to address emerging technologies and rising issues identified in Bulletin 2019-10 and Bulletin 2019-19. The Commission held a Rule 007 workshop for stakeholders on January 30, 2020, and provided subsequent opportunities for feedback on draft requirements for Rule 007.

The Commission also sought feedback on reorganizing Rule 007 to eliminate duplication, clarify existing requirements and make the rule easier to understand and to use.

A revised draft version of Rule 007 incorporating stakeholder feedback and laying out the content in a reorganized format is provided on the [Rule 007 Engage page](#) with the existing rule. The Commission is requesting additional stakeholder feedback on both the proposed content changes and the reorganized format of the revised rule.

The information requirements in the draft rule have bracketed references to the corresponding information requirements in the existing rule. A table of concordance that cross-references major sections and specific information requirements between the draft and current versions is also provided.

The draft version of Rule 007 explicitly references Indigenous groups throughout the information requirements and in the participant involvement program guidelines. It also incorporates the interim measures that were put in place in Bulletin 2019-20. The Commission will continue to work with Indigenous groups and industry over the coming months to discuss feedback received on the draft Indigenous consultation framework (Bulletin 2020-22) and will make amendments as required.

The revised draft Rule 007 includes reference to the Commission's checklist application pilot project announced in Bulletin 2020-15 in the relevant transmission facilities sections. The Commission invites stakeholder feedback on this pilot project at this time.

Stakeholders and Indigenous groups have been actively participating in the consultation process and continued participation through providing comments on the proposed information requirements using the reorganized format of Rule 007 is greatly appreciated. Please provide

written comments by email to Wayne MacKenzie at wayne.mackenzie@auc.ab.ca by October 2, 2020, with the awareness that all email submissions received during this round of consultation will be uploaded by the Commission to the [AUC Rule 007 Engage](#) page.

If you have questions regarding the Rule 007 review process, please contact Sophie Jiang at sophie.jiang@auc.ab.ca or Laura Fukuda at laura.fukuda@auc.ab.ca.

Interim changes to AUC participation involvement program; related information requirements updated

The Alberta Utilities Commission is extending many of the implemented interim changes to its participant involvement program (PIP) requirements for gas and electric facility applications announced on April 7, 2020 in Bulletin 2020-13. Circumstances related to COVID-19 have since evolved and the AUC is updating its PIP requirements to reflect those changes.

The AUC made two interim adjustments to the PIP requirements set out in Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments* and Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* in Bulletin 2020-13.

First, it extended the period to receive, consider and respond to project notifications from 14 days to 30 days for Rule 007 Appendix A1, Section 6 and Appendix A2, Section 3.2(c); Rule 020, Section 2.2(4). The Commission continues to consider this additional time to be reasonable in the current circumstances.

Second, the AUC discouraged face-to-face consultation unless it could be undertaken in compliance with physical distancing practices and advised applicants not to hold public open houses or town hall meetings.

The Commission continues to encourage applicants to communicate with stakeholders using phone, email, video conferencing or other means that avoid face-to-face contact wherever possible. Project proponents can assess, on a case-by-case basis, whether gatherings such as open houses and town hall meetings are prudent and may hold them where consistent with current government orders related to COVID-19.

Applicants must actively monitor government orders and directions related to COVID-19 and ensure that their participant involvement programs are consistent with those orders and directions.

Indigenous engagement

Applicants should continue to reach out to Indigenous groups to understand their unique circumstances and availability to discuss proposed electric and gas utility facilities under Rule 007 and Rule 020. Applicants must keep in mind that it may be challenging for consultation contacts to engage community members and leaders at this time. The Commission encourages applicants to be sensitive to the capacity challenges of Indigenous groups and to build additional time into their PIPs, where possible.

Mailing information for issuing notices

In Bulletin 2020-13, the AUC replaced Rule 007 and Rule 020 requirements to file printed mailing labels for project stakeholders with a requirement to provide an Excel spreadsheet with stakeholder mailing information. The change to the use of Excel spreadsheets has been very successful and will be implemented permanently in the next updates to Rule 007 and Rule 020.

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