

Bulletin 2020-40

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Reducing regulatory burden: checklist applications for certain abbreviated needs identification document applications

In Bulletin [2020-15](#), the Alberta Utilities Commission launched a checklist application pilot project for low-risk electric transmission and gas utility pipeline applications. The AUC is now expanding this pilot project to include abbreviated needs identification document applications that are driven by system access service requests from generators and non-distribution facility owner loads.

An abbreviated needs identification document will be eligible to be filed as a checklist, if:

- There are no unresolved stakeholder concerns.
- There are no system-related costs.
- The project does not result in any Category A adverse system impacts under the Alberta Reliability Standards.
- The project is not anticipated to result in significant environmental effects.
- The alternative selection is straightforward or obvious. (The Alberta Electric System Operator has compelling rationale for why one technical solution is superior.)

During the pilot project, the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) will be required to file [a two-page checklist](#) confirming that the regulatory requirements for the application have been met, a cost estimate, and a single-line diagram. The AESO will not be required to file any other related supporting documents; however, it will be required to keep the related supporting documents on file to respond to an AUC compliance review.

The goals of this addition to the pilot project are to reduce regulatory burden and maintain the effectiveness and credibility of the regulatory system. The following steps will apply:

- The AESO will file completed checklists.
- The Commission will assess the eligibility for an application to be filed as a checklist application and will issue an approval within five business days of receiving a properly completed checklist application form.
- Incomplete or ineligible checklist applications will be processed in accordance with the facilities performance standards set out in [Bulletin 2019-15: New performance standards for processing facility applications](#).
- The AESO may be asked to file supplemental information for applications that are not eligible to be filed as checklist applications.
- The Commission will continue to ensure compliance with its requirements via compliance review procedures.

The Commission has prepared a form for the checklist applications. The abbreviated needs identification document checklist application form is available on the [Rule 007: Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments Rule-related information page](#) on the AUC website.

Assessment of effectiveness

The Commission will evaluate the effectiveness of this pilot project over the next 12 months.

Should you have questions or feedback on the pilot project, please contact JP Mousseau at jp.mousseau@auc.ab.ca or by phone at 403-592-4452 or Trevor Richards at trevor.richards@auc.ab.ca or by phone at 403-592-4469.