

Announcement

July 22, 2021

AUC hearing transcript purchase guideline reduces unnecessary ratepayer costs

To ensure ratepayers are not burdened with unnecessary regulatory costs, and to provide greater certainty in its practices and procedures, the Alberta Utilities Commission is establishing a guideline on the purchase of AUC hearing transcripts.

The guideline delivers the lowest-cost option for ratepayers and will apply to all AUC proceedings unless otherwise directed:

- In proceedings in which there is a minimum of six active parties that will require a copy of the hearing transcript the AUC will purchase the copyright of the transcript and make it available through eFiling.
- In all other cases (i.e. in proceedings in which there are five or fewer active parties that require a copy of the transcript), the AUC will purchase its own copy of the transcript and parties to the proceeding are at liberty to do the same.

The AUC ordinarily arranges for a court reporter to provide transcription services of its live and virtual hearings, including oral argument. This will continue.

The AUC has two options for purchasing the transcript from the court reporter: it can purchase the copyright and make the transcript available to parties and the public through eFiling, or it can purchase a copy of the transcript solely for its own use. In cases where the AUC purchases a copy of the transcript for its own use, parties to the proceeding may purchase their own copy of the transcript from the court reporter.

The cost (the rate per page charged by the court reporter) to purchase the copyright is significantly higher than the cost to purchase a copy of the transcript.

In proceedings where there are fewer than six parties requiring the transcript (in addition to the AUC itself), it is more expensive for the AUC to purchase the copyright than for each party to purchase their own copy of the transcript. Conversely, in proceedings where there are six or more parties requiring a copy of the transcript, it is less expensive for the AUC to purchase the copyright and make it available through eFiling.

Many participants in AUC proceedings (utilities and interveners) can recover the costs of the transcripts as part of their proceeding-related costs. Eligible participants remain able to claim the costs incurred for transcripts if they are accompanied by a receipt.

Other participants, such as the Office of the Utilities Consumer Advocate, pay for proceeding-related costs, including transcripts, through funding made available to them for these purposes.

Ultimately all, or almost all, of these costs are borne by Alberta ratepayers. The AUC's new guideline is intended to reduce these costs passed on to ratepayers.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kristjana Kellgren by email at kristjana.kellgren@auc.ab.ca or by telephone at 780-427-8558.

Alberta Utilities Commission