

Bulletin 2021-05

March 30, 2021

New performance standards for processing costs and stage one review and variance applications

The Alberta Utilities Commission has committed to implement clear decision-making processes designed to reduce red tape by eliminating unnecessary applications, procedures and delays. In accordance with this commitment, the AUC has established new internal performance standards and timelines for processing costs and stage one review and variance applications.

These new standards and timelines will apply to all costs and review and variance applications filed on or after March 31, 2021. The new standards establish two categories of costs applications and two categories for stage one review and variance applications. These new performance standards are set out in tables 1 and 2 respectively.

Table 1: Performance standards for costs applications

Category	1 (Routine)	2 (Non-routine)
Description	Single or limited interveners, simple issues	Single or multiple interveners complex issues
Record development	30 days	
Metric	80 per cent of costs applications records completed within established timelines	
Decision writing	20 days*	50 days*
Metric	100 per cent of decisions issued within established timeframes	
Full cycle	50 days*	80 days*

* Unless the application of the record development and decision writing metrics would require the costs decision to be issued prior to the original decision, in which case the decision writing metric will be extended to fall on the fifth day after the original decision is issued.

Table 2: Performance standards for stage one review and variance applications

Category	1 (Routine)	2 (Non-routine)
Description	Review application where no submissions are required	Review application where additional submissions are required
Record development	20 days	50 days
Metric	80 per cent of review applications records completed within established timeframes	
Decision writing	30 days	60 days
Metric	100 per cent of decisions issued within established timeframes	
Full cycle	50 days	110 days

Development of the new performance standards

The AUC internally implemented performance standards for costs and review and variance applications in 2020 and has been applying them, on a pilot basis, to test their efficacy. Draft performance standards were applied to 20 costs applications in the pilot project and resulted in a reduction in full-cycle processing time of approximately 50 per cent when compared to historical cost order processing times from 2018 and 2019. The AUC used the information generated from this pilot to further refine the performance standards for costs applications. Only one review and variance application was filed and considered during the pilot project. That application was treated as a category one and completed in 32 days. The Commission will apply the performance standards set out in Table 2 to stage one review and variance applications for the next 12 months and determine, at that time, whether further refinements are required based on the additional experience.

The Commission will assess the effectiveness of these new performance standards on an ongoing basis and will decide if further refinements are required in 2022, after it has gathered one year of data.

If you have questions with respect to the new performance standards, please contact JP Mousseau at jp.mousseau@auc.ab.ca or Debra Hoffman at debra.hoffman@auc.ab.ca.

Alberta Utilities Commission