

# Bulletin 2021-09

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## **Stakeholder consultation to standardize terms and conditions of electric distribution utilities' connection process**

The Alberta Utilities Commission is initiating a consultation to standardize the terms and conditions of service required by Alberta's electric distribution utilities to ensure customers receive consistent treatment. This is a stated objective in the Commission's [2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#), which was released on April 26, 2021, and an action item outlined in the Commission's response to the [Distribution System Inquiry Report](#) on February 19, 2021.

The first module of the consultation will focus on establishing interconnection standards that will outline how projects owned by customers or developers will connect to the electric distribution system. The outcome of this module will provide a standardized process and schedule so that interconnections can be accommodated in an orderly, cost-effective and timely manner. The second module of the consultation will focus on standardizing the terms and conditions of service for distribution utilities in Alberta.

Customers and developers have identified connection costs charged by the electric distribution utilities as a major barrier to connecting to the distribution grid. Consequently, the initial issue to be addressed in the first module is connection costs, specifically how to provide customers and developers with the opportunity to pay a fair and reasonable price to connect. The Commission will consider the following matters regarding connection costs:

- Providing an option for customers and developers to obtain their own pricing from a third-party contractor that can meet the industry standards for facilities installation (similar to what occurs on the transmission side for electric facilities).
- Fixed-priced packages, as an example, the FortisAlberta Inc. fixed-cost options for farms and acreages.
- Establishing a maximum amount that could be charged for connection costs based on comparative studies within Alberta and from other jurisdictions.

The Commission's stakeholder engagement process will use the [Standardization of Connection Process Engage page](#) to post and gather information related to this consultation. First-time participants in the Engage forum will need to register. Registration instructions can be found on the [Engage homepage](#).

Should you have questions regarding this consultation, please contact Fino Tiberi by email at [fino.tiberi@auc.ab.ca](mailto:fino.tiberi@auc.ab.ca) or by telephone at 403-592-4410.

Alberta Utilities Commission