

Bulletin 2021-10

May 3, 2021

Amendments to AUC Rule 001

On April 27, 2021, the Alberta Utilities Commission approved amendments to [Rule 001: Rules of Practice](#) that will apply to proceedings registered on or after May 17, 2021.

Last year, the AUC accepted 29 of the recommendations of the [Report of the AUC Procedures and Processes Review Committee](#) to support the AUC in its drive to increase efficiency and reduce regulatory lag in how it deals with utility rate applications. The recommendations accepted by the AUC include adopting an overarching, assertive case management approach, adopting a preference for written hearings, sharpening criteria around the scope of cross-examination, and adopting an issues-focused decision-writing template. The AUC's response to the recommendations was outlined in a [bulletin to stakeholders](#).

In that bulletin, released on October 22, 2020, the AUC explained that certain recommendations would be implemented by AUC staff with immediate effect, and that other recommendations may require changes to Rule 001: *Rules of Practice*.

AUC General Counsel Doug Larder created a task force from participants involved in the AUC's existing Regulatory Burden Reduction Roundtable initiative to propose amendments to Rule 001 to give effect to the committee recommendations. The feedback provided by task force participants was reviewed by the AUC and forms the basis for the approved amendments.

The amendments to Rule 001 uphold the AUC's commitment to adjudicative efficiency, while recognizing that the AUC already has broad authority to assertively case manage its proceedings. The amendments are targeted at codifying standard procedures and the AUC's expectations of parties to promote regulatory efficiency, without altering the AUC's discretion to control its own processes. Importantly, the amendments support the efficient scoping and scheduling of proceedings through the early establishment of issues lists and process schedules.

The approved Rule 001 and a blackline version of the rule is available on the [Rule-related consultation](#) section of the AUC website. The AUC will support the implementation of the amendments in the coming months through the release of practice notes and enhanced functionality in the rule and supporting forms.

The AUC thanks task force participants for their participation in the consultation process. Any questions related to this bulletin should be directed to Kristjana Kellgren at kristjana.kellgren@auc.ab.ca.

Alberta Utilities Commission