

Bulletin 2022-07

May 31, 2022

Stakeholder consultation on design standards for electric utility connections for greenfield residential developments and associated maximum investment levels for 2023

Background

On March 9, 2022, the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) issued [Bulletin 2022-03](#) and initiated a consultation to review design standards that should be applicable for new home and residential electric utility connections and the associated maximum investment levels (MILs) (i.e., the amount the electric distribution wire owners provide to connect customers to the distribution grid).

Over the last two months, AUC staff have met with stakeholders from individual organizations including land developers and home builders, municipalities, electric distribution wire owners and consumer groups to get insight on the issues associated with MILs. An initial stakeholder meeting was held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, to present the results of the discussions.

Scope of the consultations and consultation dates

AUC staff have scheduled two initial working group meetings to discuss the following:

- Conduit usage requirements and potential MIL treatment: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Amperage requirements and potential MIL treatment: Friday June 10, 2022 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Follow-up working group sessions may subsequently be scheduled. The purpose and expected outcome from these consultations will be to review the adequacy of current MILs provided by the electric distribution wire owners for 2023 to new single family home greenfield developments. Future years' MILs will not be addressed in this phase of the consultation.

[AUC Engage](#), the AUC's consultation website will be used for this consultation. Key dates, questions and responses will be available on the on the [Review of standards of service for electric utility connections for greenfield residential developments and associated maximum investment levels for 2023](#) page.

Stakeholders attending the consultations should be prepared to speak to their views on design standards and changes to MILs that should be considered for 2023. These consultations and the associated process are the only forum where information will be gathered and the proposals for 2023 MILs will be received from stakeholders.

Any outcomes will either be brought to the AUC for discussion and approval, either through an AUC rule or through another process. Any changes to MILs will be incorporated into the distribution utilities' 2023 rates as part of the compliance filings to the distribution utilities' ongoing cost-of-service rebasing applications or through an alternative process established by the AUC.

If you are interested in participating in either or both of these working groups, please email regulatorypolicy@auc.ab.ca. Thank you to everyone who has already indicated interest in participating.

Cost recovery

Stakeholders will not be eligible for cost recovery for participating in this consultation, except for the Consumers' Coalition of Alberta (CCA).

The CCA represents two consumer groups, the Consumers' Association of Canada (Alberta Division) and the Alberta Council on Aging. The CCA is an intervener who has, or represents a group of utility customers that have, a substantial interest in the subject matter of a hearing or other proceeding and who does not have the means to raise sufficient financial resources to enable the intervener to present its interest adequately in the determination of 2023 MILs. Because of the unique nature of the consultation on the 2023 MILs, costs recovery may be warranted for the CCA to be able to participate to represent its customers' interests.

The Utilities Consumer Advocate (UCA) also represents the interests of residential, farm, and small business consumers in regulatory proceedings. The CCA is asked to coordinate with the UCA on common matters to avoid duplication of effort, resources, evidence and costs.

The AUC will not be requiring the CCA to submit a cost budget at this time, but it will assess any cost claims in accordance with the relevant principles set out in the AUC's Rule 022: *Rules on Costs in Utility Rate Proceedings* and the scale of costs associated with that rule.

Section 21 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act* sets out that the AUC may order by whom and to whom costs of or incidental to any hearing or other proceeding of the AUC are to be paid. The CCA is directed to file a costs claim on the AUC's eFiling system within 30 days of the close of the consultation process. In its costs application, the CCA is to include a proposal for recovery of its costs through hearing cost reserve accounts for electric distribution wires owners, or another method. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the CCA's costs application after it is filed with the AUC.

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

Alberta Utilities Commission