

Bulletin 2023-06

September 11, 2023

AUC inquiry into the ongoing economic, orderly and efficient development of electricity generation in Alberta

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) will hold an inquiry into the ongoing economic, orderly and efficient development of electricity generation in Alberta.

On August 3, 2023, the Alberta government issued an [order-in-council](#) directing the AUC to inquire and report to the Minister of Affordability and Utilities on the following:

1. Considerations on development of power plants on specific types or classes of agricultural or environmental land.
2. Considerations of the impact of power plant development on Alberta's pristine viewscales.
3. Considerations of implementing mandatory reclamation security requirements for power plants.
4. Considerations for development of power plants on lands held by the Crown in Right of Alberta.
5. Considerations of the impact the increasing growth of renewables has to both generation supply mix and electricity system reliability.

The inquiry will include reviewing the role of municipal governments in land selection for project development and review.

Scope of the AUC's inquiry

The inquiry will be separated into two modules (Module A and Module B) to explore the key issues identified in the Alberta government's order-in-council.

Module A will explore the land impact issues identified in the Alberta government's order-in-council, including the role of municipal governments and more specifically the following:

1. Considerations on development of power plants on specific types or classes of agricultural or environmental land.
2. Considerations of the impact of power plant development on Alberta's pristine viewscales.
3. Considerations of implementing mandatory reclamation security requirements for power plants.
4. Considerations for development of power plants on lands held by the Crown in Right of Alberta.

For Module A, interested parties will be able to participate by completing an online survey, providing submissions in writing, and providing submissions orally at an in-person session. The AUC will distribute the online survey and a comment matrix to assist parties in preparing written submissions. In-person sessions will be held at several locations across Alberta with the dates and venues to be determined.

The AUC is also retaining experts to prepare reports related to the specific inquiry topics. These reports will be made publicly available on the eFiling System for interested parties to review and provide submissions on.

Lastly, the AUC is reserving dates in December to hold an oral hearing. The purpose of the oral hearing will be for the AUC to ask questions of parties on their pre-filed submissions. The AUC will identify the parties it wishes to question, and request that those parties make themselves available to attend.

The AUC has established the following preliminary schedule. Further details on each step will be available shortly.

Process step	Timeframe
AUC notice with additional updates/participant information	Mid-September
Oral submissions (in-person)	Late October to mid-November
Written submissions	Mid to late November
Reply submissions	Early December
Oral hearing	Mid December
Deadline to submit report to the Minister of Affordability and Utilities	March 29, 2024

Module B of the inquiry will explore:

5. Considerations of the impact the increasing growth of renewables has to both generation supply mix and electricity system reliability.

Further details related to the process steps for Module B will be announced shortly.

Next steps

The AUC will issue a notice through eFiling with additional information on the process and timelines for the inquiry in due course. The notice will also provide instructions on how to participate in the inquiry, including information for providing written submissions, completing the online survey, attending in-person sessions for oral submissions, and how to submit any comments or questions.

General stakeholder questions can be directed to info@auc.ab.ca.

Alberta Utilities Commission