

Notice

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

AUC inquiry process for Module A

Proceeding 28501

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC), the independent utilities regulator, is opening an inquiry into the ongoing economic, orderly and efficient development of electricity generation in Alberta.

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.

Module B will consider the impact the increasing growth of renewables has to both generation supply mix and electricity system reliability.

Participation

There are a number of options available for parties to participate in the inquiry (Proceeding 28501). Interested parties will be able to participate by completing a written comment matrix, providing written submissions through the AUC's [eFiling System](#), or registering to make a

virtual oral submission to the AUC. The AUC will be hosting open houses in select locations where AUC staff will be available to answer questions about the inquiry process and how to participate. First Nations and Métis communities will also have an opportunity to participate in engagement workshops.

Interested parties may choose their preferred means of participating in the inquiry and are not required to participate in all elements to have their submissions considered.

Comment matrix due November 22, 2023

The AUC has prepared a [comment matrix](#), organized by key issue, which can be used as a template to assist parties who wish to prepare written submissions. The comment matrix is available as a web form on the AUC's website and does not require users to have an eFiling account. A Microsoft Word version of the comment matrix is also available for parties who prefer to submit a completed version through the AUC's eFiling System.

Written submissions due November 22, 2023

In addition to the comment matrix, parties may provide written submissions in their preferred format on the AUC's eFiling System. To provide written submissions for the inquiry, please visit our website and log in to the AUC's eFiling System, go to Proceeding 28501, and register to participate under the "registered parties" tab. Instructions for how to register an eFiling System account and submit a document can be found in the AUC's [eFiling System basics brochure](#).

The AUC requests that written submissions from interested stakeholders be limited to the scope of the inquiry. Please note that all submissions, including completed comment matrices, will be publicly available.

In-person open-house sessions

The AUC will be holding open-house sessions in three locations in November. Each session will consist of an open house to share information about the inquiry process and how to participate in the inquiry, with AUC staff available to answer questions. The timing and location of the open houses are set out in the table below.

City	Dates and times	Location
Red Deer	November 2, 3-8 p.m.	Radisson Hotel Red Deer 6500 67 St, Red Deer, AB
Medicine Hat	November 7, 3-8 p.m.	Wyndham Garden Medicine Hat Conference Center 954 7th St SW, Medicine Hat, AB
Pincher Creek	November 8, 3-8 p.m.	Heritage Inn Hotel & Convention Centre 919 Waterton Ave, Pincher Creek, AB

Expert reports

The AUC has commissioned a number of expert reports related to the land impact issues covered in Module A. These reports will be made publicly available on the AUC's [eFiling System](#) in Proceeding 28501 no later than November 10, 2023. The list of expert reports to be submitted is set out below.

Expert	Scope of report
Ecoventure Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To review the decommissioning and reclamation practices and costs from completed projects and models for liability management and end of life security programs in Alberta and other jurisdictions.• To review reclamation closure requirements and provide recommendations and a framework for closure endpoints.• To develop cost estimates for decommissioning and reclamation based on metrics such as land use, location, area, type of disturbance, etc.
Tannas Conservation Services Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide an inventory of agricultural land in Alberta, including its classification and location within the province and what that means from a productivity perspective.• To examine the impact of power plant development on agricultural land.• To discuss required physical reclamation work to achieve equivalent land capability.
Dr. Colin Mackie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To explore and make recommendations around best practices for the design of a reclamation security program, including a discussion of specific components and their implications.
Nichols Applied Management Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide a review and discussion of the impact of power plant development on Alberta's pristine viewscapes.

Questions from the AUC (if necessary) and oral submissions

The AUC has reserved December 4-8 and 11-15, 2023, for oral questions from the AUC (if any) and oral submissions from interested parties. These sessions will be conducted virtually.

The AUC may pose questions to parties on their written submissions. The AUC will determine whether it needs to ask questions and notify any party it wishes to question through the AUC's [eFiling System](#) no later than December 4, 2023. Any questions are expected to be directed towards organizations and municipalities, or experts who authored reports, rather than individual members of the public.

The AUC will also provide the opportunity for interested parties to make oral submissions to the Commission panel on the inquiry topics.. At this time, the Commission anticipates that submissions from members of the public will be scheduled during the week of December 4-8, 2023. Submissions from municipalities and other organizations will be scheduled during the week of December 11-15, 2023. The exact dates and details on how interested parties can register to make an oral submission will be announced in due course.

To ensure transparency and accessibility, oral questions from the AUC (if any) and oral submissions from interested parties will be transcribed and made publicly available on the AUC's eFiling System.

Limited participant funding available

The AUC will make limited funding available to parties to assist with the preparation of expert reports in support of their filed submissions. Parties seeking to recover some or all of their costs for the preparation of expert reports are required to file a budget with the AUC by no later than October 13, 2023. The budget must:

- Provide a detailed estimate of the fees for the preparation of the expert report.
- Briefly describe the issues that will be addressed and the relevance of those issues to the terms of reference for Module A of the inquiry.
- Describe why the party requires financial assistance to participate in the inquiry.

Funding will be available for expert fees only. No funding is available for legal or other fees or disbursements.

The AUC will review the budgets immediately thereafter and advise funding applicants of the availability of full or partial funding, and the amount awarded. The AUC may approve or deny funding requests and may grant full or partial funding. Approved funding will be final, provided at the time of the funding decision and not be subject to post-inquiry review.

Module A process steps

The AUC has established the following process schedule for Module A:

Process step	Date
Deadline for budgets for expert reports	October 13, 2023
Open house sessions	Various locations and dates from November 2 to November 8, 2023
AUC to release independent expert reports	No later than November 10, 2023
Comment matrix and written submissions due	November 22, 2023
AUC to identify parties and issues for oral questioning (if any)	No later than December 4, 2023
Dates reserved for oral questioning from the AUC (if any) and oral submissions from interested parties	December 4-8 and 11-15, 2023

Privacy

To support an open and transparent process, information you send to the AUC will be publicly available through the AUC's [eFiling System](#). If there is confidential information you would like to file, a request must be made in advance of filing your submission.

Please contact us at 310-4AUC (310-4282) in Alberta or info@auc.ab.ca for more information or assistance.

Issued on October 4, 2023.

Alberta Utilities Commission