



COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5

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AUC Engage

Via email: engage@auc.ab.ca

To Whom It May Concern,

The County of Warner Council reviewed the AUC inquiry into the ongoing economic, orderly and efficient development of electricity generation in Alberta Module A Report on the role of municipal governments in the development and review of generation projects at a Council meeting in June. We felt it necessary to send you a letter stating our concerns with the proposed changes to Rule 007.

It is the position of the County of Warner that a requirement for a municipal engagement form, concurrence letter, or land-use planning checklist during engagement for a large scale project is not sufficient change to Rule 007. The form would be a standard format in which municipalities can submit comments but would not create a burden on the AUC to ensure consistency with municipal land use plans. Discussions should be had with a municipality to reach a consensus when existing municipal land use plans do not support a development, and necessary adjustments to municipal land use plans should be made before AUC approval is provided to a large-scale development. As it stands and as would continue to be the case, proponents can bypass municipalities when approaching the AUC, and the municipal planning documents and development permit are an afterthought. Creating a form to checkmark municipal input, while non-alignment between an application and municipal plans indicated in the form may be bypassed with a justification deemed sufficient solely by the standards of the AUC, does not ensure consistency.

While we appreciate that the AUC does not have the jurisdiction to change section 619 of the MGA, we would have expected a stronger indication in the report that the RMA advocated for a requirement by the AUC to work with industry and municipalities to reach consensus on the planning areas prior to approving a project.

We look forward to seeing more work by the AUC to support meaningful collaboration between quasi-judicial boards and municipalities to ensure proposed projects are evaluated through public interest which includes a local lens.

Sincerely,

Randy Taylor, Reeve
County of Warner No. 5