

October 7, 2024

Alberta Utilities Commission

Re: Bulletin 2024-20

**Agents in AUC proceedings:**

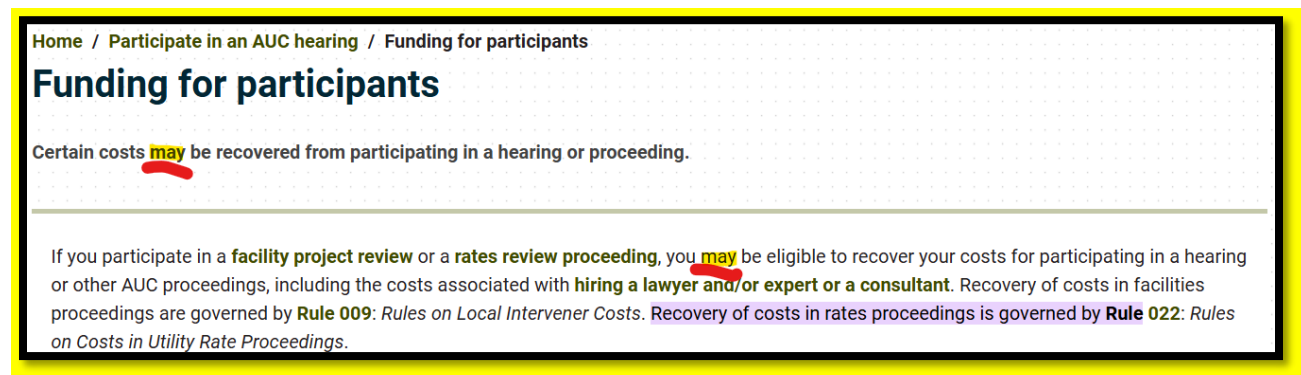
I would like to provide feedback on the continued involvement of paid agents in AUC proceedings.

I personally was involved in proceedings #26214, #27097, #27167 and #28017 all regarding Buffalo Plains Wind Farm (BPWF). Our group Lomond Opposed to Wind Power (LOWP) was represented by agent Daryl Bennett of My Land Group Inc. in all four proceedings.

LOWP choose Daryl Bennett as we felt he could represent us better than a lawyer. He is a fellow landowner, food producer and a land advocate well versed on all things land and dedicated to helping other fellow landowners and food producers.

Our agent heard, understood and considered our concerns. We knew our agent brought a special set of skills to the proceeding that we felt a lawyer could not.

We were also aware as per AUC Funding for participants as highlighted below that if we hired a lawyer they would require payment regardless of any AUC ruling on cost claim. If we hired an agent they accepted the fact that they only received payment for their services if the AUC ruled so.



The screenshot shows a webpage with a yellow border. At the top, there is a breadcrumb trail: "Home / Participate in an AUC hearing / Funding for participants". Below this is the main heading "Funding for participants" in a large, bold, blue font. Underneath the heading, a line of text reads: "Certain costs **may** be recovered from participating in a hearing or proceeding." The word "may" is highlighted in yellow and has a red underline. A horizontal line separates this text from the paragraph below. The paragraph states: "If you participate in a **facility project review** or a **rates review proceeding**, you **may** be eligible to recover your costs for participating in a hearing or other AUC proceedings, including the costs associated with **hiring a lawyer and/or expert or a consultant**. Recovery of costs in facilities proceedings are governed by **Rule 009: Rules on Local Intervener Costs**. Recovery of costs in rates proceedings is governed by **Rule 022: Rules on Costs in Utility Rate Proceedings**." The words "may" and "and/or" are highlighted in yellow, and the rule numbers are in bold.

Our agent knew the BPWF project like he knew the back of his hand. Our members could call, text or email our agent at all hours of the day and almost always receive an immediate response.

Our agent also went on to help members of LOWP through proceedings #27167 and #28017.

Our agent continues to guide LOWP members with complaints arising from BPWF not following up on their commitments made in proceeding #26214. Our agent has been with us from the beginning, and we know our agent will see this project through to the end.

**All without compensation.** What lawyer would provide that kind of service?

**If you want the system to stay fair then keep it fair. We, the public, should have the right to choose who we want to represent us.**

In closing to my feedback, I ponder the following question:

Who exactly wants the agents out, is it the proponents, the lawyers or the AUC?

**Intervener honoraria:**

I would also like to provide feedback on whether the amounts for intervener honoraria should be increased.

While I appreciate the honoraria awarded to me in proceeding #27097 regarding Buffalo Plains Wind Farm, I do feel that the amounts need to be increased dramatically. I spent the better part of two years working on the BPWF project and I was awarded \$1,000.00.

I personally don't think the AUC would ever be able to increase the intervener honoraria to an amount that would make me want to participate again in the AUC process. I would not wish the process on anyone!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Regards,

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