

May 23, 2025

Alberta Utilities Commission
1400, 600 3rd Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0G5
Sent via: engage@auc.ab.ca

To: Laura Frank

Re: Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) Changes proposed to Rule 007: Facility Applications

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the AUC's proposed changes to *Rule 007: Facility Applications* and the accompanying *Bulletin 2025-03 Changes proposed to Rule 007: Facility Applications* – available for written feedback until May 23, 2025.

ATCO Renewables Ltd. ("ATCO Renewables") provides the following feedback on the draft blackline version of the Rule 007 posted to the AUC Engage page for consideration by the Commission.

The requirement for construction completion and time extensions are unworkable

The proposed period for construction completion, and the limited circumstances under which a time extension would be granted, is a significant barrier to project development in Alberta and will introduce unnecessary risks to project development. Further, the proposed requirements do not consider the broad range of factors that affect project development that are outside of the control of market participants.

To develop projects in Alberta, proponents undertake significant development work and incur material costs to advance projects to the stage of making an application to the Commission. The subsequent regulatory process and AUC approvals are then a critical milestone that must be achieved to advance supporting commercial agreements and place orders for equipment. In a deregulated market, where investors bear the risks associated with project development, the AUC's proposal to void approvals if construction does not commence within five years does not properly account for the time required to advance projects to the point of making a final investment decision and completing construction.

ATCO Renewables submits that the proposed requirements are not workable, and that a longer initial period to complete construction must be considered. Alternatively, the conditions for relaxing the availability of time extensions must be reviewed to broadly consider the wide range of factors that could extend project development and construction beyond five years.

Other administrative changes for consideration

In addition to the comments above, ATCO Renewables provides the following comments on other administrative aspects of the proposed rules for consideration by the Commission. An overarching comment on the proposed changes to Rule 007 is that the draft blackline revision adds to the overall administrative burden related to project development in Alberta, with information requirements that are duplicative, overly broad and are unclear how they factor into a decision (i.e., merely data gathering).

Requirement	Comments
Wind Shadow Flicker Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The worst-case scenario could be improved by assuming the day with the most daylight hours and the dominant wind direction. A meaningful comparison would assess both scenarios for 30 hours per year.
Solar Glare Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The solar glare impact interval as it applies to the road user should be removed as it is unlikely to be relevant. Table 4.6 – Under Glare: at this point of the project’s development, this requirement is challenging for the proponent to further address, this instead should be limited to at the time of application.
Environmental Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information requirement of “describing all potential environmental effects” is overly broad.
Current and Proposed Agricultural Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of industry benchmarks to calculate productivity should be explicitly noted as acceptable in the rule.
Visual Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity on what qualifies as “valued views” must be provided
End-of-life Management and Reclamation Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exempt applicants from the information requirements if security is already required and approved by another agency. The requirements should only require a summary.
Approvals, Reports and Assessments from Other Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The submission of a copy of the Renewable Energy Referral Report (not the applicant’s APEA submission) and a summary of the Referral Report decision should be sufficient.

ATCO Renewables appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the draft requirements.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JRumas", written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Rumas
Director, Regulatory, Sustainability & Government Affairs
ATCO Renewables Ltd.