

Dear Participant,

As part of the Alberta Utilities Commission's (AUC) commitment to ensuring the lowest reasonable delivered cost of electricity for all customers, we are pleased to invite you to participate in a series of upcoming workshops focused on evaluating centralized versus decentralized meter data management (MDM) options to enable time varying rates and other demand-side opportunities in Alberta in a cost-effective and timely manner.

What to Expect from the Engagement

- **Structured Engagement Sessions:** Approximately 6 sessions over 4 weeks, covering architecture and standards, technological readiness, economics and costs, governance, privacy and security, and implementation planning. Additional information will be gathered through questionnaires, and we may contact participants outside of an engagement session for additional information, clarification or data verification.
- **Out of Scope Topics:** This engagement will not address rate design considerations (e.g. types of time varying rates such as time of use rates, unanticipated outcomes of certain types or rates, etc.) or revenue setting (for regulated utilities and providers). The AUC will address these and other issues that are not central to interval meter data management as part of future work after addressing centralized and decentralized MDM options.
- **Transparency and Inclusion:** Session outcomes will be documented and summarized, with opportunities to listen in on workshops beyond direct involvement (in-person attendance may be required). Some sessions will be virtual, with others in person in Calgary. Materials and a shared agenda will be provided upfront. The sessions will not be recorded or livestreamed.
- **Participation Expectations:** For each workshop session, participants will be designated as either **required** or **optional** attendees based on the topics under discussion. Participants are asked to send representatives with the technical background and experience to meaningfully engage in and answer questions on the session topics. Depending on the topics being discussed, participants may wish to send different attendees from their organization to different sessions.

Requested attendees are kindly requested to actively participate, share insights, and contribute to focused discussions to help advance shared understanding.

Optional attendees are encouraged to listen in and participate as appropriate.

- **Time Reserved for Open Discussion:** To respect everyone's time and create space for broad input, each session will reserve time at the end for an open discussion on related issues that were not already addressed in the session. The intent is to ensure a collaborative environment that values all contributions while maintaining efficiency and respect for participants' schedules.
- **Engagement Outcomes:** Once the workshops have been completed and stakeholder input has been gathered, the information will be used to conduct additional analysis and develop the final report for the Minister of Affordability and Utilities. An additional session will be held to share a summary of the outcomes and findings from the sessions with participants. The information collected in this engagement is not for the purposes of any adjudicative proceeding.

Tentative Schedule & Agenda (Subject to change):

1. Introduction & Overview – Virtual (October 20, 2025)
 - Review work-to-date, introduce scope and level-set expectations, expected outcomes, Q&A
2. Consumer Groups Forum – Virtual (October 23, 2025)
 - Collect consumer input to shape requirements and considerations in relation to TVR enablement
3. Time Varying Rate Innovation Forum – Virtual (October 30, 2025)
 - Explore and discuss feasible, future-ready TVR enabled capabilities
4. Utilities Specialist Workshop – In-Person (November 4, 2025)
 - Establish the operational, regulatory, and commercial realities affecting MDM choices and TVR roll-out considerations
5. Technical Planning Workshop – In-Person (November 5, 2025)
 - Define technical requirements and architectures for each option, identify gaps and outline technical roadmap
6. Workshop Outcomes & Learnings – Virtual (November 27, 2025)
 - Share preliminary findings and engagement outcomes
7. Data Validation Discussions – Virtual (To be scheduled as-needed)
 - As-needed discussions to validate additional considerations and questionnaire responses

What We Need from You

To ensure robust, evidence-based and meaningful discussions, we ask that you:

1. Designate the primary technical stakeholder, financial stakeholder, and key contacts **by October 13th, as part of the questionnaire** if you have not already done so.
2. Complete the baseline questionnaire attached in this package **by October 13th** (<https://forms.office.com/r/WbG2mpE2Q5>).
3. Once calendar invites are distributed for the upcoming workshops, please indicate if you will be attending in a timely manner. There will be virtual and in-person sessions. The in-person sessions are expected to include smaller, breakout discussions and, as a result, we are not able to accommodate virtual attendance for these sessions at this time.
4. Provide any initial questions or suggested topics (related to meter data and the collection, verification, storing and communicating of the same) to inform workshop agendas.

Supporting Materials and Contact

Please access engagement materials, including the Workshop Plan (including preview agendas), via the AUC's Engage platform here: [Engagement on enabling time-varying rates for residential and other electricity customers in Alberta - Engage](#).

For questions or coordination, contact Chris Robertshaw at chris.robertshaw@auc.ab.ca.

Submissions can be directed through engage@auc.ab.ca.

Why We're Engaging Now

The AUC recently explored the potential benefits of enabling time-varying rates (TVR) for electricity consumers and found the expected benefits to significantly outweigh the costs. ([Bulletin 2025-07](#))

Moving forward, the AUC aims to determine the most cost-effective, timely, and open approach to broadly enable TVR and other demand-side management opportunities.

A critical first step is deciding between pursuing a centralized provincial meter data management hub or continuing with the existing decentralized approach, under which each distributor verifies, stores, and communicates meter reading data for their customers.

While a prior high-level cost-benefit analysis was completed, it did not incorporate detailed input from distributors, retailers, and other interested parties, or reflect government direction requiring 5-minute settlement implementation by 2032 (for transmission-connected loads) and 2040 (for all loads). To address these gaps, the AUC will engage key stakeholders (including retailers, distributors, the AESO, and others) to refine cost estimates, and explore the advantages, challenges and trade-offs of each MDM option.

To support the AUC in facilitating these workshops and assisting with additional analysis and the preparation of the final report for the Minister of Affordability and Utilities, the AUC has engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). PwC brings extensive experience in utilities sector consulting and stakeholder facilitation and will help ensure the workshops are productive, inclusive, and deliver actionable insights to inform the decision-making process.

Urgency and Policy Context

Following the Minister of Affordability and Utilities' direction letter issued December 10, 2024, the Government of Alberta has outlined important electricity market and transmission policy changes with implications for market design, pricing frameworks, transmission policy, and notably, the path to shorter settlement intervals.

These developments underscore the importance of timely, evidence-based engagement to ensure any MDM decision supports these evolving requirements and the broader market objectives.

Closing

We look forward to your collaboration in this important initiative. Together, we can identify a practical, affordable, secure, and innovation-friendly MDM approach that supports Alberta's customers and market transformation goals.

Thank you for your commitment to building Alberta's energy future.

Sincerely,

Kristjana Kellgren
Executive Director, Rates
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission