

Bulletin 2026-09

June 11, 2026

Revised power plant checklist application form

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) has revised the power plant checklist application form due to the volume and complexity of recent power plant checklist applications and the evolving generation market in Alberta. The AUC will review an eligible power plant checklist application form along with supporting documentation and will now issue an approval within **ten** business days.

Since [2022](#), owners proposing a power plant one megawatt or greater and less than 10 megawatts may file a checklist application if:

- No person is directly and adversely affected.
- The power plant complies with Rule 012: *Noise Control*.
- There is no adverse effect on the environment.
- If the unit is connected to the distribution or transmission system, the owner must contact the wire owner to determine if adequate protection has been installed to isolate the unit from the wire owner's system or enter into an operating agreement with the wire owner.

The checklist application process required applicants to affirm that the above criteria has been considered and properly satisfied before constructing and operating the power plant. Applicants were not required to file supporting documents for a checklist application; however, applicants were expected to retain all records sufficient to demonstrate compliance with applicable legislation and AUC rules.

In recent years, the AUC has seen an increase of new power plant operators that may not be familiar with regulatory requirements in Alberta. The AUC has also received increasing inquiries about how an applicant is expected to determine that a power plant meets the checklist criteria, such as how to determine the power plant will have no adverse effect on the environment and how to document any work related to that determination. Where fulfilment of the criteria is in question, the AUC must ask information requests, which increases application processing timelines and decreases regulatory efficiency for these project approvals.

The AUC has therefore revised the power plant checklist application form to provide more clarity to applicants on what has been, and continues to be, required to meet the checklist criteria: (i) no direct and adverse impact on persons; (ii) Rule 012 compliance; and (iii) no adverse environmental effects. The revisions to the checklist form and the required supporting documentation provide clear standards to help applicants determine whether a project is eligible to use the checklist process and ensures quick and efficient review of applications by the AUC.

These changes were necessary to respond to the increased volume and complexity of power plant checklist applications and clarify the AUC’s expectations for meeting those criteria.

The table below summarizes the changes to the power plant checklist application form:

Project size	Confirmation that the cumulative capability of all generating units at the site is less than 10 megawatts, including backup or emergency generators.
Consultation	Summarize the participant involvement program, including a description of the activities undertaken and submit any engagement materials provided.
	Confirm that if there are First Nations reserve, Metis Settlement or Crown lands within the consultation radii, the Indigenous groups identified in LAIRT were notified and consulted about the power plant and there are no outstanding concerns.
	Submit the list of all persons within the appropriate notification radius as described in Appendix A1 – Participant involvement program guidelines of Rule 007, as well as Indigenous groups or other interested persons that were notified or consulted as part of the participant involvement program.
	Indicate whether the Alberta government or Federal government required consultation with Indigenous groups for related approvals. If yes, identify the approval, the Indigenous groups, and provide a summary of consultation with each Indigenous group.
	Identify if there are any mitigations or accommodations that have been committed to stakeholders or Indigenous group(s) to address project concerns.
	Confirm that there no historical resources identified in the Listing of Historic Resources by Alberta Historic Resources Management Branch within the notification radii.
	Confirm that there no historical resources identified in the Listing of Historic Resources by Alberta Historic Resources Management Branch within the project boundary.
	Confirm that the municipality is in support of, or has no concerns with, the power plant.
Noise	Provide the method that was used to confirm compliance with Rule 012: <i>Noise Control</i> . If it was with a noise impact assessment, submit the NIA.
	Confirm that no noise mitigation measures are required.

Environment	<p>Provide a signed memo from a qualified environmental professional (e.g., P.Biol., P.Ag.) that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A description of the major environmental features and intact habitats (e.g., wetlands, potential historical contamination, native grassland) within and near the project. Environmental features discussed should be included in the submitted Keyhole Markup Language (.kml/.kmz) file. - A complete list of environmental regulations/permit requirements triggered by the project (e.g, <i>Water Act</i> permit, <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>, AER Directive 056 approval, <i>Soil Conservation Act</i>). - A direct statement on the likelihood for significant environmental impacts. - The memo can be completed using desktop resources only, unless environmental features are difficult to identify using only desktop resources (e.g., native grasslands). This memo must be no longer than two pages.
	<p>For wind or solar power plants, confirmation that the project does not contain high-quality agricultural land, as defined in the <i>Electric Energy Land Use and Visual Assessment Regulation</i>.</p>
	<p>For a thermal power plant, confirmation that an <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act</i> approval will be obtained before the start of construction.</p>
	<p>Confirmation that a full environmental protection plan will be prepared by a qualified environmental professional.</p>
Shadow flicker	<p>For a wind power plant, confirm that the predicted shadow flicker durations meet the limits on acceptable shadow flicker impacts outlined in WP20 of Rule 007, and provide a results table.</p>
	<p>Confirm that no shadow flicker mitigation measures are required.</p>
Solar glare	<p>For a solar power plant, confirm that the predicted glare durations meet the limits on acceptable glare impacts outlined in Table 4.4 of Rule 007, and provide a results table.</p>
	<p>Confirm that no glare mitigation measures are required.</p>

The new checklist form is attached as Appendix A.

Given the increase in supporting documentation to be filed with a checklist application, the AUC will review and issue an approval for a complete power plant checklist application form within ten business days.

For incomplete or ineligible checklist power plant applications, the Commission may close the checklist application and direct the applicant to file a Rule 007 application in accordance with applicable information requirements in Sections 4.3 to 4.6 of Rule 007.

If the Commission directs an applicant to file a full Rule 007 application and the applicant files another checklist application for the same project, the Commission will close the new checklist application without further process.

If a statement of intent to participate is filed for a checklist application, the Commission may close the application and direct the applicant to file a Rule 007 application in accordance with applicable information requirements in Sections 4.3 to 4.6 of Rule 007.

There are no changes to other AUC checklist application forms, only the power plant checklist application form.

Next steps for applicants

As of June 11, 2026, applicants can use the revised power plant checklist application form for eligible power plants equal to or greater than one megawatt and less than 10 megawatts if it meets the criteria above, complete the attestations in the application form, and submit the required supporting documentation.

The [revised power plant checklist application form](#), and all other related Rule 007 information can be found on the [Rule 007 page](#) on the AUC website.

Specific inquiries related to this bulletin can be directed to Kim Macnab, Executive Director, Facilities at kim.macnab@auc.ab.ca. General stakeholder questions can be directed to info@auc.ab.ca.

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