AUC
Alberta Utilities Commission

Bulletin 2026-15

November 20, 2026

Feedback on proposed amendments to Rule 029: *Municipal Franchise Agreements* and associated documents due by January 8, 2027

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) is launching a written engagement as part of its review of Rule 029: *Municipal Franchise Agreements*, the associated AUC forms and the municipal franchise agreement templates. The AUC has issued drafts of the documents listed below, most of which are revisions to existing documents. Accordingly, the AUC has provided the documents for review and comment. The deadline for submissions is January 8, 2027. The documents can be found on the Rule 029 Engage page.

- Rule 029: *Municipal Franchise Agreements*, including three appendices:
    - Rule 029 Appendix 1 and 2: application forms for electric and gas franchise agreement applications.
    - Rule 029 Appendix 3: application form for other utility service franchise agreement applications, which is a new proposed AUC document, so no blackline is available.
- Franchise agreement templates for Apex Utilities Inc., ATCO Electric Ltd., ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd., and FortisAlberta Ltd.

The main changes to the documents are associated with the following topics:

- Notice of application timelines and guidance on appropriate responses to customer inquiries on franchise agreements and franchise fee changes.
- Adding requirements for franchise agreement and franchise fee change applications for utility services other than electricity and gas. These services include water, sewage, drainage, irrigation and waste management services, among others.
- Moving the approval process for Apex Utilities Inc.'s, ATCO Electric Ltd.'s, ATCO Gas and Pipeline Ltd.'s and FortisAlberta Inc.'s franchise agreement templates from a proceeding-based process to a rule-revision process.
- Clarifications to the calculation of the franchise fee in ATCO Electric Ltd.'s and FortisAlberta Inc.'s franchise agreement templates.
- Additional changes to Rule 029 for clarity.

All major changes made in the draft documents are detailed in the comment matrices created for stakeholder feedback. Some administrative changes shown in the blackline documents are not listed in the matrices.

The written engagement will be hosted on the Rule 029 AUC Engage page, found on the AUC website. **The deadline for submissions is January 8, 2027.**

Interested parties may submit their written feedback on the draft documents posted on the Rule 029 Engage page by downloading and completing the fillable comment matrix and then emailing it to engage@auc.ab.ca. In the email, please use the following **subject line: Rule 029 engagement**.

This is a public engagement. Submissions provided to the AUC will form part of the public record and may be posted on the AUC's website with contact information, aside from names, removed. The AUC collects, uses and discloses this information to carry out its mandate as a public body and to support a transparent public process in accordance with Alberta's privacy legislation and the AUC's privacy policy. Submissions that are duplicates, not in the required format, or outside the scope of the engagement may not be posted or considered, and the AUC may withhold or redact submissions that are not appropriate.

AUC staff are available upon request for virtual meetings to further mutual understanding of required changes or guidance required on this matter. However, only written formal submissions to the Engage page will be used in making revisions or decisions related to AUC rules.

Next steps

After reviewing all submissions, the AUC will issue a final version of Rule 029 unless additional consultation is required.

Any questions related to this bulletin may be directed to info@auc.ab.ca or 310-4AUC (310-4282).

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