

Comment matrix for Rule 035: *The Office of the Utilities Consumer Advocate Administration Fee*

Feedback from interested parties	Commission response
Section 5 (3)(b) does not appear to be applicable given the definition of a “utility” in the draft rule.	Section 5 (3)(b) has been removed.
<p>New line item on customer utility bills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would increase regulatory burden, require the creation of a new rate with other downstream impacts 	Separate line item for the UCA administration fee is not required. The costs associated with the fee should be included in the distribution charge. This avoids incurring new costs for retailers to implement the change.
<p>AUC should permit deferral account with Y factor treatment, flow-through to customers on per-site basis.</p> <p>If Y factor treatment is approved, it will be necessary to develop a separate UCA rate which would require each DFO to design a separate rate for this fee.</p>	The Commission supports Y-factor treatment for the UCA administration fee, similar to how the AUC administration fee is recovered.
Looking for confirmation that the proposed fee applies and should only be debited to the rate classes associated with “active sites” (commercial, farm and residential metered sites, defined in 1(a) of the rule). This would reduce the number of customers that the UCA administration fee is recovered from currently.	The MSA Retail Statistics file (referenced in the rule) includes electricity and natural gas data for active sites. Sites with no consumption are not included. DFOs should not be charging for unmetered sites. UCA provides services to commercial, farm and residential customers. The condominium complexes should fall into multi-family residential rate classes as opposed to industrial.
Looking for direction regarding the treatment of any variance between actual fee collected and the amount of the fee allocated.	The MSA Retail Statistics file reflects active site count data provided directly by the utility which would eliminate any variances due to site counts.
Looking for confirmation that the admin fee is to be split evenly across 12 months for all active customers.	Confirmed. Split across April to March for a given year as per 3(1)(b) of the rule.
Looking for clarification on 80/20 split.	UCA determines the split and is subject to review by the Power and Natural Gas Consumer’s Panel who make recommendations to the Minister. The Minister determines if a change to the split is warranted.