

What is the AUC?

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) is Alberta's independent utilities regulator. The AUC is established under the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act* and makes evidence-based decisions in the public interest to protect Alberta's social, economic and environmental interests. Commission members are appointed to independently review and decide regulatory applications, supported by AUC staff.

Does the AUC approve data centres?

No. The AUC does not regulate data centres themselves. Instead, the AUC reviews and decides applications for any utility infrastructure required to support a data centre, such as:

- Electric power plants.
- Transmission lines and substations.
- Natural gas pipelines.

If a data centre proposal requires the construction or operation of regulated utility facilities, those components require AUC approval.

What types of applications does the AUC review?

Under Rule 007: *Facility Applications*, the AUC reviews applications related to:

- The siting and construction of electric power plants.
- The need for and siting of transmission lines.
- Energy storage facilities, including battery energy storage systems.
- Industrial systems.
- Natural gas utility pipelines.



The requirements in Rule 007 apply to all proponents, including those proposing facilities associated with data centre projects.

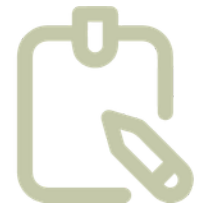
Are data centre applications treated differently from other projects?

No. There is no separate regulatory category for data centres under AUC legislation. Applications for power plants or other regulated infrastructure associated with data centres are reviewed using the same rules, processes and public-interest test applied to other utility facility applications.

What does the AUC consider when reviewing an application?

The AUC looks at whether approving the application is in the public interest, considering its environmental, social and economic effects. Common considerations include:

- Noise, visual, traffic, congestion, dust and property impacts.
- Adequacy of public and municipal consultation.
- Agricultural impacts.
- Effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- Siting and proliferation.
- Cumulative effects.



The AUC's role is not to promote or oppose projects, but to evaluate the evidence placed on the public record.

What is required before an application can proceed?

After an application is filed but before a proceeding moves forward, the AUC reviews applications to confirm they are complete and meet filing, technical, environmental and consultation requirements under Rule 007.

If an application contains significant gaps, errors or missing information, the AUC may close the application. A closure does not assess the merits of the project and does not prevent a proponent from submitting a new application in the future.

How can the public participate?

Members of the public, municipalities and Indigenous communities may participate by submitting a Statement of Intent to Participate (SIP) through the AUC's eFiling System. The AUC uses the information gathered through SIP submissions to decide whether to hold a hearing on the application.

The hearing process is intended to allow parties whose rights or interests may be affected by the proposed development to have an impartial decision-maker hear and assess their concerns.

The AUC must hold a hearing, either oral or in writing, if a concerned person can demonstrate that they have rights that may be directly or adversely affected by the AUC's decision on the application.

Are application materials publicly available?

Yes. Subject to limited exceptions, all information filed in an AUC proceeding is publicly available through the AUC eFiling System, including application materials, information requests and public submissions.

How long does the review process take?

Application timelines vary depending on the complexity of the project, the completeness of the application, public participation and whether a hearing is required. When an application is accepted for review, the AUC issues an acknowledgement letter outlining next steps in the process.

Where can I find more information?

For more information on the AUC's review process, please visit the AUC website and check out the resources under the "Get involved" tab.

- [Review process for facility applications](#)
- [Have your say about a utility project](#)
- [How to use the AUC's eFiling System](#)



For general questions, the AUC can be contacted at 310-4AUC (310-4282) or info@auc.ab.ca.