



ATCO GAS

Retailer Service Phase II Part B Implementation
Compliance Filing

June 9, 2009



ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Decision 2009-079: ATCO GAS

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Application No. 1605029

Proceeding ID. 194

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RETAILER SERVICE PHASE II PART B
IMPLEMENTATION COMPLIANCE FILING**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1. On April 30, 2009 ATCO Gas (AG)¹ filed an application (the Application) with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) to comply with directions made by the Commission in Order [U2008-290](#) (the Order).²

2. The Commission electronically issued a Notice of Application on May 6, 2009 to parties registered on the Commission's gas and pipelines list. The deadline for parties to file a Statement of Intent to Participate (SIP) was May 15, 2009. BP Canada Energy Company was the only party that filed a SIP; however, it stated that it had no issues to raise with respect to the Application. The Commission considers the close of record as May 15, 2009.

2 BACKGROUND

3. In the Order, the Commission approved the remaining components associated with the implementation of AG's Retailer Service, which deals with the processes used by AG to load balance its distribution system. Coincident with the implementation of Retailer Service on October 1, 2008 AG began performing the load balancing function, which was previously the responsibility of Direct Energy Regulated Services (DERS),³ AG's default supply provider. Consequently, AG was directed in the Order to submit a compliance filing to the Commission detailing the steps AG followed in making the load balancing transition from DERS. The date set for the compliance filing was April 30, 2009.

4. In particular, AG was directed to provide information on five issues.⁴ The information required and AG's compliance with the directions are as follows:

1. Schedules outlining the monthly imbalance energy and dollars that have been provided to DERS for input into the derivation of its North and South monthly GCFRs for the period May 2004 to September 2008. The opening and closing balances should also be provided and the imbalance energy and dollars should also be split between those imbalances associated with AG distribution services and AP [ATCO Pipelines] transmission services.

¹ AG is a Division of ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd.

² Order U2008-290 – ATCO Gas, Retailer Service and Gas Utilities Act – Phase II, Part B Process, Modules 3 & 5 (Application No. 1575607 ID 68) (Released: September 12, 2008)

³ DERS, a business unit of Direct Energy Marketing Ltd., supplies gas to regulated customers using separate gas cost flow-through rates (GCFR) in each of AG's north (North) and south (South) service territories.

⁴ Order U2008-290, page 5

AG provided schedules comparing monthly amounts of imbalances of energy volumes and values that it had recorded and that DERS had reported in DERS' monthly GCFR filings.

2. The value and timing of imbalances removed from DERS' North and South GCFRs.

AG included required information addressing the removal of the lifetime-to-date-imbalances from the GCFRs and the schedule of settlement runs, the timing of ATCO Gas' invoice to DERS and inclusion of the associated dollars in DERS' GCFRs in the response to Direction 1. Additionally, AG provided explanations and schedules detailing energy quantities and values for imbalances in respect of the transition of High Use and Low Use accounts and firm service utility accounts.

3. A schedule outlining the October 2008 Retailer High Use and Low Use opening account balances in the North and South.

AG noted that the Retailer High Use and Low Use opening account balances on October 1, 2008 were the same as the closing account balances on September 30, 2008, which were provided in the response to Direction 2.

4. A schedule outlining the North and South Retailer High Use and Low Use gas settlement variances attributable to the months of June 2008 to September 2008.

AG provided the Retailer High Use and Low Use gas settlement variances attributable to the months of June 2008 to September 2008 in the response to Direction 2.

5. A schedule outlining all amounts (energy and dollars) included in AG'[s] load balancing deferral account related to the load balancing transition and any offsetting amounts provided by AG to DERS for inclusion in the North and South GCFRs.

AG provided the energy and dollars included in ATCO Gas' North and South load balancing deferral accounts related to High Use and Low Use accounts transition in the response to Direction 2. Similarly, the offsetting amounts provided by AG to DERS for inclusion in DERS' GCFRs related to High Use and Low Use accounts transition were included in the response to Direction 2.

5. AG noted that the process it used with respect to the transition of load balancing with DERS was described in an attachment to DERS' September 2008 GCFR filings.

3 ORDER

6. The Commission is satisfied that AG has complied with the directions set out in Order U2008-290 to provide the Commission with details of the steps AG followed in making the load balancing transition from DERS.

7. THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

The Retailer Service Phase II Part B Implementation Compliance Filing submitted by ATCO Gas pursuant to Order U2008-290 is approved as filed.

Dated in Calgary, Alberta on June 9, 2009.

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

(original signed by)

Carolyn Dahl Rees
Vice-Chair