



AltaGas Utilities Inc.

2018-2019 Unaccounted-For Gas Rider E and Rider H

Costs Award

December 13, 2018

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 24007-D01-2018

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Proceeding 24007

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Calgary, Alberta

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1 Introduction

1. In this decision the Alberta Utilities Commission considers an application (the costs claim application) by the Consumers' Coalition of Alberta for approval and payment of its costs of participation in Proceeding 23740¹ (the original proceeding). The following table sets out the costs claimed and the amounts awarded:

Claimant	Total Fees Claimed	Total Disbursements Claimed	Total GST Claimed	Total Amount Claimed	Total Fees Awarded	Total Disbursements Awarded	Total GST Awarded	Total Amount Awarded
CCA								
Wachowich & Company	\$980.00	\$0.00	\$49.00	\$1,029.00	\$980.00	\$0.00	\$49.00	\$1,029.00
Regulatory Services Inc.	\$3,537.00	\$7.50	\$177.23	\$3,721.73	\$3,537.00	\$7.50	\$177.23	\$3,721.73
Total	\$4,517.00	\$7.50	\$226.23	\$4,750.73	\$4,517.00	\$7.50	\$226.23	\$4,750.73
Total of all amounts claimed and awarded				\$4,750.73				\$4,750.73

2. The Commission has decided to approve the costs, as claimed, for the reasons provided below.

3. The original proceeding was convened by the Commission to consider AltaGas Utilities Inc.'s application requesting approval for an adjustment to unaccounted-for gas rate riders E and H, effective November 1, 2018. The original proceeding included information requests and responses, argument and reply argument. The close of record for the original proceeding was September 28, 2018 and the Commission issued Decision 23740-D01-2018² on October 25, 2018.

4. The CCA submitted its costs claim application on October 26, 2018, within the 30-day timeline permitted by the Commission's rules. The Commission assigned Proceeding 24007 and Application 24007-A001 to the costs claim application.

5. No comments were filed with respect to the costs claim application and the Commission considers the close of record for this proceeding to be November 5, 2018, the deadline for filing comments.

¹ Proceeding 23740: AltaGas Utilities Inc., 2018-2019 Rate Rider E and Rate Rider H – Unaccounted-for Gas Application.

² Decision 23470: AltaGas Utilities Inc., 2018-2019 Unaccounted-For Gas Rider E and Rider H, Proceeding 23470, Application 23740-A001, October 25, 2018.

2 Commission findings

6. The Commission's authority to award costs for participation in a utility rates proceeding is found in Section 21 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*. When considering a claim by eligible participants for costs incurred in connection with a utility rates proceeding, the Commission is also guided by the factors set out in Section 11 of Rule 022: *Rules on Costs in Utility Rate Proceedings* (Rule 022), which allows the Commission to consider, among other things, whether costs claims are reasonable and directly and necessarily related to the original proceeding, and whether the participants acted responsibly and contributed to a better understanding of the issues before the Commission. Appendix A of Rule 022 prescribes a Scale of Costs applicable to all costs claimed.

2.1 Consumers' Coalition of Alberta

7. The following table summarizes the CCA's costs claim:

Claimant	Hours			Fees	Disbursements	GST	Total
	Preparation	Attendance	Argument				
CCA							
Wachowich & Company	2.0	0.0	0.8	\$980.00	\$0.00	\$49.00	\$1,029.00
Regulatory Services Inc.	7.6	0.0	5.5	\$3,537.00	\$7.50	\$177.23	\$3,721.73
Total	9.6	0.0	6.3	\$4,517.00	\$7.50	\$226.23	\$4,750.73

8. The Commission finds that the CCA acted responsibly in the original proceeding and contributed to a better understanding of the relevant issues in the proceeding.

Wachowich & Company

9. The CCA was represented by Wachowich & Company in the original proceeding. The fees claimed by the CCA for the legal services provided by Mr. James Wachowich relate to reviewing the application, information responses, argument and instructions regarding reply argument.

10. The Commission finds that the services performed by Wachowich & Company were directly and necessarily related to the CCA's participation in the original proceeding, and that the fees, which were claimed in accordance with the Scale of Costs for those services, are reasonable. Accordingly, the Commission approves the CCA's claim for legal fees for Wachowich & Company in the amount of \$980.00 and GST of \$49.00 for a total of \$1,029.00.

Regulatory Services Inc.

11. Regulatory Services Inc. was retained by the CCA to perform consulting services in the original proceeding. The fees claimed by the CCA for the consulting services provided by Mr. Jeffrey Jodoin relate to reviewing the application, creating and updating issue lists, drafting information requests, formulating recommended positions, drafting argument and reviewing AltaGas Utilities Inc.'s argument and reply argument.

12. The Commission finds that the services performed by Regulatory Services Inc. were directly and necessarily related to the CCA's participation in the original proceeding, and that the fees and disbursements, which were claimed in accordance with the Scale of Costs for those

services, are reasonable. Accordingly, the Commission approves the CCA's claim for consulting fees for Regulatory Services Inc. in the amount of \$3,537.00, disbursements of \$7.50 and GST of \$177.23 for a total of \$3,721.73.

Total awarded

13. For the reasons provided above, the Commission approves the CCA's claim for recovery of costs in the total amount of \$4,750.73. This amount is composed of legal fees of \$980.00, consulting fees of \$3,537.00, disbursements of \$7.50 and GST of \$226.23.

3 Order

14. It is hereby ordered that:

- 1) AltaGas Utilities Inc. shall pay intervener costs to the Consumers' Coalition of Alberta in the amount of \$4,750.73.
- 2) AltaGas Utilities Inc. shall record in its Deferred Regulatory Costs (Hearing) account approved intervener amounts of \$4,750.73.

Dated on December 13, 2018.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Kristi Sebalj
Commission Member