



**Utility Payment Deferral Program:  
Rate Rider - Natural Gas**

**August 18, 2021**

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 26699-D01-2021

Utility Payment Deferral Program:

Rate Rider - Natural Gas

Proceeding 26699

August 18, 2021

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## 1 Introduction

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission has approved a Utility Payment Deferral Program - Natural Gas rate rider that will be collected from customers by two gas distributors, ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd (ATCO Gas) and Apex Utilities Inc. (Apex). The Commission approves a rate rider of \$0.037 per gigajoule (GJ).<sup>1</sup> The rate rider approved in this decision has been calculated to recover a total amount of no greater than \$6,099,602.58 for recovery of the uncollected gas customer bill amounts that were deferred under the Utility Payment Deferral Program (UPDP).

2. Under the UPDP, enrolled gas customers deferred payment of approximately \$46 million in natural gas bills.<sup>2</sup> Of this amount, approximately \$40 million was collected from enrolled gas customers between June 19, 2020 and June 18, 2021. The remaining uncollected bill amounts of \$6,099,602.58 results in a rate rider of \$0.037 per GJ, which will result in a monthly charge of approximately \$0.78 on an average residential bill.<sup>3</sup>

## 2 Applications and background

3. On March 18, 2020, the Government of Alberta announced that “Albertans who are experiencing financial hardship directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic can work with their utility company to defer electricity and natural gas bills until June 18, 2020 without any late fees or added interest payments.” This payment deferral option applied to residential, farm, small commercial, and other electricity consumers with sites that consumed less than 250,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year (eligible electricity customer) and to residential, farm, small commercial, and other natural gas consumers with sites that consume less than 2,500 GJ per year (eligible gas customer). The program was known as the UPDP.

4. On May 12, 2020, the *Utility Payment Deferral Program Act* (UPDP Act) was enacted to enable electricity service providers, gas service providers and gas distributors to fulfill their obligations pursuant to the UPDP.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits 26699-X0034 and 26699-X0035,  $\$6,099,602.58/162,745,535 \text{ GJs} = \$0.037/\text{GJ}$ , based on the ATCO Gas and Apex actual weather normalized cumulative throughput volumes from November 2020 to February 2021.

<sup>2</sup> The total amount of natural gas bills that were deferred under the UPDP set out in this decision does not include amounts that were deferred but not reported to the Commission. For example, natural gas bills from rural gas cooperatives and other service providers who self-funded their enrolled gas customers are not included in this total.

<sup>3</sup> Assumption of average Alberta residential consumption of 21 GJ per winter month.  
 $21 \text{ GJ/month} \times \$0.037/\text{GJ} = \$0.78/\text{month}$ .

5. The Commission established two periods for electricity service providers and gas service providers to submit their applications for approval for funding for bill payment amounts deferred by their enrolled electricity and/or gas customers. The first application deadline was May 22, 2020, and covered deferred billing amounts for the period March 18, 2020 to May 8, 2020. The second application deadline was July 10, 2020, and covered deferred billing amounts for the period May 9, 2020 to June 18, 2020.
6. The Commission issued decisions:
- a) Approving the applications of the electric service providers seeking funding from the Balancing Pool for the deferred bill payment amounts from enrolled electricity customers, other than for the portion of the electricity bill payments relating to transmission charges.<sup>4</sup>
  - b) Approving the application of the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) to grant the “necessary approval to enable the Alberta Electric System Operator to fulfill the direction given to it by the Associate Minister of Energy” to support the UPDP.<sup>5</sup>
  - c) Approving the establishment of deferral accounts for regulated rate providers, gas distributors and default supply providers to administer payments under the UPDP.<sup>6</sup>
  - d) Approving the applications of the gas service providers seeking loans from the Minister for the natural gas bill payment amounts deferred by enrolled gas customers, other than the portion of the natural gas bill payments that relate to natural gas transmission charges.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Decision 25591-D01-2020: Direct Energy Marketing Limited, Decision 25585-D01-2020: Just Energy Alberta L.P. and Hudson Energy Canada Corp., Decision 25575-D01-2020: Utility Network & Partners Inc., Decision 25600-D01-2020: Link Energy Supply Inc., Decision 25594-D01-2020: ATCO Energy Ltd., Decision 25592-D01-2020: 1772387 Alberta Limited Partnership (Encor), Decision 25599-D01-2020 (Corrigendum): ENMAX Energy Corporation, Decision 25721-D01-2020: Blue Mountain Power Co-op, Decision 25713-D01-2020: XOOM Energy Canada, ULC, Decision 25661-D01-2020: Battle River Power Coop, Decision 25595-D01-2020: Sponsor Energy Inc., Decision 25590-D01-2020: PowerBill Utility Billing Solutions Inc., Decision 25589-D01-2020: Alberta Co-operative Energy, Decision 25586-D01-2020: Campus Energy Partners LP.

<sup>5</sup> Decision 25508-D01-2020: Alberta Electric System Operator, Request for Deferral of Payment of 2020 Interim Refundable Demand Transmission Service Charges, Proceeding 25508, April 27, 2020.

<sup>6</sup> Decision 25574-D01-2020: AltaGas Utilities Inc., Decision 25568-D01-2020: ATCO Gas Ltd., Decision 25593-D01-2020: EPCOR Energy Alberta GP Inc.

<sup>7</sup> Decision 25573-D01-2020: Gas Alberta Energy, Decision 25595-D01-2020: Sponsor Energy Inc., Decision 25590-D01-2020: PowerBill Utility Billing Solutions Inc., Decision 25589-D01-2020: Alberta Co-operative Energy, Decision 25586-D01-2020: Campus Energy Partners LP, Decision 25576-D01-2020: Access Gas Services Inc., Decision 25713-D01-2020: XOOM Energy Canada, ULC, Decision 25594-D01-2020: ATCO Energy Ltd., Decision 25592-D01-2020: 1772387 Alberta Limited Partnership (Encor), Decision 25591-D01-2020: Direct Energy Marketing Limited, Decision 25585-D01-2020: Just Energy Alberta L.P. and Hudson Energy Canada Corp., Decision 25575-D01-2020: Utility Network & Partners Inc., Decision 25599-D01-2020 (Corrigendum): ENMAX Energy Corporation.

7. The AESO was responsible for funding the portion of the deferred electricity bill payments related to transmission charges for enrolled electricity customers.
8. The gas distributors were responsible for funding the portion of the deferred natural gas bill payments related to gas transmission charges for enrolled gas customers. The Minister was responsible for funding the natural gas bill payment amounts deferred by enrolled gas customers not related to transmission charges.
9. Under sections 6 and 16 of the UPDP Act, enrolled electricity and gas customers, respectively, were required to repay their electricity and natural gas bills that were deferred and they had until June 18, 2021, to make these repayments (repayment period). Notwithstanding this requirement, it was anticipated in the UPDP Act that there would be some customer bills that were deferred that would not be repaid.
10. Consequently, under Section 11 of the UPDP Act, the AESO and the Balancing Pool were directed to apply to the Commission for approval of an AESO rate rider to recover:
  - a) The uncollected amounts outstanding from each electricity service provider;
  - b) The expenses incurred by the Balancing Pool to administer the funding agreements between itself and the electric service providers; and
  - c) The outstanding electric transmission charges.
11. Similarly, under Section 21 of the UPDP Act, an application to the Commission must be brought for a natural gas rate rider to recover:
  - a) The uncollected amounts outstanding from each gas service provider;
  - b) The expenses incurred by the Minister to administer the loans to the gas service providers; and
  - c) The outstanding natural gas transmission charges.
12. Subsequent to the enactment of the UPDP Act, the *Utility Payment Deferral Program Regulation* (UPDP Regulation) was enacted to enable self-funded electricity service providers and self-funded gas service providers to include any unpaid deferred electric or natural gas bill amounts within the AESO rider or the natural gas rate rider.
13. During the repayment period of the UPDP, electricity service providers and gas service providers<sup>8</sup> submitted a monthly statement to the Commission setting out the aggregate deferred amounts that were still outstanding from enrolled electricity and gas customers. Service providers also submitted reporting including the number of customers enrolled in the UPDP, the

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<sup>8</sup> The electricity service providers and gas service providers that reported monthly are those who received funding from the Balancing Pool or the Minister, who deferred transmission charges, or who self-funded under the UPDP. The details of the outstanding amounts were itemized in a template provided by the Commission.

aggregate dollar amount of the deferred bills associated with the customers who were dropped<sup>9</sup> or that switched retailers, and the efforts made to collect from customers who were dropped or that switched.

14. The Commission has considered the applications for the natural gas rate rider in this decision. A separate decision will be issued for the electricity rate rider.

15. The Commission will assess the uncollected bill amounts that were subject to the UPDP for inclusion in the natural gas rate rider, in the sections below.

*The Minister for loan amounts outstanding from gas service providers*

16. The Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry Services of the Government of Alberta confirmed in a July 22, 2021 letter,<sup>10</sup> that it issued a total of \$37,147,794.64 in loans to gas service providers under Section 19 of the UPDP Act, it received \$32,508,571.45 in repayments, and there is an outstanding balance of \$4,639,223.19 to be included in the natural gas rate rider. The Minister did not apply for any expenses incurred to administer the loans to gas service providers under the UPDP.

*Gas distributors' rate rider applications*

17. On July 16, 2021, ATCO Gas and Apex, filed applications requesting that amounts unrecovered from enrolled gas customers be included in a natural gas rate rider pursuant to Section 21 of the UPDP Act and Section 6 of the UPDP Regulation.

18. ATCO Gas funded amounts to administer the deferral of payments related to transmission charges normally due in the deferral period. ATCO Gas determined the transmission charges that are outstanding as of June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$407,785.73, and requested approval from the Commission for inclusion of this amount when determining the natural gas rate rider. ATCO Gas also provided supporting calculations for its carrying costs of \$112,798.91<sup>11</sup> using the weighted average cost of capital (WACC). The total amount ATCO Gas applied for recovery in the natural gas rate rider is \$520,584.64.<sup>12</sup>

19. Apex as a gas distributor, funded the gas transmission charges of enrolled gas customers during the UPDP, and the outstanding balance of the deferred gas transmission charges as of June 30, 2021, are \$6,011.58 excluding carrying costs.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> A customer is “dropped” when a retailer no longer wishes to continue serving a customer or when a customer no longer wishes to be served by that retailer.

<sup>10</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0020.

<sup>11</sup> The carrying costs are calculated monthly from June 2020 to November 2021, by applying the weighted average cost of capital rates to the mid-month outstanding balances. Details of the carrying costs calculations are in Exhibit 26699-X0018, Attachment 1, and details of the derivation of the weighted average cost of capital rates are in Exhibit 26699-X0023, Attachment 2.

<sup>12</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0018, Attachment 1, line 21.

<sup>13</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0002, Attachment 1 - AUI Utility Payment Deferral Program Self-Funded Service Provider Rate Rider Template.

20. Apex also provides default gas supply to its customers, and therefore, its application for the amount to be recovered through the natural gas rate rider include uncollected natural gas bill amounts for payments deferred by its enrolled gas customers. In its role as a default gas supplier, Apex requested that its deferral of payments for gas services of \$257,524.44 that were uncollected from enrolled gas customers under the UPDP, be included in the natural gas rate rider. Apex also provided supporting calculations for its \$105,668.64<sup>14</sup> total for carrying costs related to deferred gas transmission charges and uncollected bill amounts from enrolled gas customers, using its WACC. The total of Apex's deferred transmission charges, uncollected natural gas bill amounts for payments deferred by enrolled gas customers, and carrying costs applied for is \$369,204.66.

#### *Self-funded gas service providers*

21. The Commission received the following applications for recovery of the unpaid deferred natural gas bill amounts that were self-funded pursuant to Section 6 of the UPDP Regulation:

- Hudson Energy Canada Corp. for uncollected bill amounts for gas services provided to enrolled gas customers (non-transmission related charges)
- Just Energy Canada Corp. for uncollected bill amounts for gas services provided to enrolled gas customers (non-transmission related charges)
- 1772387 Alberta Limited Partnership (Encor) for uncollected bill amounts for gas services provided to enrolled gas customers (transmission related charges)

22. For the purposes of this decision, the Commission considers the close of record to be August 9, 2021, the date that the last application document was filed on the record.

### **3 Natural gas rate rider – applied-for amounts by the applicants**

23. The total uncollected outstanding amounts applied for, for inclusion in the calculation of the natural gas rate rider, are shown in Table 1: *Natural gas rate rider applied-for amounts*. Table 1 includes all amounts that were applied for by the applicants. For the reasons that follow, the Commission has not approved all the amounts claimed in Table 1. The final amounts to be used in the calculation of the natural gas rate rider are set out in Table 2: *Maximum amounts to be recovered through the natural gas rate rider*, found at the end of this section.

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<sup>14</sup> The carrying costs are calculated monthly from March 2020, to November 2021, by applying the weighted average cost of capital rates to the mid-month outstanding balances. Details of the carrying costs calculations and details of the derivation of the weighted average cost of capital rates are in Exhibit 26699-X0005.01, Attachment 4.



Table 1. Natural gas rate rider applied-for amounts

	Outstanding amounts	Carrying costs	Late payment fees	Total
The Minister (loan to gas service providers)	\$4,639,223.19			\$4,639,223.19
Apex Utilities Inc.	\$263,536.02 <sup>15</sup>	\$105,668.64 <sup>16</sup>		\$369,204.66
ATCO Gas	\$407,785.73 <sup>17</sup>	\$112,798.91 <sup>18</sup>		\$520,584.64 <sup>19</sup>
Just Energy Canada Corp.	\$406,950.08			\$406,950.08
Hudson Energy Canada Corp.	\$128,593.01			\$128,593.01
1772387 Alberta Limited Partnership (Encor)	\$35,047.00	\$9,168.00	\$97,826.00	\$142,041.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,881,135.03</b>	<b>\$227,635.55</b>	<b>\$97,826.00</b>	<b>\$6,206,596.58</b>

### *The Minister*

24. With respect to the outstanding amount owed to the Minister, the Commission approves amounts no greater than the \$4,639,223.19, which was the amount confirmed by the Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry Services in its letter, and this amount is to be included in the natural gas rate rider.

### *Gas distributors*

25. As stated above, ATCO Gas<sup>20</sup> and Apex<sup>21</sup> applied for carrying costs to be included as part of the natural gas rate rider. ATCO Gas and Apex provided details of the calculated carrying costs, which ATCO Gas and Apex described were calculated by applying the weighted average cost of capital (WACC) rates to the mid-month outstanding balances. In the proceeding, ATCO Gas and Apex filed the components and calculations of the WACC rates.<sup>22</sup> The Commission has reviewed the calculation of the carrying costs, as well as the components and calculations of the underlying WACC rates, and finds that the carrying costs claimed are properly calculated, as mandated by Subsection 17(4) of the UPDP Act.

26. For ATCO Gas, the Commission approves the \$407,785.73 in uncollected bill amounts for gas transmission charges and the inclusion of \$112,798.91 for carrying costs as part of the natural gas rate rider. Therefore the Commission approves amounts, in total, of no greater than the \$520,584.64 for ATCO Gas's own deferred amounts outstanding and carrying costs, to be included in the natural gas rate rider.

<sup>15</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0005.01, Attachment 4, August 3, 2021; Exhibit 26699-X0002, Attachment 1, July 16, 2021.

<sup>16</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0024, APEX WACC supporting calculations letter, August 3, 2021; Exhibit 26699-X0005.01, Attachment 4, August 3, 2021.

<sup>17</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0017, ATCO Gas 2021 Utility Payment Deferral - Rider H, July 16, 2021; Exhibit 26699-X0018, Attachment 1, July 16, 2021.

<sup>18</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0017, ATCO Gas 2021 Utility Payment Deferral - Rider H, July 16, 2021; Exhibit 26699-X0018, Attachment 1, July 16, 2021.

<sup>19</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0022, ATCO Gas UPDP Clarification, August 3, 2021.

<sup>20</sup> ATCO Gas requested carrying costs of \$112,798.91, as set out in Exhibit 26699-X0017 and Exhibit 26699-X0018.

<sup>21</sup> Apex requested carrying costs of \$105,668.64, as set out in Exhibit 26699-X0024 and Exhibit 26699-X0005.01.

<sup>22</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0005.01, Attachment 4 – Apex Calculation of Carrying Costs – WACC for Apex. Exhibit 26699-X0023, Attachment 2, for ATCO Gas.

27. For Apex, the Commission approves the \$263,536.02 in uncollected bill amounts for gas services and gas transmission charges and the inclusion of \$105,668.64 for carrying costs as part of the natural gas rate rider. Therefore the Commission approves amounts, in total, of no greater than the \$369,204.66 for Apex's own deferred amounts outstanding and carrying costs, to be included in the natural gas rate rider.

28. The Commission further finds that Apex made reasonable efforts to collect the deferred natural gas bill amounts from enrolled gas customers during the repayment period. It undertook several processes to ensure customer repayment. Overall, Apex explained that it remained flexible in its collection processes as long as the customer was in contact with Apex and willing to make payments. If the customer did not contact Apex, it made two attempts to contact the customer, first by telephone and second by letter. If these attempts were unsuccessful, it issued a final payment reminder letter to the customer and then sent the account to a third-party collection agency.<sup>23</sup>

### *Self-funded gas service providers*

#### Encor

29. Encor, a competitive retailer and self-funded gas service provider<sup>24</sup>, filed an application for recovery of \$142,041.00, which included a cover letter, senior officer's attestation letter and the UPDP self-funded service provider rate rider template (which included uncollected outstanding amounts and information about their reasonable efforts to collect) in support of its application. Encor submitted that in addition to deferred gas transmission charges that it self-funded<sup>25</sup> it had suffered other incremental financial losses as a result of the UPDP Act, namely, a shortfall in late payment penalty revenues resulting from the restrictions included in the UPDP Act,<sup>26</sup> and carrying costs. Encor requested compensation for these losses through the rate rider mechanism contemplated by sections 3 and 6 of the UPDP Regulation.

30. In a ruling issued on July 30, 2021, the Commission denied Encor's application to recover \$97,826.00 for late payment revenue shortfalls and \$9,168.00 for carrying costs, and excluded these costs from recovery through the natural gas rate rider.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0003, pages 1 to 3. Unlike Apex, who is a gas distributor who also provides default gas supply to its gas customers, ATCO Gas is not a default gas supplier and has made arrangements with Direct Energy Regulated Services (DERS), a business unit of Direct Energy Marketing Limited, to provide this service. DERS, as well as the other gas service providers that were approved for funding from the Minister for the natural gas bill payment amounts deferred by enrolled gas customers, provided monthly reporting throughout the repayment period of the UPDP on their activities, such as the collection of the outstanding amounts from customers. This information was provided to and reviewed by the Commission in Proceeding 25591.

<sup>24</sup> Encor self-funded outstanding deferred transmission charges

<sup>25</sup> In its application, Encor described its deferred transmission charges as "transmission related bad debt costs."

<sup>26</sup> ENCOR referenced subsections 5(3) and 5(4) of the UPDP Act regarding the inability to charge late payment penalties or to undertake collections during the deferral period against enrolled electricity customers. The mirror provisions for gas are found in subsections 15(3) and 15(4).

<sup>27</sup> Exhibit 26684-X0057, paragraphs 11 and 17.

31. Concerning the remaining costs claimed for deferred transmission charges of \$35,047.00, the Commission has reviewed Encor's application and supporting documentation and finds that the amounts claimed accurately reflect the difference between the deferred natural gas bill amounts of enrolled gas customers and the uncollected bill amounts.

32. The Commission further finds that Encor made reasonable efforts to collect the deferred natural gas bill amounts from enrolled gas customers during the repayment period. Encor explained that it monitored payments and once payment arrangements were terminated, it initiated its established collections processes in order to attempt collection of overdue balances. Activities included issuing an urgent notice for payment, advising that if no further payments were received, the customer would be dropped for non-payment, and referring overdue customers to collection agencies as a final resort.<sup>28</sup>

33. For these reasons, the Commission approves an amount no greater than the \$35,047.00 submitted by Encor to be included in the natural gas rate rider.

#### Just Energy and Hudson Energy

34. Each of these self-funded gas service providers filed applications, which included a cover letter, senior officer's attestation letter and UPDP self-funded service provider rate rider template (which included uncollected outstanding amounts and information about their reasonable efforts to collect) in support of their applications. Just Energy applied for \$406,950.08 and Hudson Energy applied for \$128,593.01 in uncollected bill amounts.

35. The Commission has reviewed these applications and the supporting documentation for the amounts that these gas service providers self-funded. The Commission finds that the amounts claimed accurately reflect the difference between the deferred natural gas bill amounts of enrolled gas customers and the uncollected bill amounts. The Commission further finds that the self-funded gas service providers made reasonable efforts to collect the deferred natural gas bill amounts from enrolled gas customers during the repayment period. Specifically, Just Energy and Hudson Energy outsourced the administration of the UPDP to a third-party vendor. Actions taken by the third-party vendor included: invoicing the UPDP customers monthly, taking collection actions on the UPDP accounts and receiving payment collection on the UPDP accounts.

36. For these reasons, the Commission approves amounts no greater than the \$406,950.08 submitted by Just Energy and the \$128,593.01 submitted by Hudson Energy to be included in the natural gas rate rider.

#### *Approved natural gas rate rider*

37. For the reasons noted in the discussion above, pursuant to Section 10 of the UPDP Act, the Commission confirms the total amount of no greater than \$6,099,602.58 will be used in the calculation of the natural gas rate rider, as shown in Table 2 below:

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<sup>28</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0026, page 6.

**Table 2. Maximum amounts to be recovered through the natural gas rate rider**

	Outstanding amounts	Carrying costs	Total
The Minister	\$4,639,223.19		\$4,639,223.19
Apex Utilities Inc.	\$263,536.02 <sup>29</sup>	\$105,668.64	\$369,204.66
ATCO Gas	\$407,785.73 <sup>30</sup>	\$112,798.91	\$520,584.64
Just Energy Canada Corp.	\$406,950.08		\$406,950.08
Hudson Energy Canada Corp.	\$128,593.01		\$128,593.01
1772387 Alberta Limited Partnership (Encor)	\$35,047.00		\$35,047.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,881,135.03</b>	<b>\$218,467.55</b>	<b>\$6,099,602.58</b>

38. In accordance with Section 21 of the UPDP Act and Section 6(4) of the UPDP Regulation, the Commission must establish and approve a rate rider to recover: (i) the loan amounts that the Commission determines are outstanding from each gas service provider on June 18, 2021, (ii) the expenses incurred by the Minister to enter into and administer the loan agreements that the Commission determines are reasonable, (iii) the transmission charges that the Commission determines are outstanding from each gas distributor on June 18, 2021 and (iv) all of the reasonable deferred amounts that self-funded gas service providers did not receive from enrolled gas customers. The Commission has determined this amount to be no more than the total amount of \$6,099,602.58. The rate rider will be included in the distribution tariffs of the gas distribution utilities, ATCO Gas and Apex. ATCO Gas and Apex will pay the amounts they collect through the rate rider to the parties, as set out in Table 2.

39. In their applications, ATCO Gas and Apex proposed a rate rider to recover the charge approved by the Commission in this decision on a per-GJ basis with a commencement date of November 1, 2021.

40. To assist the Commission with calculating the rate rider, it requested ATCO Gas and Apex to provide their actual weather normalized throughput (by month in GJ), for the period of November 2020 to April 2021. To ensure that the outstanding amounts to be recovered through the rate rider are collected by no later than June 18, 2022, and to minimize any subsequent rate rider adjustments during the rate rider period, the Commission based the rate rider calculation on the aggregated actual weather normalized throughput volumes from November 2020 to February 2021. These are typically the highest volume usage months. The relevant information is reproduced in Table 3 below:

**Table 3. Actual volumes in GJ used in the natural gas rate rider calculation**

	Actual Volumes (GJ)				Total
	November 2020	December 2020	January 2021	February 2021	
ATCO Gas	31,617,957	42,528,774	39,747,317	38,312,175	152,206,223
Apex Utilities Inc.	2,170,306	2,856,671	2,896,447	2,615,888	10,539,312
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,788,263</b>	<b>45,385,445</b>	<b>42,643,764</b>	<b>40,928,063</b>	<b>162,745,535</b>

<sup>29</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0005.01, Attachment 4, August 3, 2021; Exhibit 26699-X0002, Attachment 1, July 16, 2021.

<sup>30</sup> Exhibit 26699-X0017, ATCO Gas 2021 Utility Payment Deferral - Rider H, July 16, 2021; Exhibit 26699-X0018, Attachment 1, July 16, 2021.

41. The resulting rider is \$0.037/GJ.<sup>31</sup> If the actual usage for November 1, 2021 to February 2022, is similar to the actual usage for November 1, 2020 to February 2021, this will result in the majority of the approved amounts being collected by the end of February 2022, which will minimize the amount to be collected after February 2022.

42. The Commission has reviewed the applications along with the additional submissions and approves a natural gas rate rider of \$0.037 per GJ. The effective date of the rate rider will be November 1, 2021.

#### 4 Order

43. It is hereby ordered:

- (1) Pursuant to Subsection 19(2) of the UPDP Act and Subsection 6(6) of the UPDP Regulation, it is possible that gas service providers may receive payments from enrolled gas customers notwithstanding the end of the repayment period. In this event, the total amount approved for recovery in the natural gas rate rider shall be adjusted to reflect receipt of these payments from the gas service providers to ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. and Apex Utilities Inc. The Commission directs that gas service providers, including retailers and self-funded gas service providers, and the Minister, inform the Commission, ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. and Apex Utilities Inc. at least once a month of any payments received after the repayment period.
- (2) Pursuant to Section 21 of the UPDP Act and Section 6 of the UPDP Regulation, the Commission approves a natural gas rate rider of \$0.037 per GJ, effective November 1, 2021. The natural gas rate rider shall:
  - a) Be included in the distribution tariff charged by ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. and Apex Utilities Inc.
  - b) Apply to all rate classes so all customers of each gas distributor receive an identical per GJ natural gas rate rider charge.
- (3) ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. and Apex Utilities Inc. are directed to file post-disposition submissions to the Commission, at least monthly, showing:
  - a) the receipt of any payments received from retailers, the Minister, and self-funded gas service providers that have been paid by enrolled gas customers after the end of the repayment period reported to ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. and Apex Utilities Inc.;
  - b) the status of collected natural gas rate rider amounts and

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<sup>31</sup> Approved amount of \$6,099,602.58/162,745,535 GJ.

- c) amounts still outstanding
- until the completion of the natural gas rate rider collection process. If ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. or Apex Utilities Inc. require instruction on adjusting and dispensing with any remaining balances in the final month of the rate rider, it may file a post-disposition letter on the record of this proceeding.
- (4) Pursuant to Section 25 of the UPDP Act, the Commission may exercise its jurisdiction to conduct an audit of the amounts provided in this decision if necessary.

Dated on August 18, 2021.

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Douglas A. Larder QC  
Panel Chair

*(original signed by)*

Neil Jamieson  
Commission Member

*(original signed by)*

Vincent Kostas  
Acting Commission Member