



Town of Onoway Request for Decision

Meeting:	Council Meeting
Meeting Date:	October 12, 2023
Presented By:	Gino Damo, Director of Corporate and Community Services
Title:	2024 FortisAlberta Electricity Franchise Fee

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL

The definition of a Municipal Franchise fee as stated on the Alberta Utilities Commission website is as follows:

A municipality may grant the exclusive right to a utility distribution company to provide services to the municipality through a franchise agreement. The municipality then charges the distribution company a franchise fee for the exclusive right to serve utilities.

The municipality is largely responsible for establishing the level of the fee through the franchise agreement with the distribution company; however, the Alberta Utilities Commission must approve the franchise agreement. The distribution company is then able to recover these costs from its customers.

During the October 7, 2021 Council meeting, Council made the following Motion #388/21 regarding setting the 2022 FortisAlberta Franchise fee.

Motion #388/21 | **MOVED** by Mayor Judy Tracy that the Town of Onoway set their 2022 FortisAlberta franchise fee at 10% for the year 2022, which is an increase of .5%.

CARRIED

On September 27, 2023 Administration received the attached 2024 franchise fee revenue forecast. Based on the current rate of 10%, the 2024 forecasted franchise fee revenue the Town would receive is \$98,811.

DISCUSSION / OPTIONS / BENEFITS / DISADVANTAGES

Administration is bringing forward the letter from FortisAlberta to request a change to the current franchise fee rate 10% in 2024. In comparison, below are 2022 municipal franchise fee rates of municipalities in proximity to the Town of Onoway:

- Alberta Beach – 8.00%
- Mayerthorpe – 12.00%
- Seba Beach – 4.00%
- Spruce Grove – 20.00%
- Stony Plain – 20.00%
- Wabamun – 10.00%

- Whitecourt – 3.91%

To align with the previous decision made by Council as shown above, Administration recommends to increase the electricity franchise fee rate by 0.50% for the year 2024.

Increasing the electricity franchise fee rate of 0.50% from 10% to 10.50% will yield in an estimated franchise fee revenue of \$103,751 rather than \$98,811 in 2024. Additionally, the above increase will yield an estimated \$0.85/month or \$10.19/annual increase on an average residential electricity bill.

It is important to note that this increase only applies to the electricity franchise fee and not the natural gas franchise fee.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Financial Sustainability
Good Governance

COSTS / SOURCE OF FUNDING

2024 operating budget. If Council approves this request the forecasted franchise fee revenue in 2024 will be \$103,751.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Council approve setting the 2024 FortisAlberta Franchise fee at 10.50% for the year 2024, which is an increase of 0.50%.

ATTACHMENTS

- FortisAlberta Franchise Fee Letter September 26, 2023.
- 2023 Municipal Franchise Fee Rates.

September 26, 2023

RE: 2024 Franchise Fee Calculator, Confirmation of Franchise Fee, Microgeneration Update

FortisAlberta is writing to you to share some important information about the 2024 Franchise Fee Calculator as well as an update on franchise fees and microgeneration.

2024 Franchise Fee Calculator

FortisAlberta is currently preparing for the annual franchise fee changes and is updating the calculator used by the municipalities to forecast franchise fee revenue in 2024.

In early September, FortisAlberta filed its annual rates application as required by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). However, the AUC has not yet issued a decision on the *Third Generation Performance-Based Regulation* plan that will cover the 2024-2028 period or the *Cost-of-Capital Parameters in 2024 and Beyond*, that will determine the 2024 rates. The AUC is expected to issue these decisions by the end of September.

Once these decisions are issued, FortisAlberta would then incorporate the directions from these decisions, or any other relevant decisions and apply for its 2024 distribution rates as and when directed by the AUC, potentially towards the end of October. In addition, actual transmission rates primarily depend on the transmission rates filed by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO), which are then approved by the AUC. As of the date of this letter, the AESO has not applied for the 2024 transmission rates.

Typically, rate information for the coming year is known by early September. FortisAlberta recognizes this delayed timeline for 2024 rates will be a challenge for municipalities as they prepare their budgets and set their franchise fees for 2024. To allow the municipalities to start budgeting for 2024, FortisAlberta has created the franchise fee calculator with an assumption that both transmission and distribution rates would increase by 3.71 per cent.

Currently, inflation in 2024 is expected to be somewhat lower than in 2023, and therefore, FortisAlberta considers that assuming a rate increase of 3.71 per cent is reasonable on balance. However, any actual rate change for 2024 could be materially different than this estimated increase of 3.71 per cent. FortisAlberta also estimates electricity consumption and the franchise fee amount paid by customers within each municipality. While this estimate is more robust, actual consumption could be somewhat different.

Request - Confirmation of Franchise Fee

Reviewing the process for 2024 franchise fee changes, **FortisAlberta requests all municipalities to confirm via email that they have received this information and if they plan any increase/decrease or plan to keep the current franchise fee percentage.** Please confirm your franchise information that is included in the calculator, specifically the franchise fee percentage and respond to

StakeholderRelations@FortisAlberta.com to confirm any increase/decrease or no change. Additionally, we have included a table showing municipalities and their current franchise fee percentage. This information will help you understand what other communities are charging and confirms of your current franchise fee percentage.

Media Coverage on Franchise Fees

Recently in the media there have been reports of high Regulated Rate Option (RRO) rates where some Distribution Facility Owners (DFO) charge Franchise Fees on these Retailer costs. FortisAlberta only charges Franchise Fees on Transmission and Distribution tariff costs and excludes all rate riders and Retailer costs.

Microgeneration Update

In case you are asked by constituents about our microgeneration connection process and why it is taking longer to connect these installations, we wanted to provide you with some context. During the last three years, FortisAlberta microgeneration connections have doubled. For 2023, we estimated that more than 1,600 connections will take place in our service area alone. We have added additional staff to meet the demand as FortisAlberta has the busiest service area for microgeneration in Canada. Additionally, one in three applications are not complete when it is submitted resulting in additional work. We are working closely with customers to ensure their preparedness and continue to identify and execute efficiencies to streamline the process.

If you have additional questions or concerns specific to microgeneration, franchise fees or questions in general please contact your Stakeholder Relations Manager.

Sincerely,



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Manager, Municipalities
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MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE FEE RIDERS

Availability: Effective for all consumption, estimated or actual, on and after the first of the month following Commission approval, the following franchise fee riders apply to each rate class.

Price Adjustment:

A percentage surcharge per the table below will be added to the total distribution tariff, including both the transmission and distribution charges, and excluding any Riders, calculated for every Point of Service within each Municipality and will be billed to the applicable Retailer.

FortisAlberta will pay to each Municipality each month, in accordance with the franchise agreements between FortisAlberta and the Municipalities or an agreement with a non-municipality, the franchise fee revenue collected from the Retailers.

Muni Code	Municipality	Rider	Effective	Muni Code	Municipality	Rider	Effective
03-0002	Acme	3%	2013/07/01	02-0040	Bowden	15%	2017/01/01
01-0003	Airdrie	20%	2021/04/01	03-0041	Boyle	20%	2021/01/01
03-0005	Alix	8.50%	2019/01/01	03-0042	Breton	20%	2015/01/01
03-0004	Alberta Beach	8%	2021/01/01	01-0043	Brooks	14%	2021/01/01
03-0007	Amisk	0%	2014/01/01	02-0044	Bruderheim	2%	2022/01/01
02-0011	Athabasca	16%	2023/01/01	02-0047	Calmar	20%	2013/07/01
04-0009	Argentia Beach	0%	2017/01/01	01-0048	Camrose	16%	2023/04/01
03-0010	Arrowwood	12%	2015/07/01	02-0050	Canmore	12%	2021/01/01
02-0387	Banff	6%	2020/01/01	03-0054	Carmangay	15%	2021/01/01
07-0164	Banff Park	4%	2019/10/01	03-0055	Caroline	12%	2021/01/01
03-0363	Barnwell	5%	2013/07/01	02-0056	Carstairs	10%	2015/01/01
03-0013	Barons	5%	2015/04/01	03-0061	Champion	15%	2015/04/01
02-0014	Barrhead	14%	2023/04/01	03-0062	Chauvin	11%	2016/01/01
02-0016	Bashaw	2%	2021/01/01	01-0356	Chestermere	11.50%	2014/01/01
02-0017	Bassano	14.40%	2019/01/01	03-0064	Chipman	0%	2016/01/01
03-0018	Bawlf	6%	2016/01/01	02-0065	Claresholm	5%	2022/04/01
01-0019	Beaumont	17.25%	2020/01/01	03-0066	Clive	11%	2023/01/01
03-0022	Beiseker	3.50%	2019/01/01	03-0068	Clyde	15%	2017/01/01
02-0024	Bentley	10%	2019/01/01	02-0069	Coaldale	16%	2023/04/01
04-0026	Betula Beach	0%	2017/01/01	02-0360	Coalhurst	7.5%	2023/01/01
03-0029	Bittern Lake	7%	2016/01/01	02-0070	Cochrane	17%	2020/01/01
02-0031	Blackfalds	20%	2013/10/01	03-0076	Coutts	3%	2017/01/01
02-0034	Bon Accord	19%	2022/01/01	03-0077	Cowley	5%	2016/01/01
02-0039	Bow Island	8.50%	2018/01/01	03-0078	Cremona	10%	2016/01/01
				02-0079	Crossfield	17%	2023/01/01

Muni Code	Municipality	Rider	Effective	Muni Code	Municipality	Rider	Effective
09-0361	Crowsnest Pass	16%	2016/01/01	02-0188	Killam	9%	2021/01/01
04-0080	Crystal Springs	0%	2016/01/01	01-0194	Lacombe	17.13%	2022/01/01
03-0081	Czar	5%	2013/10/01	04-0196	Lakeview	2%	2016/01/01
02-0082	Daysland	7%	2018/01/01	02-0197	Lamont	7.50%	2020/01/01
02-0086	Devon	15%	2023/01/01	04-0378	Larkspur	3%	2020/04/01
02-7662	Diamond Valley	10%	2023/01/01	01-0200	Leduc	16%	2014/01/01
02-0088	Didsbury	17%	2016/01/01	02-0202	Legal	15%	2021/01/01
02-0091	Drayton Valley	10%	2016/01/01	03-0207	Lomond	15%	2017/01/01
03-0093	Duchess	15%	2018/01/01	03-0208	Longview	17%	2017/01/01
02-0095	Eckville	10%	2015/01/01	03-0209	Lougheed	5%	2016/01/01
03-0096	Edberg	13%	2021/01/01	02-0211	Magrath	15%	2023/01/01
03-0097	Edgerton	15%	2022/01/01	04-0210	Ma-Me-O Beach	0%	2016/01/01
02-0100	Edson	4.91%	2023/01/01	02-0215	Mayerthorpe	12%	2023/04/01
03-0109	Ferintosh	11%	2016/01/01	04-0359	Mewatha Beach	2%	2016/10/01
03-0112	Foremost	7%	2016/01/01	02-0218	Milk River	12%	2017/01/01
02-0115	Fort Macleod	15%	2018/10/01	02-0219	Millet	16%	2019/01/01
01-0117	Fort Saskatchewan	0%	2013/10/01	03-0220	Milo	20%	2017/01/01
02-0124	Gibbons	10%	2013/01/01	02-0224	Morinville	20%	2013/07/01
03-0128	Glenwood	5%	2022/04/01	04-0230	Nakamun Park	0%	2013/10/01
04-0129	Golden Days	0%	2017/01/01	02-0232	Nanton	9%	2019/01/01
02-0135	Granum	5.50%	2013/07/01	02-0236	Nobleford	5%	2023/01/01
04-0134	Grandview	0%	2016/01/01	03-0233	New Norway	6%	2009/01/01
04-0138	Gull Lake	0%	2016/01/01	04-0237	Norglenwold	5%	2015/01/01
04-0358	Half Moon Bay	0%	2021/01/01	04-0385	Norris Beach	0%	2016/01/01
02-0143	Hardisty	9.50%	2021/01/01	02-0238	Okotoks	20%	2021/01/01
03-0144	Hay Lakes	9%	2021/01/01	02-0239	Olds	15%	2019/01/01
02-0148	High River	20%	2015/07/01	02-0240	Onoway	10%	2022/01/01
03-0149	Hill Spring	5%	2014/01/01	04-0374	Parkland Beach	0%	2015/01/01
02-0151	Hinton	11.73%	2022/01/01	02-0248	Penhold	19%	2014/01/01
03-0152	Holden	4%	2016/01/01	02-0249	Picture Butte	11%	2022/01/01
03-0153	Hughenden	5%	2016/01/01	02-0250	Pincher Creek	13%	2017/01/01
03-0154	Hussar	12.50%	2017/01/01	04-0253	Point Alison	0%	2017/01/23
02-0180	Innisfail	17%	2023/03/01	04-0256	Poplar Bay	0%	2016/01/01
03-0182	Irma	20%	2015/01/01	02-0257	Provost	20%	2015/01/01
02-0183	Irricana	8%	2023/05/01	02-0261	Raymond	16%	2022/01/01
04-0185	Island Lake	0%	2016/01/01	02-0265	Redwater	10%	2023/04/01
04-0186	Itaska Beach	0%	2017/10/01	02-0266	Rimbey	20%	2022/01/01
04-0379	Jarvis Bay	0%	2015/10/08	02-0268	Rocky Mtn House	15.3%	2023/01/01
04-0187	Kapasiwin	0%	2018/04/01	03-0270	Rockyford	5%	2015/04/01

Muni Code	Municipality	Rider	Effective	Muni Code	Municipality	Rider	Effective
03-0272	Rosemary	15.50%	2023/01/01	02-0311	Taber	18%	2020/07/01
04-0273	Ross Haven	0%	2016/01/01	02-0315	Thorsby	20%	2014/01/01
03-0276	Ryley	3%	2016/01/01	02-0318	Tofield	5%	2015/01/01
04-0279	Seba Beach	4%	2014/01/01	04-0324	Val Quentin	0%	2016/01/01
02-0280	Sedgewick	10%	2023/01/01	02-0326	Vauxhall	8%	2022/01/01
04-0283	Silver Sands	3%	2018/01/01	02-0331	Viking	8%	2013/01/01
04-0369	South Baptiste	0%	2005/05/01	02-0333	Vulcan	20%	2013/10/01
04-0288	South View	3%	2019/01/01	03-0364	Wabamun	10%	2017/01/01
01-0291	Spruce Grove	20%	2016/01/01	02-0335	Wainwright	11%	2020/04/01
01-0292	St. Albert	15%	2023/01/01	07-0159	Waterton Park	8%	2018/10/01
03-0295	Standard	0%	2015/01/01	03-0338	Warburg	10%	2015/01/01
02-0297	Stavely	6%	2021/01/01	03-0339	Warner	5%	2021/01/01
03-0300	Stirling	12%	2019/01/01	04-0344	West Cove	0%	2018/01/01
02-0301	Stony Plain	20%	2013/01/01	02-0345	Westlock	14.75%	2022/01/01
09-0302	Strathcona County	0%	TBD	01-0347	Wetaskiwin	17.0%	2023/01/01
02-0303	Strathmore	20%	2020/07/01	04-0371	Whispering Hills	5%	2016/10/01
03-0304	Strome	9%	2022/01/01	02-0350	Whitecourt	3.91%	2023/01/01
02-0307	Sundre	10%	2020/01/01	04-0354	Yellowstone	3%	2016/01/01
04-0386	Sunrise Beach	0%	2018/01/01				
04-0308	Sunset Point	10%	2017/01/01				
02-0310	Sylvan Lake	18%	2023/01/01				