



## Tis The Season!

With another year winding down, Cognera will take a moment this December to reflect upon and celebrate the highlights of an eventful 2017. We will also take some time to look ahead to some of the exciting opportunities coming in 2018. The Christmas season is also a great chance for us to thank all of you, our clients, for your business and support over the past year, while also thinking of ways to consistently improve our ongoing partnerships.

Here inside the walls of Cognera, Q4 did see the promotion of our own Lori Harnack to Executive Vice President. Already one of the key faces of Cognera since its creation in 2002, Lori has always made Cognera and its clients her top priority. Her leadership will be a vital part of Cognera's future growth and plans heading into 2018 and beyond. Randy Brookes will of course be staying in the family, moving to an SEVP role with Harris Utilities and continuing to lend his leadership to Cognera.

In this issue, we will be highlighting Cognera's involvement in the AUMA Conference, the completion of this year's CSAE3416 audit, while also taking a look at the evolving Renewable Retail Energy market and where Cognera can help.

Regulatory updates will once again provide current industry information about what is impacting billing and settlement in the Alberta market, as well as updates on Government regulations and climate change initiatives.

As always, we encourage your feedback! So please feel free to email us at ([cognisance@cognera.com](mailto:cognisance@cognera.com)) with any comments, suggestions or topics you would like to hear more about.

### In This Issue

- Regulatory Updates
- Renewable Opportunities
- Did You Know- CSAE3416
- AUMA/AMSC Annual Convention

*"The Industry continued to show examples of great resolve in 2017 while pushing forward with exciting changes and innovations as we look towards 2018."*

- Lori Harnack, EVP of Cognera





**Rule 021/028** – The AUC held a meeting in September to review issues and discuss proposed rule changes for 2018. Material proposed for 2017/2018 can be grouped into the following categories:

*Updates to accommodate grouped/aggregate Microgeneration sites*

*Updates related to erroneous enrolment procedures; and*

*Updates related to load settlement audit requirements*

As per standard practice, we anticipate approved changes will be implemented during the course of 2018. As final recommendations receive approval, your Cogenera Managed Services team will be in touch regarding system/process changes required to support these updates.

The UCI working group continues to meet to discuss the redesign of the UCI and RUC transactions.

Additionally, ATCO Gas has informed the market that effective February 1/18, they will no longer be requiring customers to schedule an energize appointment.

*“This change aligns with other distributors, including other natural gas distributors across Canada. Within 3 business days from the day ATCO Gas has received the retailer’s ENR transaction, ATCO Gas will be making an unscheduled site visit to restore service at the meter. ATCO Gas will still offer same business day service if there is availability and a warm transfer by the enrolled retailer to our call centre is required.”*

**Rule 004** – The AUC held a meeting in September to review issues and proposed code changes. The 2018 Carbon Levy rate change implementation (Jan 1, 2018) was reviewed, and the group held a lengthy discussion on the use of component category codes in the TBF files.

As a result of these discussions, ATCO has advised of the following changes:

*“ATCO Gas wishes industry participants to be aware that as a result of discussions at the Rule 004 meeting on September 13, 2017, ATCO Gas will be changing Rider B Property Tax from Category 5002 to 5003. This will take place for February 1, 2018. Tariff bill files containing delivery charges up to February 1 will continue to have property tax, where applicable, included under 5002 Local Access Fee. As of February 1, only franchise fee will be shown under 5002.”*

*“On behalf of ATCO Electric, please be aware that as a result of discussion at the Rule 004 meeting on September 13, 2017, ATCO Electric will be changing Rider A-1 Property Tax from Category 5002 to 5003. This will take place for February 1, 2018. Tariff bill files containing delivery charges up to February 1 will continue to have property tax, where applicable, included under 5002 Local Access Fee. As of February 1, only franchise fee will be shown under 5002.”*

The market continues to move forward with capacity discussions, REP awards, generation announcements, and Output Based Allocation announcements to name a few. Please see the attached links for additional updates, and if you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to call or email.



## Cognera Provides a Gateway into Renewable Energy Retail Market

As electricity markets continue to evolve away from large coal-fired generation, we are seeing a proliferation of smaller and renewable energy sources, bringing with it new entrants into the market. In Alberta, the recent provincial government mandate to retire coal-based generation while providing corresponding incentives for renewables are some of the major drivers leading this change.

Some of your customers may be looking for ways to participate, and will have a need to manage and settle this information. Invoices, payment gateways, and reporting and analytics may be services they need to provide to the recipients of this green energy.

One way you can provide this service is via a white label solution; one where the hedge calculations may be complex, but the service offering for the end-use customers has to be simple to access and navigate, and provides them with the ability for self-management

**A White Label Solution** is a product or service made by one company but sold by another. The solution maker typically does not brand their solution, rather staying behind the scenes to allow the service provider the ability to provide an experience consistent with their own brand.

Cognera has experience with this offering, recently documented in a case study about our relationship and initiative with BluEarth Renewables, an energy developer focused on commercial-scale renewable energy development and their Bull Creek Wind Facility Project: <https://www.cognera.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Cognera-BluEarth-Case-Study.pdf>

We can bring our back-office expertise to fit your requirements while working with you and your clients to develop joint solutions. We provide short implementation timelines and customized solutions to fit any type of generation and relationship.

If you have any questions or feedback related to this topic, we would love to hear about it. Feel free to call or email us for more information.



## 2017 AUMA Conference & Trade Show a Success

One of the major events of this last quarter was Cognera's annual involvement in the AUMA/AMSC Convention. After being held in Edmonton for 2016, this year saw the event held at the Telus Convention Centre here in downtown Calgary.

Cognera once again was an event sponsor, while also having a booth in the trade show. Always a great opportunity to get out and meet different community leaders and industry vendors, this year's event delivered a great turn out. With so many representatives from most of the municipalities in Alberta present, it allows Cognera the ability to stay up-to-date on the latest issues and technologies affecting local utilities. If you have any questions related to the event or recent updates, Cognera is happy to pass along the information.

A big thank you goes out to the AMSC along with all the vendors, sponsors and support staff for helping to make this year's event a great success once again.

### Contact Us

We want to hear from you! Send us an email or give us a call for more information about our services and products.

*Note: If you do not wish to receive the Cognera newsletter please respond to this email address to be removed from the distribution list.*

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## Did You Know ?

Each year Cognera completes its CSAE3416 Attestation Report on behalf of its clients. The purpose being to provide an in-depth audit of Cognera's processes and controls.

The report, conducted by a neutral third party, allows clients the ability to forego conducting such an audit themselves and helps with reducing clients overall costs.

With the Type 1 Report being completed in 2016, Cognera will now make its Type 2 Attestation an annual process.

Over the past couple months, Price Waterhouse Cooper auditors have been working their way through the office and Cognera is pleased to announce that on December 15th, all guidelines and criteria have been met.

- Travis Knee, Sales & Marketing Coordinator