

Blackline Section 2.6 of Rule 012

The Commission presents a blackline version of Section 2.6 of Rule 012 below.

Note that Section 2.6 in the current version of Rule 012 is in black text, changes proposed in the Bulletin 2022-08 blackline rule are in red text, and currently proposed changes are in blue text.

2. Permissible sound level

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2.6 Ambient sound level

- (1) The ambient sound level is a composite of different airborne sounds from many sources, from far away and near the point of measurement. It does not include noise from wind and must be determined without contribution from energy-related facilities.
- (2) The average nighttime ambient sound level in rural Alberta is approximately 35 dBA. ~~Rule 012 does not require the use of a specific ambient sound level in a noise impact assessment. Applicants must assess the ambient sound level as part of a noise impact assessment, particularly in areas where there is non-energy industrial activity that would impact the ambient sound levels or where pristine (as defined in Appendix 1) surroundings prevail.~~ In most circumstances, noise impact assessments should make use of this average value or assumed ambient sound levels calculated based on Table 1.
- (3) A Class A2 adjustment is applicable only when basic sound levels in Table 1 are determined not to be representative of the actual sound environment and when ambient sound levels have been measured. ~~However, a~~ ~~An ambient sound level survey to establish representative ambient sound levels and associated Class A2 adjustment may be necessary where:~~
 - (a) The proposed facility is in an area with ~~non-industrial noise sources or non-energy related facilities~~ noise sources other than energy-related facilities that ~~would~~ may impact ambient sound levels, ~~or~~
 - (b) The proposed facility is in an area considered to be pristine (defined in Appendix 1 - Glossary), ~~or~~
 - (c) The receptor is in a populated area (i.e., suburban and urban receptors) where basic sound levels in Table 1 are not representative of the sound environment.

~~In these two cases, the receptors in the area may be eligible for a Class A2 adjustment to the assumed ambient sound level.~~

- (4) A downward Class A2 adjustment may be considered in the circumstances described in sections 2.6 (3) (b) and (c); however, in these cases, prior approval must be obtained from the AUC before conducting an ambient sound level survey. Upon receiving such a request for approval, the AUC will determine if a Class A2 adjustment is appropriate, and if so, the AUC will specify measurement requirements for the ambient sound level survey.
- ~~(3)~~(5) In any case, ~~if the ambient sound level is established by means of an ambient sound level survey:~~
- (a) The ambient sound level must be determined under representative conditions that portray typical conditions for the area, and not under extreme conditions (e.g. an unusually quiet day); ~~and~~
 - (b) ~~If the ambient sound level is established by means of an ambient sound level survey,~~ The maximum acceptable dwelling level wind speed is three m/sec to exclude contamination from sounds caused by higher wind speeds.
- ~~(4)~~(6) In the absence of measurement, the nighttime ambient sound level is assumed to be five dB less than the basic sound level and the daytime ambient sound level is assumed to be five dB less than the basic sound level plus the daytime adjustment.
- ~~(5) Applicants may use Table 1 to establish the ambient sound level. However, where Table 1 is used, an applicant must explain why values in Table 1 are representative of the project study area.~~
- ~~(6) In circumstances where applicants find that ambient sound levels from Table 1 are not representative of the project area, measurements for Class A2 adjustments may be considered.~~