



September 1, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EQUUS Welcomes Removal of Market Restrictions and New Integrated Operation Agreement

(Innisfail, AB) – EQUUS REA LTD., the largest member-owned utility in Canada, is pleased with the 2016 Arbitration decision that confirms EQUUS’ right to provide electric distribution services to anyone within EQUUS’ designated Service Area in rural Alberta. This decision paved the way for a new Integrated Operation Agreement (IOA) between EQUUS and FortisAlberta, which guides the operation of both entities integrated electrical distribution systems. The new IOA takes effect today September 1, 2016.

The Arbitrator’s decision reflects the changing times and the final determination states that while EQUUS’ Service Area is defined by a geographic boundary, that membership in EQUUS will contain no eligibility provisions other than those determined by their by-laws.

EQUUS Chairman Glen Fox states, “EQUUS has long-held the opinion that interpretations in the previous IOA regarding the eligibility of a consumer living and operating in the EQUUS Service Area and wishing to be an EQUUS member was restrictive and not in the interests of rural Alberta or EQUUS’ members. EQUUS has consistently defended the rural consumers’ right to choose EQUUS.”

Pat Bourne, Chief Executive Officer, confirms, “EQUUS operates under co-operative business principles and becoming a member is simple. Over the years, we have responded to an increased demand for services from consumers who want the advantages a co-operative, and in particular EQUUS, offers.”

For more information on EQUUS and how to become a member, please visit www.equs.ca.

About EQUUS:

For nearly 70 years, EQUUS REA LTD. has been providing safe and reliable electric distribution services to commercial and industrial developments, oil and gas operations, telecommunication towers, production facilities, homes and farms throughout 26 Alberta municipal districts and counties under a co-operative business model. Serving 11,800 members, EQUUS is the largest member-owned utility in Canada and operates offices in Innisfail, Claresholm, Bow Island and Onoway, with a Main Office located in Innisfail.

-30-

For more information, contact:

Patricia Bourne
Chief Executive Officer
Office: 403.227.7534
Email: pbourne@equs.ca

Main Office
Box 6199, 5803 42 Street
Innisfail, Alberta T4G 1S8
Toll-free: 1.888.211.4011

North Area Office
Box 1178, 4804 41 Street
Onoway, Alberta T0E 1V0
Toll-free: 1.888.627.4011

Central Area Office
Box 6199, 5803 42 Street
Innisfail, Alberta T4G 1S8
Toll-free: 1.877.527.4011

South Area Office
Box 1657, 3 Alberta Road
Claresholm, Alberta T0L 0T0
Toll-free: 1.888.565.5445