

News Release

October 21, 2011

Alberta Utilities Commission suspends critical transmission infrastructure applications at government request.

Calgary, Alberta ... The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) has today suspended its review process and suspended hearings for three critical transmission projects before it. This was at the request of the Alberta government to allow the government to consider its overall approach to critical transmission infrastructure.

The AUC has taken the following actions in response to the government's request:

1. The Heartland Transmission Project application:

The Heartland application consists of a substation, a 500-kilovolt transmission line and a 240-kilovolt transmission line to connect the facilities to the interconnected system, with route options, in the Edmonton area.

The public hearing for the Heartland application concluded July 18, 2011 and a decision was anticipated for October 24, 2011. The Commission now anticipates issuing the decision following the government's review of its approach to critical transmission infrastructure.

2. The Western Alberta Transmission Line (WATL) application:

The WATL application is a 500-kilovolt, direct-current transmission line and associated substations and converter stations, with route options, between the Genesee area and the Calgary area.

The AUC is announcing the Western Alberta Transmission Line proceeding is adjourned until further notice - the process schedule is suspended and a public hearing scheduled to begin November 7, 2011 will not commence as previously planned.

3. The Eastern Alberta Transmission Line (EATL) application:

The EATL application is a 500-kilovolt, direct-current transmission line and associated converter stations and 240-kilovolt transmission lines, with route options, between the Gibbons area and the Brooks area.

The AUC is announcing that the proceeding for the Eastern Alberta Transmission Line is adjourned – the process schedule is suspended until further notice and the January 16, 2012 public hearing date is no longer applicable.

In each case, the applicant, interveners and registered parties have been notified. Further information on each of these applications and the related proceedings is available on the AUC's website, at www.auc.ab.ca.

Attached to this news release is a letter to the AUC from Minister of Energy Ted Morton requesting the AUC to suspend its review process and suspend hearings for three critical transmission projects before the AUC. Also attached are the AUC's notifications to the applicants, interveners and registered parties involved.

The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the province of Alberta. As part of its mandate the Commission has jurisdiction over the siting of facilities deemed to be critical transmission infrastructure as well as other transmission facilities, electric power plants and natural gas transmission pipelines.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:
Jim Law, AUC Director, External Affairs
Phone: 403-512-3417
Email: jim.law@auc.ab.ca

Attachments.

NR 2011-06



*Office of the Minister
MLA, Foothills-Rockyview*

October 19, 2011

Mr. Willie Grieve
Chair
Alberta Utilities Commission
Fifth Avenue Place
425 - 1 Street SW, Suite 400
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3L8

Dear Mr. Grieve:

The Government of Alberta is reviewing its approach to certain critical transmission infrastructure (CTI) projects. I understand that the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) has four applications for CTI currently before it: the Heartland Transmission project, the Western Alberta Transmission Line, the Eastern Alberta Transmission Line, and the south Calgary substation.

The AUC's jurisdiction to consider these applications is unquestioned. However, the government is reviewing its approach to three of these CTI projects: the Heartland Transmission project, the Western Alberta Transmission Line and the Eastern Alberta Transmission Line. Until the government completes its review of those three projects, I respectfully request that the AUC suspend or adjourn its consideration of those three applications.

Sincerely,

Ted Morton
Minister of Energy

Electronic Notification

Via email

October 21, 2011

jp.mousseau@auc.ab.ca
Writer's direct line
(403) 592-4452**To: All registered parties and interested parties****Proceeding 457, Suspension of consideration of the Heartland application**

On October 19, 2011, the Honorable Ted Morton, Minister of Energy, wrote to the Chair of the Commission to advise that the Government of Alberta was reviewing its approach to three critical transmission infrastructure projects, including the Heartland transmission project. Minister Morton requested that the Commission suspend or adjourn its consideration of the applications for these three projects, including the Heartland application, while the government's review is ongoing. A copy of Minister Morton's letter is attached.

The outcome of the government's review of its approach to critical transmission infrastructure may or may not have implications for the Heartland application and the Commission's consideration of that application. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to suspend its consideration of the Heartland application in accordance with the Minister's request.

Under section 15.2 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission must issue its decision on the Heartland application in a timely manner and, if possible, within 180 days after the receipt of a complete application. If the Commission cannot issue its decision within that period it must advise the applicants and the public that it will not be issuing the decision within that time and provide an estimate of when it is likely to issue its decision.

The Commission hereby advises the Heartland applicants and the public that it will not issue its decision on the Heartland application on or before October 24, 2011. The Commission estimates that it will issue its decision on the Heartland application following the government's review of its approach to the three critical transmission infrastructure projects in question.

Yours truly,

JP Mousseau
Commission counsel

Electronic Notification

October 21, 2011

To: All registered parties and interested persons

**AltaLink Management Ltd.
Western Alberta Transmission Line application
Application No. 1607067
Proceeding ID No. 1045**

Adjournment of Western Alberta Transmission Line application, Suspension of Process Schedule, and No Hearing on November 7, 2011 in Red Deer, Alberta

On October 19, 2011, the Honourable Ted Morton, Minister of Energy, wrote to the Chair of the Commission to advise that the Government of Alberta was reviewing its approach to three critical infrastructure projects including the Western Alberta Transmission Line. Minister Morton requested that the Commission suspend or adjourn its consideration of the applications for these three projects, including the Western Alberta Transmission Line application, while the government's review is on-going. A copy of Minister Morton's letter is attached.

The outcome of the government's review of its approach to critical transmission infrastructure projects may or may not have implications for the Western Alberta Transmission Line application. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to adjourn the Western Alberta Transmission Line application and suspend the process schedule for the Western Alberta Transmission Line application until further notice. Therefore, the hearing on the Western Alberta Transmission line application will not commence on November 7, 2011, as planned.

Yours truly,

Giuseppa Bentivegna
Commission Counsel

Attachment

Electronic Notification

October 21, 2011

To: All registered parties and interested persons

**ATCO Electric Ltd.
Application No. 1607153
Proceeding ID No. 1069
Eastern Alberta Transmission Line**

Adjournment of Eastern Alberta Transmission Line application and Suspension of Process Schedule

On October 19, 2011, the Honourable Ted Morton, Minister of Energy, wrote to the Chair of the Commission to advise that the Government of Alberta was reviewing its approach to three critical infrastructure projects including the Eastern Alberta Transmission Line. Minister Morton requested that the Commission suspend or adjourn its consideration of the applications for these three projects, including the Eastern Alberta Transmission Line application, while the government's review is on-going. A copy of Minister Morton's letter is attached.

The outcome of the government's review of its approach to critical transmission infrastructure projects may or may not have implications for the Eastern Alberta Transmission Line application. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to adjourn the Eastern Alberta Transmission Line application and suspends the process schedule for the Eastern Alberta Transmission line proceeding until further notice.

Yours truly,

Indra Maharaj
Commission Counsel

Attachment