



## Notice: Sweetgrass Solar with Storage Connection Project January 22, 2025

### About The Project

Neoen Renewables Canada Inc. (Neoen) is proposing to construct approximately 17-kilometres (km) of new 240-kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission line (herein “**the Project**”) to connect the proposed Sweetgrass Solar with Storage project to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES) via AltaLink’s existing 240kV transmission line 1038L. The Project will be designated “1174L”.

Sweetgrass Solar with Storage is a 315-megawatt (MWac) generation capacity solar farm with 150 MW, 300-megawatt hours capacity battery energy storage system proposed for lands approximately 4.5 km east of Granum, Alberta. The Project will connect the proposed Sweetgrass 1160S 240kV substation, located on SW 26-10-26 W4M, to AltaLink Management Ltd.’s (AltaLink) proposed Willow Creek 1132S 240kV switching substation, located west of Highway 2, south of Granum, between approximately Township Rd 110 and Township Rd 104.

**Three preliminary routes for the Project, are identified on the enclosed map.**

AltaLink will engage stakeholders regarding the connection work associated with the Project, including the proposed Willow Creek 1132S switching substation and any required upgrade work, and will submit a separate facilities application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for this work. Once the proposed transmission line is in service, and after a temporary period of joint operation, ownership of the Project will be transferred to AltaLink, who will then assume ownership, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line.

### Route Selection

Several factors are considered in selecting a transmission route, including environmental impact, existing land use, surrounding infrastructure, proximity to residential buildings, community feedback, and construction viability.

Neoen will consult landowners, stakeholders, and Indigenous Communities to understand the potential impacts of the preliminary routes before confirming a preferred route and one alternate route, both of which will be filed with the AUC as part of Neoen’s Facilities Application.

## Project Details

- A single circuit, 240 kV transmission line
- Typical steel or wood structures (composition to be confirmed in a future communication) will be erected approximately every 150 to 200-metres (m) along the route to hold the transmission lines overhead:
  - Wood composition
    - ~24 m in height
    - Requires ~40 m of right-of-way, excluding ground anchors
  - Steel composition
    - ~20 m in height
    - Requires ~30 m of right-of-way, excluding ground anchors
- Non-typical structures may be required at corners, crossings for highways, pipelines, or rivers.
- Structures may be erected within the road allowance or on private property, depending on the outcomes of stakeholder engagement
- Ground anchors may be installed to support the structures

These details are preliminary and are subject to change. More information, including confirmation of structure composition and structure location will be provided in future communication.



*Figure 1: Example Steel Single Circuit Monopole*



*Figure 2: Example Wood H-Frame 2-Pole Structure*

## Land Acquisition

All the preliminary routes are currently sited on private land. Neoen will acquire rights to erect structures on private lands in the form of utility right-of-way agreements with the respective landowners. Additional land will be required for temporary workspaces, laydown areas and off right-of-way access during construction.



## Planning Process

The Project is subject to the AUC's Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*. Rule 007 requires that an owner proposing to build a transmission facilities submit an application, called a "Facilities Application", to the AUC in order to obtain a permit to construct the facility and a licence to temporarily operate it.

Neoen anticipates it will submit a Facilities Application to the AUC in late 2025. The AUC will review the application and either approve it (with or without conditions) or deny it.

The AUC will notify potentially impacted stakeholders after the Facilities Application has been submitted.

To learn more about the AUC process and how you can participate, please refer to the brochure included in this package titled *Public Involvement in a Proposed Utility Development*, or to learn more about the AUC application and review process, please contact:

**Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)**  
**(780) 427-4903 or Toll-Free by dialing 310-000 before the number**  
**[consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca](mailto:consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca)**

## Public Consultation

Neoen is committed to meaningful consultation with community and Indigenous Communities. You are invited to share your feedback on the proposed routes.

In March 2025, Neoen will host a community open house to share more information on the Project and to gather feedback. Open house details will be provided in a future communication.

Neoen has retained SABR Energy Consulting Inc. to facilitate its consultation efforts for the Project. Feedback is invited by phone, e-mail, mail or in-person (by request) to:

**Samantha Brown**  
**(587) 434-7547**  
**[sbrown@sabreenergyconsulting.com](mailto:sbrown@sabreenergyconsulting.com)**  
**Box 3, Suite 530, 150 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 3H9**

## Key Dates

- Start Public Consultation – January 2025
- AUC Facilities Application Submission – Late 2025
- Start of Construction - December 2026
- Commercial Operation Date – July 2028



## About Neoen

Founded in 2008, Neoen is one of the world's leading independent producers of exclusively renewable energy, including solar and onshore wind power, and energy storage solutions. Neoen has more than 8 GW of power and storage in operation or under construction across 15 countries.

Neoen's flagship operations are France's most powerful solar farm (300 MWp) in Cestas, Finland's largest wind farm (404 MW) in Mutkalampi, one of the world's most competitive solar plants in Mexico (El Llano, 375 MWp), and two of the world's most powerful large-scale storage plants, Hornsdale Power Reserve (150 MW/193.5 MWh storage capacity) and the Victorian Big Battery (300 MW/450 MWh), both in Australia.

In June 2024, Neoen opened its first plant Canada, Fox Coulee, a 93 MWp solar farm located in Starland County, Alberta. In May 2024, Neoen was awarded a 20-year contract for a 380MW/4-hour capacity battery energy storage system in Ontario by the province's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO).

For more information, visit [www.neoen.com](http://www.neoen.com).

## About the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for the safe, reliable, and economic planning and operation of the provincial transmission grid.

For more information about why this project is needed, please refer to the AESO's Need Overview included with this package or visit [www.aeso.ca](http://www.aeso.ca). If you have any questions or concerns about the need for this project or the proposed transmission development to meet the need, you may contact the AESO directly. You can make your questions or concerns known to a Neoen representative who will collect your personal information for the purpose of addressing your questions and/or concerns to the AESO. This process may include disclosure of your personal information to the AESO.

**1-888-866-2959**

**[stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca)**

**[www.aeso.ca](http://www.aeso.ca)**

## About the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency established by the Government of Alberta, responsible to ensure that the delivery of Alberta's utility service takes place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public interest.

They regulate investor-owned natural gas, electric and water utilities and certain municipally owned electric utilities to ensure that customers receive safe and reliable



service at reasonable rates. The AUC ensures that electric facilities are built, operated and decommissioned in an efficient and environmentally responsible way.

The AUC also provides regulatory oversight of issues related to the development and operation of the wholesale electricity market in Alberta as well as the retail gas and electricity markets in the province.

For more information visit [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca) or refer to the enclosed brochure.

#### About AltaLink

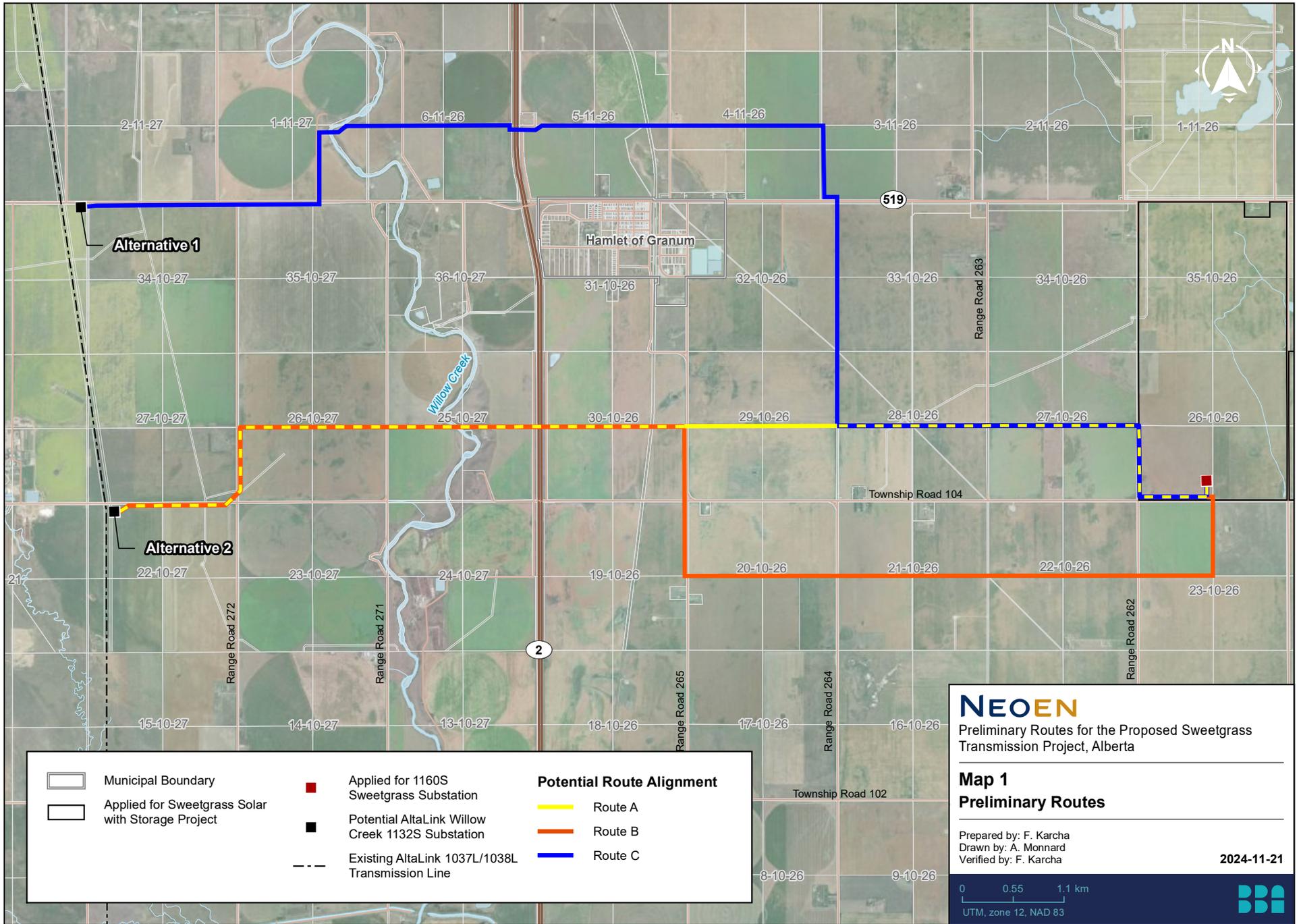
AltaLink is a regulated electricity transmission provider in Alberta and is responsible for any modifications required to its existing 240 kV transmission line 1038L, as well as to the existing Windy Flats 138S, SC1 266S, Foothills 237S and Janet 74S substations. Additionally, AltaLink will design and construct the proposed Willow Creek 1132S switching substation and will carry out the required connection work for Sweetgrass Solar with Storage project.

AltaLink will also install new or modify/upgrade the existing communications systems as needed to meet the Project's operational, control, protection and SCADA requirements. AltaLink's scope is separate from the transmission line that Neoen is proposing to construct. Details will be communicated directly by AltaLink.

To learn more about the connection to the existing 1038L transmission line owned by AltaLink, please contact:

**AltaLink Management Ltd.**  
**1-877-267-1453 (toll-free)**  
**[stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca](mailto:stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca)**

Enclosures:  
Preliminary Route map  
AESO Need Overview  
AUC Brochure



**NEOEN**  
 Preliminary Routes for the Proposed Sweetgrass  
 Transmission Project, Alberta

**Map 1**  
**Preliminary Routes**

Prepared by: F. Karcha  
 Drawn by: A. Monnard  
 Verified by: F. Karcha

2024-11-21

0 0.55 1.1 km  
 UTM, zone 12, NAD 83



	Municipal Boundary		Applied for 1160S Sweetgrass Substation	<b>Potential Route Alignment</b>	
	Applied for Sweetgrass Solar with Storage Project		Potential AltaLink Willow Creek 1132S Substation		Route A
	Existing AltaLink 1037L/1038L Transmission Line				Route B
					Route C

# Need for the Sweetgrass Solar with Storage Project Connection

*Neoen Renewables Canada Inc. (Neoen) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its proposed Sweetgrass Solar with Storage Project (Facility) in the Granum area. Neoen's request can be met by the following solution:*

## PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Add a substation, to be designated as Willow Creek 1132S, including three 240 kilovolt (kV) circuit breakers.
- Connect the proposed Willow Creek 1132S substation to the existing 240 kV transmission line 1038L using an in-and-out configuration.
- Add one 240 kV transmission line to connect the Facility to the Willow Creek 1132S substation.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

## NEXT STEPS

- In mid 2025, the AESO may consider the need for this project for approval under section 501.3 of the ISO rules, *Abbreviated Needs Approval Process* (ANAP Rule), or apply to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of the need.
- The AESO will notify stakeholders via the AESO's website at [www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects](http://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects) prior to the project being considered under the ANAP Rule or when filing a needs identification document (NID) application with the AUC.

*The following organizations have key roles and responsibilities in providing access to the transmission system:*

## THE AESO

- Must plan the transmission system and enable access to it for generators and other qualified customers.
- Can approve eligible projects through the ANAP Rule and for non-eligible projects, the AESO will prepare and submit a NID to the AUC for approval.

## NEOEN

- Has requested transmission system access to connect the Facility.
- Is responsible for detailed siting, routing and constructing the new 240 kV transmission line to connect the Facility to the proposed Willow Creek 1132S substation.
- Must apply to the AUC for approval of its transmission facilities applications.

## ALTALINK

- Is the transmission facility owner in Granum area.
- Is responsible for siting, constructing, operating and maintaining the Willow Creek 1132S substation and for operating and maintaining the new 240 kV transmission line to connect the Willow Creek 1132S substation to the Facility.
- Is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its transmission facilities applications.

## WHO IS THE AESO?

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) plans and operates Alberta's electricity grid and wholesale electricity market safely, reliably and in the public interest of all Albertans. We are a not-for-profit organization with no financial interest or investment of any kind in the power industry.

We appreciate your views, both on the need for transmission system development and proposed transmission plans. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us directly.

## CONTACT US

### Alberta Electric System Operator

AESO Stakeholder Relations  
[stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca)  
 1-888-866-2959

3000, 240-4th Avenue SW  
 Calgary, AB T2P 4H4  
 Phone: 403-539-2450

[www.aeso.ca](http://www.aeso.ca) | [@theaeso](https://x.com/theaeso)



# Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications

## The AUC regulatory review process to consider facility applications for utility projects



The AUC uses an established process to review social, economic and environmental impacts of facility projects to decide if approval of a project is in the public interest.

The AUC considers applications requesting approval of the need for transmission development and facilities applications seeking approval to construct, operate, alter and decommission electric and natural gas facilities. Applications, as specified in AUC Rule 007, are required for:

- The need for transmission upgrades.
- The route and location of transmission facilities.
- The siting of power plants.
- The construction of a battery storage system.
- The designation of an industrial system.
- The need for and siting of natural gas utility pipelines.

Sometimes the Alberta Electric System Operator's needs identification document application is considered together with a facility application in a single proceeding; sometimes separate proceedings are held to consider each application.

## Application review process



- Step 1: Public consultation prior to applying to the AUC
- Step 2: Application filed to the AUC
- Step 3: Public notice
- Step 4: Public submissions to the AUC
- Step 5: Consultation and negotiation
- Step 6: The public hearing process
- Step 7: The decision
- Step 8: Opportunity to appeal
- Step 9: Construction, operation and compliance

## Application review process

### Step 1: Public consultation prior to applying to the AUC



An applicant seeking approval of a proposed utility development project is required to engage in a participant involvement program prior to filing an application with the AUC. The public involvement program involves consultation with persons whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by the proposed project so that concerns may be raised, addressed and, if possible, resolved.

The application guidelines and requirements for facility applications can be found in AUC Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*.

Potentially affected parties are strongly encouraged to participate in the public consultation, also called a participant involvement program. Early, active and ongoing discussions with an applicant may lead to greater influence on project planning and what is submitted to the AUC for approval.

### Step 2: Application filed to the AUC



When the applicant has concluded its consultation with potentially affected parties and the participant involvement requirements have been completed, the applicant files its application through the AUC online public filing system, called the eFiling System.

AUC staff members review each application submitted to verify that all of the application requirements in Rule 007 have been met before an application is deemed complete. If all of the required information is not provided, the application may be closed or missing information will be requested of the applicant. Rule 007 specifies, among other requirements, that applicants must submit the results of a public involvement program in its application that includes information about how applicants consulted and notified stakeholders and Indigenous groups and identifies any unresolved objections and concerns about the project.

### Step 3: Public notice



When the AUC receives an application it is assigned a proceeding number and the AUC generally mails a notice of application directly to those who live, operate a business or occupy land in the project area who may be directly and adversely affected if the AUC approves the application. The notice initiates the opportunity for formal intervention in the proceeding to consider an application or applications. The notice of application will also set out important dates and information about where to find the application and other items being considered. The five-digit eFiling System proceeding number in the notice is the most efficient way to find information about a proposed project through the AUC website.

### Step 4: Public submissions to the AUC



Prior to the submission deadline provided in the notice, formal submissions of outstanding concerns and unresolved objections about a project may be submitted to the AUC. To submit a concern, participants will need to register to participate in the proceeding, which involves providing a brief written statement called a statement of intent to participate. Submissions are filed electronically through the eFiling System. The information filed becomes part of the public record and is an important part of the process to ensure that outstanding concerns are heard, understood and considered.

The AUC uses the information gathered through statement of intent to participate submissions to decide whether to hold a hearing on the application(s). The AUC must hold a hearing if a concerned person can demonstrate that they have rights that may be directly or adversely affected by the AUC's decision on the application. Such a person is said to have standing before the AUC. If the AUC decides to hold a hearing, the AUC will provide further opportunities for participants with standing to ask the applicant questions on the public record and present their position on the application either in writing or in person. Hearings may

be held in writing, in person or virtually through web-conference software.

## AUC eFiling System

The eFiling System is the online tool that the AUC uses to manage applications and submissions in its proceeding-based review. The eFiling System gives access to all public documents associated with an application. The system is also used to submit your concerns and provide input to the AUC and can be used to monitor related proceeding filings. Those who do not have access to the internet can send submissions, evidence and other material by mail and the AUC will upload the submission on their behalf.

## Step 5: Consultation and negotiation (if applicable)



The AUC supports efforts to reach a mutually agreeable outcome among the applicant and affected parties. The AUC encourages the applicant and those who have filed a statement of intent to participate to continue to attempt to resolve any outstanding issues. If all concerns can be satisfactorily resolved this may eliminate the need for a formal hearing. However, if there continues to be unresolved issues, those matters will typically be addressed in an AUC hearing.

## Step 6: The public hearing process



The AUC will issue a notice of hearing if a person with standing continues to have legitimate unresolved concerns with the application. The notice of hearing will provide a hearing date and location, or specify if the hearing will be held in writing or virtually. When the AUC holds a public hearing, registered parties are given the opportunity to express their views directly to a panel of Commission members. Any member of the public can listen to an in-person or virtual oral hearing. An oral public hearing operates similar to a court proceeding.

Participants in a hearing can either represent themselves or be represented by a lawyer. In addition, participants may hire experts to assist in preparing and presenting evidence to support their position.

## Cost assistance



A person determined by the AUC to have standing or a local intervener can apply for reimbursement of reasonable costs. Those who hire a lawyer or technical experts must be aware that while reimbursement for the costs of legal and technical assistance is available under AUC Rule 009: *Rules on Local Intervener Costs*, recovery of costs is subject to the AUC's assessment of the value of the contribution provided by the lawyer and technical experts in assisting the AUC to understand the specifics of the case. It is also subject to the AUC's published scale of costs.

People with similar interests and positions are expected and encouraged to work together to ensure that expenditures for legal or technical assistance are minimized and costs are not duplicated.

## Step 7: The decision



The AUC's goal is to issue its written decision no more than 90 days after the close of record. The AUC can approve, or deny an application and can also make its approval conditional upon terms or conditions. AUC decisions are publicly available through the AUC website at [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca).

## Step 8: Opportunity to appeal



An applicant or participant in a proceeding may formally ask the Court of Appeal of Alberta for permission to appeal an AUC decision. An application for permission to appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date the decision is issued.

An applicant or participant in a proceeding can also ask the AUC to review its decision. An application to review a decision must be filed within 60 days from the date the decision is issued and satisfy the limited grounds described in AUC Rule 016: *Review of Commission Decisions*.

## Step 9: Construction, operation and compliance



An applicant that receives approval to build and operate a facility from the AUC is expected to follow through on any commitments it has made to parties and must adhere to any conditions that were set out in that approval. If concerns about compliance with approval conditions and post-construction operations cannot be resolved with the applicant, they can be brought to the AUC's attention for consideration. The AUC has significant compliance and enforcement powers for all approved applications. Additional information is available on the AUC website.



The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the government of Alberta that ensures the delivery of Alberta's utility services take place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public interest.

We are committed to ensuring that Albertans whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by a utility development project are informed of the application and have the opportunity to have their concerns heard, understood and considered.

## Contact us

Phone: 310-4AUC  
1-833-511-4282 (outside Alberta)  
[info@auc.ab.ca](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca)  
[www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca)

Eau Claire Tower  
1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5