

Vie Email

March 15, 2011

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To all interested parties:

**Re: Proceeding 457 Heartland Transmission Project
Draft hearing Schedule and order of appearances**

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

On February 14, 2011, the Commission requested interested parties to advise if they have witness constraints and/or any timing preferences for the upcoming hearing scheduled to commence on April 11, 2011. The Commission also sought feedback from interested parties with respect to order of appearances for the hearing.

A number of interested parties provided feedback on scheduling and order of appearances and the Commission has prepared the attached draft hearing schedule and order of appearances that accommodates, where possible, the identified timing constraints and preferences of the parties.

The draft schedule was developed to help parties plan for their participation in the hearing. The Commission wishes to emphasize that the schedule is not intended to constrain or limit the amount of time that will be available to parties to present evidence or to ask or answer questions on the evidence filed. The Commission also recognizes that the evidence in the proceeding may proceed more or less quickly than anticipated by this schedule and that all parties will have to be somewhat flexible with respect to the ultimate timing of their evidence and cross-examination.

The draft schedule and order of appearance includes all those individuals or groups that filed evidence in accordance with the notice of hearing and indicated that they wished to participate in the formal hearing on the Heartland application.

The order of appearances is similar, but not identical, to that which was used at the process meeting. The changes to the order of appearances were made to accommodate the various timing constraints and preferences of the parties.

Please be advised that the Commission will not be sitting on Wednesday April 20, Friday April 22 (Good Friday), or Monday April 25 (Easter Monday).

Community meetings

In the January 11, 2011 notice of hearing, the Commission stated that persons who want to present at a community hearing should register with the AUC by February 28, 2011. The Notice of hearing also stated “If there is not enough interest in one or some of the above community hearing sessions, the AUC may direct some participants to attend a session other than the one they registered for”.

The Commission received requests from 16 persons to make presentations at the community hearing session scheduled for April 20, 2011 at the Coast Edmonton East in Sherwood Park at 7:00 p.m. That Community meeting will proceed as scheduled. The Commission will issue a more detailed schedule with an order of appearances for the Sherwood Park Community meeting in due course.

The Commission received one request to make a presentation in Bon Accord on April 25, 2011, and one request to make a presentation in Fort Saskatchewan on April 27, 2011. The Commission has decided to combine the Fort Saskatchewan and Bon Accord sessions into a single session to be held in Fort Saskatchewan at 7:00 pm on Wednesday April 27, 2011 at the Lakeview Inn and Suites at 10115 88 Avenue.

As no parties registered for the community hearing sessions in Morinville, Spruce Grove and South Edmonton, the Commission has decided to release those venues.

Argument

The Commission has yet to decide upon the format for argument and is interested in the views of parties on this issue.

In the case of oral argument, this could take place in Week 5 (May 9-13) providing that the evidentiary portion of the hearing is complete. The Commission is unavailable for the week of May 16th so the next available time is the week of May 23rd. The EXPO centre is not available for the week of May 23rd so a new venue is required.

In the case of written argument the Commission could proceed as follows:

Option 1

Applicants file argument	May 20, 2011
Interveners file reply argument	May 28, 2011
Applicants file response argument	June 1, 2011

Option 2

All parties file argument	May 20, 2011
All parties file reply argument	May 28, 2011

Please provide any comments or feedback you may have with respect to draft schedule and order of appearances and the format for argument by no later than Monday March 21, 2011.

Yours truly,

-JP Mousseau-

JP Mousseau
Commission Counsel