

Important information about the Western Alberta Transmission Line Project Public Hearing Process

Application No. 1606940

Proceeding ID No. 1045

Getting involved:

If you feel that you may be directly and adversely affected by a Commission decision on the WATL project you can become involved in the AUC process. Meaningful public participation through a fair, open and transparent process is important to the Commission. Depending upon where you live you may qualify for local intervener funding that covers the reasonable costs of participating in a public hearing. Such costs may include fees for lawyers, expert witnesses and other consultants and some personal expenses. AUC Rule 009: *Local Intervener Costs* outlines the AUC's intervener cost recovery process.

Interested persons with similar concerns or interests are encouraged to work together to reduce duplication of efforts and to make the Commission's hearing process more efficient. Please attend one of the information sessions listed on the front cover of this pamphlet for more information on the AUC's process and how you can be a part of it.

Next steps:

Once AltaLink has conducted their public consultation process, they are expected to take into consideration what they learned during consultations and to make any amendments they see necessary and reasonable to their proposal and to submit an application to the AUC.

Upon receipt of the application, the Commission will conduct a review of the application to ensure that it is administratively and technically complete. The Commission will then issue a notice of application directly to parties that may be directly and adversely impacted by the proposed project and also publish the notice in the local newspapers of the areas affected. The notice will provide key dates, contacts and information on how to participate.

The Commission will also schedule a public process meeting within 60 days of the application being filed.

This will finalize process, scheduling, and issues in advance of a full public hearing.

A public hearing will then be held where local interveners are given the opportunity to express their views directly to the Commission panel.

Following the public hearing the Commission will issue a written decision on the application.

For more information:

Any questions or concerns about the AUC's adjudication of the WATL project can be directed to the AUC at:

Email: utilitiesconcerns@auc.ab.ca

Phone: 780-427-4903

More information on AUC processes and the WATL project can be found on the AUC's website at www.auc.ab.ca.



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The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) is a quasi-judicial regulatory body responsible for making decisions on utility-related applications, such as building transmission lines, substations and power plants. The AUC expects an application for the Western Alberta Transmission Line (WATL) project in early 2011 from AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) and will hold a public hearing to determine if the proposed routing is in the public interest.

The WATL project proposes the construction of a high-voltage direct-current transmission line with a northern terminal in the vicinity of the existing Keephills and Genesee generating units west of Edmonton and the southern terminal at or in the vicinity of the existing Langdon 102S substation east of Calgary.

The preferred and alternate routes, as of December 8, 2010, for the proposed WATL project are provided on the map in this publication.

The proposed WATL project has been designated as a critical transmission infrastructure project under the *Electric Utilities Act*. The Commission's decision on the WATL project will be on the proposed route, location and design of the project. The Commission will make a decision through its public hearing process, the details of which are included in this publication.

The AUC is committed to ensuring that Albertans whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by its decision on an application for these facilities are informed of the application and have the opportunity to have their concerns heard, considered and understood. To maximize the preparation time for parties that may be directly and adversely affected by the Commission's decision, and in recognition of the scope, nature and time frame of this proceeding, the AUC will hold a series of information sessions outlined below to explain the AUC hearing process, how to participate in the process and to explain the AUC's local intervener funding process.

Information sessions:

Each information session will begin with a presentation covering the AUC's hearing procedure and intervener funding at 7 p.m. followed by a question and answer period.

Date/Time	Location	Venue
7 p.m. Tuesday, February 22	Warburg	Warburg Community Hall 5435 50A Avenue
7 p.m. Wednesday, February 23	Rimbey	Rimbey Community Centre 5109 54 Street
7 p.m. Thursday, February 24	Red Deer	Red Deer Lodge 4311 49 Avenue
7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1	Ponoka	Kinsmen Community Centre 5009 46 Avenue
7 p.m. Wednesday, March 2	Indus	Indus Recreation Centre 225155A Range Road 281A
7 p.m. Thursday, March 3	Didsbury	Didsbury Memorial Complex 1702 21 Avenue

Participation in the AUC public hearing process:

The AUC information sessions described in this publication are part of an enhanced public hearing process adopted by the Commission to maximize preparation time for parties interested in participating in the WATL project proceeding. The enhancements adopted by the Commission include:

1. Hearing participation and local intervener funding:

Persons (including individuals and corporations) that may be directly and adversely affected by the Commission's decision on the application are entitled to participate in a public hearing. Such persons are said to have standing to participate in the process.

The Commission considers that persons that own or reside on property located within 800 metres of the edge of the finalized rights-of-way (for the preferred or alternate routes) will have rights that may be directly and adversely affected by its decision on the application and will be legally entitled to participate in the process, subject to any objections from another party.

The Commission will also consider persons that own or reside on property located within 800 metres of the edge of the finalized rights-of-way (for the preferred or alternate routes) to be local interveners, who qualify for intervener funding under the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, subject to any objections from another party.

If there is an objection to a person's standing to participate or status of a local intervener, the Commission will make a decision on the person's standing based on the facts presented by both parties. Persons that do not own or reside on property located within the 800-metre zone may apply to the Commission to participate or obtain standing for local intervener status. The Commission will make such determinations on a case-by-case basis by determining whether that person may be directly and adversely affected.

2. Early registration to participate:

Persons interested in participating in the Commission's review process of the WATL project have the opportunity for early registration in the proceeding by filing a submission with the Commission. All submissions must include the following information:

- Your name or organization name, address and/or legal land description, telephone number and email address.
(If you are represented by a representative include their name, address, telephone number, fax number and email address)
- A description of the nature of your interest and/or concern with the project (i.e. how you may be directly and adversely affected by the proposed project).
- The location of your land, residence or activity in relation to the project and whether you reside within 800 metres of the edge of the currently-proposed rights-of-way of the preferred and/or alternate route.
- The nature and scope of your intended participation (i.e. do you intend to participate formally, informally or in the form of a written submission).

Enclosed is a submission form that can be completed and filed with the Commission to register to participate in the WATL project proceeding. An electronic version of the submission form is also available on the AUC's website by clicking on the WATL button on the home page (www.auc.ab.ca).

The AUC appreciates receiving submissions through the electronic filing services (e-filing services) on our website (www.auc.ab.ca). Guidelines on how to access and use the e-filing services are in the AUC Electronic Filings Services brochure, available in the Newsroom section of the AUC website. You can also make your submission using the contact information provided below.

Electronic submissions can be sent to:
filings@auc.ab.ca
Subject: Application No. 1606940/Proceeding ID No. 1045

Paper submissions can be sent to:
Alberta Utilities Commission, Facilities Division
Fifth Avenue Place, Fourth Floor, 425 First St. S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3L8
Subject: Application No. 1606940/Proceeding ID No. 1045

For assistance with the AUC's e-filing services, contact AUC system services by phone at 780-643-1055 or by email at systems@auc.ab.ca.

Please note: Documents that you file in this proceeding will be available to registered participants in the WATL proceeding through the AUC website. If you do not want your personal information made available to those persons who are participating in the proceeding, you must apply for a confidential ruling under Section 13 of the AUC Rule 001: *Rules of Practice* before you file your documents.

3. Three options for participation:

Three options for participation in the proceeding:

- Written submission.
- Brief oral submission to the Commission at a community hearing session.
- Full participation in the Commission's formal public hearing.

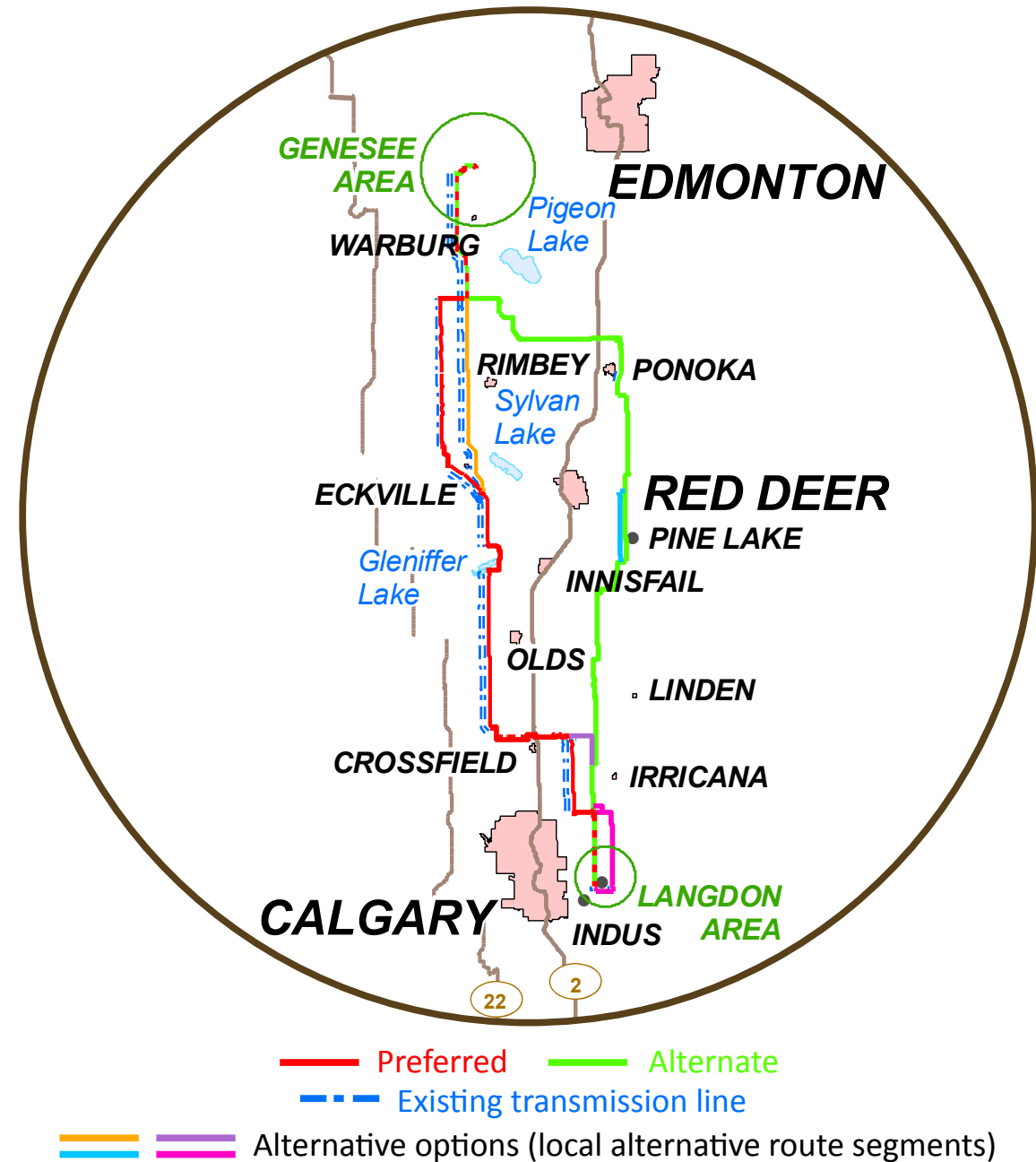
Participants may choose one or more of the above options. They are not mutually exclusive.

Public consultations by proponent:

AltaLink is now conducting public consultations in the area of the proposed transmission project so that concerns may be raised, properly addressed and if possible, resolved. Potentially-affected parties are strongly encouraged to participate in the initial public consultation, as early involvement in informal discussions with an applicant may lead to greater influence on project planning.

The public consultation focuses on the two proposed routes for the transmission line. The Commission understands that these routes may change as a result of public consultation and that these changes will be reflected in the application filed with the AUC.

The preferred and alternate routes as of December 8, 2010 for the WATL project are shown on the map below.



This is a simplified map created by AltaLink of the preferred and alternate routes. An electronic colour version of AltaLink's map is available at <http://albertaelectricityfuture.com/alberta/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/pa-circle-map2.pdf>. There is also an interactive map available on AltaLink's website.