

November 8, 2010

Alberta Utilities Commission sets April 11, 2011 date for public hearing into Heartland Transmission Project application

Edmonton, Alberta... Alberta’s independent utilities regulator today announced April 11, 2011 as the start date for its public hearing into the Heartland Transmission Project application.

In Decision 2010-523, the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC, Commission) also set a number of other dates for the hearing process such as the filing of intervener and applicant evidence, and determined intervener status for a number of individuals, corporations and groups. The decision report comes six days after a November 2 public process meeting in Edmonton, attended by approximately 60 registered or interested parties, who made brief appearances to provide comment to the Commission regarding the hearing schedule previously announced.

Finalized dates for the AUC’s Heartland Transmission Project application process are:

Date	Steps For Heartland Public Hearing Schedule Announced in AUC Decision 2010-523
November 8, 2010	Information requests from the AUC to applicants
December 1, 2010	Intervener information requests to applicant
December 22, 2010	Applicant information request responses
January 2011	Notice of hearing issued
February 28, 2011	Intervener evidence due
March 11, 2011	Information requests to interveners
March 25, 2011	Intervener information request responses
April 4, 2011	Reply evidence
April 11, 2011	Public hearing begins

The Heartland Transmission Project is a 500-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line running from south of Edmonton to a substation northeast of the city, plus an associated 240-kV double-circuit line. The project is defined as critical infrastructure by provincial legislation.

The AUC public hearing will examine the application, from AltaLink L.P. and EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc., in a formal public and quasi-judicial forum to determine if it is in the public interest. The AUC will consider a wide range of issues in the hearing, including route selection, property value, health, underground lines, and other environmental, social, and economic considerations.

In addition to the hearing schedule (shown above), Decision Report 2010-523 also:

- Confirms that once the application is deemed complete by the Commission in January of 2011, the Commission will set dates for in-person submissions at separate meetings as part of the April public hearing, to hear oral submissions from interveners in their own communities from those who choose not to participate at the formal hearing. These meetings will likely occur weekends and evenings.
- Identifies and grants intervener status to, a number of municipalities, corporations and individuals who own or occupy land within 800 metres of the rights-of-way for the preferred and alternate routes; grants intervener standing to groups that include members who own and occupy land within the 800 metres, and those who do not; seeks additional information to rule on standing for a number of other groups who either do not own or occupy property within the 800 metres or those that did not state if they do.

The Heartland transmission application was received by the Commission September 27, 2010. It follows an early and enhanced public hearing process announced by the AUC in January of 2010. The enhanced process was supported by extensive public notice and two rounds of public information sessions, prior to the November 2 process meeting, which heard presentations regarding the finalization of a fair hearing process and its associated dates.

The enhanced process for the Heartland application included the opportunity for early registration, an automatic presumption of standing and the right to participate in the public hearing for those within 800 metres of the rights-of-way of either the preferred route or alternate route, and a variety of options to participate in the proceeding.

The Alberta Utilities Commission is committed to an open and transparent public hearing process. The AUC's full Decision Report 2010-523 is available at:

<http://www.auc.ab.ca/applications/decisions/Decisions/2010/2010-523.pdf>

A transcript of the November 2, 2010 process meeting is also publicly available at:

http://www.auc.ab.ca/items-of-interest/heartland-transmission-project/Documents/Heartland_ProcessMtg_Transcript_Redacted.pdf.

The Heartland Transmission Project application is available from the AUC at:

https://www.auc.ab.ca/eub/dds/EPS_Query/ApplicationDetails.aspx?AppNumber=1606609&ProceedingId=457.

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This news release and Decision 2010-523 are available at <http://www.auc.ab.ca>.

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