

1. Introduction

From July 2023 to January 2024, the AESO conducted a Participant Involvement Program (PIP) for the *Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection*. The AESO required the legal owner of transmission facilities (TFO), in this case ATCO Electric Ltd., to assist the AESO in providing notification as part of the AESO's PIP.

The AESO's PIP is designed to notify Stakeholders and Indigenous groups in the area where the AESO has reasonably determined that facilities could be installed to implement the AESO's preferred option to respond to the request for system access service.

The AESO's PIP has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 7.1.2, NID12 and Appendix A2 of the current Alberta Utilities Commission (Commission) Rule 007 (AUC Rule 007), effective April 25, 2022.

2. Stakeholder Notification

The AESO developed a one-page AESO Need Overview document with the purpose of notifying Stakeholders of the following items:

- a description of the need for development;
- a description of the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request;
- identification of the general area where facilities could be installed to implement the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request;
- the AESO's contact information, including telephone, email and website, for further information; and
- the AESO's next steps.

A copy of the Need Overview was posted to the AESO website at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/halkirk-2-wind-power-project-connection-need-for-transmission-development-in-the-county-of-paintearth/> and a notice was published in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter on August 2, 2023. Copies of the Need Overview posting and the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter notice have been included as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. The Need Overview was also included with the TFO's project-specific information package that was distributed to Stakeholders, as further described in Section 2.1.

2.1 Stakeholders Notified in the TFO's PIP

The TFO has advised the AESO that its PIP included notification within 800 meters of the proposed transmission line, as recommended by the Commission in Appendix A1 in AUC Rule 007.¹

The TFO notified a total of approximately 22 Stakeholders, of which 7 were classified as private or individual landowners. The other 15 notified Stakeholders are listed below:

- Alberta Environment and Protected Areas – Fish and Wildlife

¹ ATCO has identified its facility application to be of the type: *Overhead transmission line and new substation development – rural or industrial setting* as categorized in AUC Rule 007, Appendix A1, Section 5.

- Alberta Art, Culture and Status of Women
- Alberta Government Telephones
- Altagas Ltd.
- Beaver Rural Electrification Association Limited
- Capital Power GP Holdings Inc.
- County of Paintearth
- Crecent Point Energy Corp.
- Karve Energy Inc.
- Paintearth Gas Co-op Ltd.
- Powermax Energy Inc.
- NAV Canada
- Spartan Delta Corp.
- Telus Communications Inc.
- Transport Canada, Civil Aviation

Attachment 3 includes the TFO's project newsletter, which was included with the AESO Need Overview in the TFO project-specific information package that was distributed to the Stakeholders described above between July 31, 2023 and August 28, 2023. The TFO's project newsletter included the AESO's contact information, a description of the AESO's role, a reference to the AESO Need Overview, and an invitation to contact the TFO or the AESO for additional information.

3. Stakeholders Notified by the AESO

The AESO also notified 22 market participants that the AESO determined may have an interest in the Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection. The AESO identified that, under certain potential system conditions, the market participant may be affected following the connection of the Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection. A Market Participant Notification Letter, which included the Need Overview, was sent to the notified market participants on December 13, 2023.

The 22 notified market participants are as follows:

- ABO Wind Canada Ltd.
- Alberta Power (2000) Ltd.
- Aura Power Renewable Ltd.
- BER Hand Hills Wind GP Inc.
- Bull Creek Wind Power Limited Partnership
- Capital Power Generation Services Inc.
- Eastervale Solar Inc.
- EDP Renewables Canada Ltd.
- Garden Plain I LP
- Ghost Pine Windfarm LP
- Jenner 1 Limited Partnership
- Jenner 3 Limited Partnership

- Kneehill Solar LP
- Lanfine Wind 1 LP
- Michichi Solar LP
- Oldman 2 Wind Farm Limited
- Paintearth Wind Project Limited Partnership
- Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc.
- Strathcona Resources Ltd.
- Sunnynook Solar Energy Inc.
- Wheatland Wind Project LP by its General Partner, Wheatland Wind Project Ltd
- Wild Run LP

A generic version of the Market Participant Notification Letter was posted to the AESO website on December 15, 2023 at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/halkirk-2-wind-power-project-connection-need-for-transmission-development-in-the-county-of-paintearth/>. A copy has been included as Attachment 4.

4. Filing Notification

Most recently, the AESO notified Stakeholders of its intention to submit the Needs Identification Document (NID) to the Commission by way of a posting to the AESO website at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/halkirk-2-wind-power-project-connection-need-for-transmission-development-in-the-county-of-paintearth/> and publishing notice in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter on January 10, 2024. Copies of the AESO website posting and the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter notice have been included as Attachments 5 and 6, respectively.

5. Responding to Questions and Concerns

To ensure that Stakeholders had the opportunity to provide feedback, the AESO provided Stakeholders with AESO contact information, including a dedicated, toll-free telephone line (1-888-866-2959) and a dedicated email address (stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca). The AESO Need Overview included this contact information, along with the AESO's mailing address (2500, 330 5th Ave. SW, Calgary) and website address (www.aeso.ca), and a privacy statement that described how the AESO is committed to protecting Stakeholders' privacy.

As directed by the AESO, the TFO was prepared to direct any Stakeholder questions addressed to the AESO, or questions regarding the AESO Need Overview, to the AESO.

6. Questions and Concerns Raised

Two Stakeholders that received the AESO's Market Participant Notification Letter raised questions and concerns related to how their operations may be affected following the connection of the Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project. The AESO responded to the Stakeholders by providing information about the following:

- congestion risk information for the Central-east sub-region;

- study assumptions; and
- the application of remedial action schemes and Section 302.1 of the ISO rules, *Real Time Transmission Constraint Management*.

The TFO has advised the AESO that none of the Stakeholders notified by the TFO identified any concerns or objections regarding the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request or the need for development.

Apart from the two inquiries above, the AESO has not received any indication of concerns or objections about the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request or the need for development.

7. List of Attachments

- Attachment 1 – AESO Need Overview (July 2023)
- Attachment 2 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Need Overview Notice (August 2, 2023)
- Attachment 3 – TFO Project Newsletter – *Halkirk 2 Transmission Project* (July 2023)
- Attachment 4 – AESO Market Participant Notification Letter (December 2023)
- Attachment 5 – AESO Public Notification of NID Filing Website Posting (January 2024)
- Attachment 6 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter NID Filing Notice (January 10, 2024)

Attachment 1 – AESO Need Overview (July 2023)

Need for the Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection in the Halkirk area

Capital Power (Halkirk 2) L.P. (Capital Power) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its approved Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project (Facility) in the Halkirk area. Capital Power's request can be met by the following solution:

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Add one 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the Facility to the existing 240 kV transmission line 9L16 using a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

NEXT STEPS

- In late 2023, 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 prior to the project being considered under the ANAP Rule or prior to 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.

ATCO

- Is the transmission facility owner in the Halkirk area.
- Is responsible for detailed siting and routing, constructing, operating, and maintaining the transmission facilities.
- 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
1-888-866-2959

2500, 330-5th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0L4
Phone: 403-539-2450

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

Attachment 2 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Need Overview Notice (August 2, 2023)



GRID

Need Overview | Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection

Capital Power (Halkirk 2) L.P. (Capital Power) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its approved Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project (Facility) in the Halkirk area. Capital Power's request can be met by the following solution:

- Add one 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the Facility to the existing 240 kV transmission line 9L16 using a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

The AESO has posted a Need Overview for this project on its website. Please [click here](#) to view the document or visit the AESO website at www.aeso.ca and follow the path Grid > Transmission Projects > Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection (2441).

Attachment 3 – TFO Project Newsletter – *Halkirk 2 Transmission Project* (July 2023)

ATCO

SHAPE the conversation

JULY 2023



PROJECT NEWSLETTER

HALKIRK 2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT

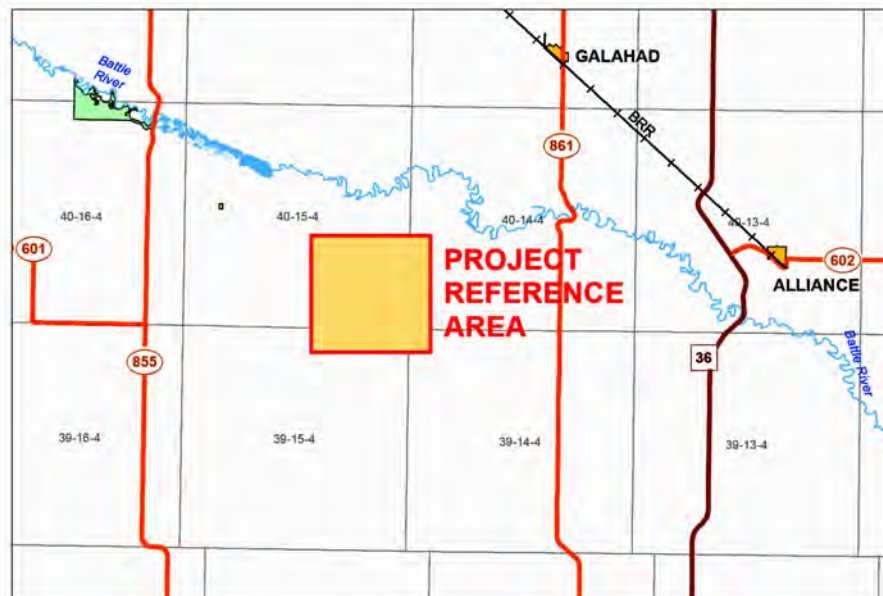
This newsletter provides you with information about an electric transmission facility being proposed in your area. This package provides important project information and outlines our public consultation process. We invite any comments, questions, or concerns you may have.

The proposed ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) Halkirk 2 Transmission Project (the Project) will be located approximately 13 kilometres southwest of Galahad, Alberta and will connect a customer's new wind generation facility to the electrical grid.

If approved, the Project will include the construction of approximately 80 metres (m) of single-circuit 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (to be called 9LA16) which will connect the customer's substation to the existing 240 kV transmission line. ATCO will require a 34 m right-of-way for the new transmission line.

The Project also requires two (2) new structures on the existing 240 kV transmission line 9L16 to accommodate the connection. Please refer to the technical details and facility detail map for further details.

If you are in the direct vicinity of the proposed facility, ATCO will contact you in the coming weeks.



Project Need

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.

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 also make your questions or concerns known to an ATCO 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.

Included in this package:

- Technical Details
- Facility Detail Map
- AUC Brochure: *Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications*
- AESO Need Overview
- Reply form and postage paid envelope

CONTACT INFORMATION

Your comments and concerns are important to us. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about this project or if you would like to share information with us.

- Call us toll free at: **1-855-420-5775** or
- Use the enclosed reply form and postage-paid envelop to share feedback
- contact the planner directly

Laurie Jenkin

Land Planning
ATCO Electric Ltd.
10035-105 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 1C8

Phone: 780-221-0572
Email: laurie.jenkin@atco.com
Website: www.atcoelectric.com
Fax: 780-420-5030

Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)

Phone: 1-888-866-2959
Email: stakeholder.relations@aes0.ca
Website: www.aeso.ca

Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)

Phone: 780-427-4903
(For toll-free, dial 310-0000 first)
Email: consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca
Website: www.auc.ab.ca

The ATCO logo consists of the letters "ATCO" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below the letters is a thick, horizontal yellow bar.

Proposed Timeline

July 2023

Notification to landholders, agencies and other interested parties.

August 2023

Consultation with landholders, agencies and other interested parties for the proposed route option will commence.

September 2023

Submission of an application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC).

April 2024

If approved, construction will commence.

July 2024

Facilities completed and operating.

Approval Process

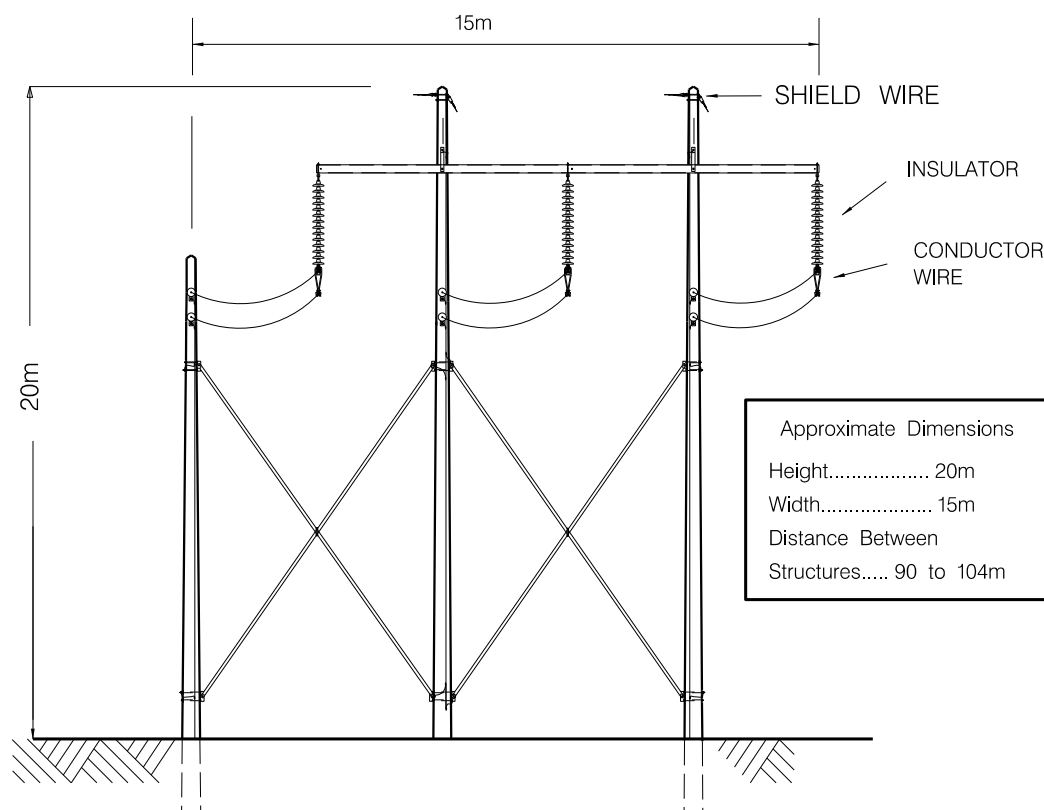
Alberta's electrical system is regulated by the AUC, an independent agency of the province that ensures the fair and responsible delivery of utility services. Before ATCO can begin construction on a project, the AUC must approve the facility application, which includes details such as locations of electric transmission facilities and proposed alterations. For more information about how you can participate in the AUC approval process, please refer to the enclosed AUC brochure, *Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications*.

Next Steps

The consultation process for this project is ongoing. Please let us know if you have questions, concerns or suggestions regarding the project. You can provide feedback and share other information using the enclosed reply form and postage paid envelope, by contacting us (toll free) at **1-855-420-5775** or by emailing us at **consultation@atcoelectric.com**.

JULY 2023

HALKIRK 2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT



Typical right-of-way for this project – 34 metres

What It Will Look

If approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission, the proposed 240 kV transmission line will be built with wooden three-pole structures, similar to the one shown here.

The proposed structures will be single-circuit. This means they will have one set of three bundled conductor wires strung across them, plus two shield wires at the top of the structure. The distance between structures will range from 90 to 104 metres (m).

The proposed structures will be guyed, with the guys extending from the tops of the poles to the ground at an approximate 45-degree angle.

Note: Details may change as the project develops and designs are finalized.

Temporary Workspace

Temporary workspace is required to install the structures, string the conductor wire and for the movement of equipment. Temporary workspace may also be required for equipment to reach the worksites from the public roads. Refer to the facility detail map for the proposed locations.

Where temporary workspace is required, an ATCO representative will discuss with the specific landholders. All dimensions may vary with survey.

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CONTACT US

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Phone: 403-539-2450

www.aeso.ca | [@theaeso](https://twitter.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.

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
www.auc.ab.ca

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



10035 – 105 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 1C8

SHAPE THE CONVERSATION

HALKIRK 2 TRANSMISSION PROJECT REPLY FORM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Date (DD/MM/YYYY): _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Company/Organization Name (if applicable):

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please help us identify new contacts

You were contacted about this project because ATCO identified you or your company/organization as having a land interest in the vicinity of the project. Is there anyone else associated with your property, such as other owners, renters or occupants, who we should also contact? If so, please provide the name(s), contact information and their land interest.

☐ I would like to receive all future correspondence about this project by Email (If this is your preference, please check the box)

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT PRIVACY: *The information on this form is being collected to identify concerns with proposed changes to and/or the siting of power transmission facilities, and to comply with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) rules regarding the submission of transmission facilities applications. This information may be provided to electric facility owners, Alberta's Surface Rights Board, and the Alberta Electric System Operator. Your comments and personal information may also be publicly accessible through the AUC website, should it be submitted to the AUC as part of a transmission facility application – subject to Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. **If you wish to keep your information confidential, you must make a request to the AUC (403-592-4376).** If you have questions or concerns about your information or how it may be used or disclosed as part of this process, please contact us (see contact information below).*

Please let us know by checking a box below if either statement applies to you:

☐ I do not have concerns with the Project based on the information provided

☐ I have concerns with the Project based on the information provided

Please share any comments or concerns that you have about the Project:

HOW TO SUBMIT: Please use the enclosed envelope to return by mail or fax to 780-420-5030. If you would like more information about the project, please contact us toll free 1-855-420-5775 or by Email: consultation@atcoelectric.com.

Attachment 4 –AESO Market Participant Notification Letter (December 2023)

SENT VIA EMAIL

December 13, 2023

Notified Market Participant Corporate Legal Name
Address Line 1.
Address Line 2.
City, Province, Postal Code.

Dear Notified Market Participant Primary Contact:

Re: Need for the Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection in the Halkirk area

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) would like to advise you that Capital Power (Halkirk 2) L.P. (Capital Power) has applied for transmission system access to connect its approved Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project (approved Facility) to the Alberta interconnected electric system (AIES) in the AESO's Central Planning Region.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the AESO has identified that, under credible worse case forecast conditions, the **[Effective Generation Facility Name] ([Effective Generation Facility Asset ID])** may be curtailed following the connection of the planned Facility.

Connection Assessment Findings

An engineering connection assessment was carried out by the AESO in order to assess the transmission system performance following the connection of the approved Facility.¹ The connection assessment identified the potential for thermal criteria violations under credible worse case forecast conditions on the following transmission elements, with all transmission facilities in service (Category A):

- the 138 kV/144 kV transmission lines 174L, 701L, 704L, 749L, 7L16, 7L117, 7L50, 7L159, and 7L701;
- the 240 kV transmission lines 912L; 9L16; and 9L20; and
- the transformer at the Nevis 766S substation.

The approved Central East Transfer-Out project (CETO),² will alleviate the thermal criteria violations observed on the 240 kV transmission lines and reduce the overloads on the 144 kV system under Category A conditions. ATCO Electric Ltd., will be upgrading the transformer at the Nevis 766S substation to a higher capacity under its capital maintenance program, which will address the thermal criteria violations at the Nevis 766S substation under Category A conditions. Furthermore, the AESO is developing a system plan to address thermal criteria violations on the 144 kV system in the Hanna and Sheerness areas.³ Should the AESO determine that mitigation is required to address potential thermal criteria violations under Category A

¹ The studies were performed assuming the Rate STS, *Supply Transmission Service*, contract capacity of 150 MW.

² More information about the approved CETO Project is available on the AESO website. Construction is commencing for Stage 1, with an anticipated in-service date of Q2 2026.

³ More information about this plan was provided at the Grid Reliability Update Stakeholder Session held on November 23, 2023; session materials are available on the AESO website.

conditions after Stage 1 of CETO is in service, the AESO may develop operational procedures or other mitigation measures.

In addition, thermal and voltage criteria violations were identified when a single transmission facility is out of service (Category B) following the connection of the approved Facility. To mitigate these potential system performance issues, planned RASs, 199, 200, 201, and 202 will be used. In addition, planned RASs 134, 211 and 215 will be modified by adding the approved Facility to the RAS logic, which will curtail the approved Facility upon activation. The total megawatts tied to RAS 134 exceeds the Maximum Severe Single Contingency (MSSC) limit. Therefore, pre-contingency curtailment of projects assigned to the RAS may be required under the Category A condition, to prevent generation loss above the MSSC limit during Category B conditions.

The AESO may also make use of real-time operational measures to mitigate these potential system performance issues, in accordance with [Section 302.1 of the ISO rules, Real Time Transmission Constraint Management](#) (TCM Rule), which is in effect today. When applied, the TCM Rule could result in the AESO issuing directives for curtailment to source assets that are effective in managing a constraint.

The connection assessment identified source assets, including the **[Effective Generation Facility Asset ID]**, which are effective in mitigating the potential transmission constraints.

The AESO will continue to monitor the pace of generation development and will notify market participants if it determines that it is necessary to obtain approval for an “exception” under Section 15(2) of the *Transmission Regulation*. The AESO will notify market participants if and when the AESO determines it is necessary to apply to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of such an exception.

For Further Information

The AESO Need Overview document, which describe the AESO’s proposed transmission development to connect the approved Facility to the AIES, is attached for your information.

The engineering connection assessment will be included in the AESO’s NID Application for the Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection. Following submission of the NID application to the AUC, the NID application will be posted on the AESO website at: <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/>. Stakeholders will be notified when this occurs via the AESO website and stakeholder newsletter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the AESO at 1-888-866-2959 or stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca

Attachments:

AESO Need Overview: *Need for the Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection in the Halkirk area*

Need for the Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection in the Halkirk area

Capital Power (Halkirk 2) L.P. (Capital Power) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its approved Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project (Facility) in the Halkirk area. Capital Power's request can be met by the following solution:

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Add one 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the Facility to the existing 240 kV transmission line 9L16 using a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

NEXT STEPS

- In late 2023, 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 prior to the project being considered under the ANAP Rule or prior to 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.

ATCO

- Is the transmission facility owner in the Halkirk area.
- Is responsible for detailed siting and routing, constructing, operating, and maintaining the transmission facilities.
- 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
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Attachment 5 – AESO Public Notification of NID Filing Website Posting (January 2024)

Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection (2441)

Notice of Filing

The AESO intends to file the Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection Needs Identification Document (NID) application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on or after January 26, 2024.

Attachment 6 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter NID Filing Notice (January 10, 2024)



GRID

Notice of Filing | Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection

Capital Power (Halkirk 2) L.P. (Capital Power) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its approved Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project (facility) in the Halkirk area. Capital Power's request can be met by the following solution:

- Add one 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the facility to the existing 240 kV transmission line 9L16 using a T-tap configuration
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments

The AESO intends to file the Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection Needs Identification Document (NID) application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on or after January 26, 2024.

More information is available on the AESO website. To see all the relevant documents, including the NID application once it is filed with the AUC, please [click here](#) to view the project page or visit www.aeso.ca and follow the path: Grid > Transmission-Projects > Halkirk 2 Wind Power Project Connection (2441).