

APPENDIX C AESO PIP

1. Introduction

From September 2022 to June 2023, the AESO conducted a Participant Involvement Program (PIP) for the *Georgetown Solar Project Connection Needs Identification Document* (NID). The AESO directed the legal owner of transmission facilities (TFO), in this case AltaLink Management Ltd., in its capacity as general partner of AltaLink L.P., 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/georgetown-solar-project-connection-2396/> and a notice was published in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter on September 6, 2022. 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 metres of the proposed transmission line as recommended by the Commission in Appendix A1 of AUC Rule 007.¹

The TFO notified a total of approximately 63 Stakeholders, of which 41 were classified as private or individual landowners. The other 22 notified Stakeholders are listed below:

- Alberta Environment and Parks
- Alberta Transportation

¹ AltaLink 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.

- Canadian Natural Resources Limited
- Conoco Philips Canada Resources Corp.
- Dome Petroleum Limited c/o BP Canada
- Drumlin Resource Ltd. c/o Lafarge Canada Inc.
- Georgetown Solar Inc. c/o Westbridge Energy Corporation
- Houston Oil & Gas Ltd.
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development of Canada
- Journey Energy Inc.
- Lexin Resources Ltd. c/o MNP Ltd.
- LR Processing Ltd. c/o Grant Thornton Limited
- Ministry of Culture and Status of Women
- Murphy Oil Company Ltd. c/o Bennett Jones LLP
- NAV Canada
- Ramier Resources Ltd.
- Sugarbud Craft Growers Corp.
- Seol Energy Inc.
- Taqa North Ltd.
- Telus Inc.
- Transport Canada
- Vulcan County

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 September 6, 2022, and November 3, 2022. The TFO's project newsletter and the AESO Need Overview were also posted on the TFO's project-specific webpage at <https://www.altalink.ca/projects/view/401/georgetown-solar-project-connection> on September 6, 2022. 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 4 market participants that the AESO determined may have an interest in the Project. The AESO identified that, under certain potential system conditions, these market participants may be affected following the connection of the Georgetown Solar Project. A Market Participant Notification Letter, which included the AESO Need Overview, was sent to the notified market participants on February 1, 2023.

The 4 notified market participants are:

- Buffalo Plains Wind Farm Inc
- Greengate Power Corporation
- Nova Solar L.P.
- Solar Krafte Utilities Inc

A generic version of the Market Participant Notification Letter was posted to the AESO website on February 2, 2023 at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/georgetown-solar-project-connection-2396/> . A copy has been included as Attachment 4.

4. Filing Notification

Most recently, the AESO notified Stakeholders of its intention to submit the NID to the Commission by way of a posting to the AESO website at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/georgetown-solar-project-connection-2396/> and a publishing notice in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter on June 28, 2023. 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 market participants 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 Georgetown Solar Project Connection. The AESO responded by providing information about the following:

- the assumptions and results of the AESO's engineering connection assessment for the Georgetown Solar Project Connection;
- the application of remedial action schemes and Section 302.1 of the ISO rules, *Real Time Transmission Constraint Management*;
- the impact of the Most Severe Single Contingency (MSSC) limit on generation curtailment under normal conditions;
- the AESO's approach to planning the interconnected electric system and the provision of system access service;
- the AESO's near and long-term plans for transmission development to mitigate constraints in the area;
- the AESO's obligations and compliance under section 15(1) of the *Transmission Regulation*;
- the status of the AESO's preliminary congestion assessment for the 240 kV transmission lines 924L and 927L; and
- the AESO's next steps in the regulatory process, including the timing and content of the AESO's needs approval application.

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 outlined 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 (September 2022)
- Attachment 2 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Need Overview Notice (September 6, 2022)
- Attachment 3 – TFO Project Newsletter (September 2022)
- Attachment 4 – AESO Market Participant Notification Letter (February 1, 2023)
- Attachment 5 - AESO Public Notification of NID Filing Website Posting (June 2023)
- Attachment 6 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter NID Filing Notice (June 28, 2023)

Attachment 1 – AESO Need Overview (September 2022)

Need for the Georgetown Solar Project Connection in the Carseland Area

Georgetown Solar Inc. (Georgetown) has applied to the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) for transmission system access to connect its proposed Georgetown Solar Project (Facility) in the Carseland area. Georgetown'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 924L in a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

NEXT STEPS

- The AESO intends to consider the need for this project for approval under section 501.3 of the ISO rules, Abbreviated Needs Approval Process (ANAP Rule) in early 2023.
- A minimum of 14 days prior to the project being considered under the ANAP Rule, the AESO will notify stakeholders and post supporting documents on the AESO's website at www.aeso.ca/grid/projects.
- If the AESO does not approve the need for this project under the ANAP Rule, the AESO may submit a needs identification document (NID) application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of the need for this project.

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 certain requests for system access service through the ANAP. If this project no longer qualifies for approval under the ANAP, the AESO will prepare and submit a NID.
- Is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its NID.

ALTALINK

- Is the transmission facility owner in the Carseland 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 (September 6, 2022)

AESO Stakeholder Newsletter

GRID

Georgetown Solar Project Connection – Need for Transmission Development in the Carseland Area

Georgetown Solar Inc. (Georgetown) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its proposed Georgetown Solar Project (Facility) in the Carseland area. Georgetown's request can be met by the following solution:

- Add one 240 kV transmission line to connect the Facility to the existing 240 kV transmission line 924L in 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 > Projects > Georgetown Solar Project Connection (2396).

Attachment 3 – TFO Project Newsletter (September 6, 2022)

Electric system improvements near you

Georgetown Solar Project Connection

You are receiving this newsletter because you are near the Georgetown Solar Project Connection and we want your input.

To connect Westbridge Energy Corporation's (Westbridge) proposed Georgetown Solar Project to the grid, AltaLink is proposing upgrades to its **transmission** system in the area.

Although AltaLink's project is required to connect Westbridge's project, it is a separate project. Westbridge will consult separately on their proposed project. For more information about the Georgetown Solar Project, see their contact information on the back of this newsletter.

We are providing you with:

- project details
- map of the proposed project
- information about how you can provide your input
- the project schedule

AltaLink's transmission system efficiently delivers electricity to 85 per cent of Albertans. Dedicated to meeting the growing need for electricity, AltaLink connects Albertans to renewable, reliable and low-cost power. With a commitment to community and environment, AltaLink is ensuring the transmission system will support Albertans' quality of life for years to come. Learn more at www.altalink.ca.

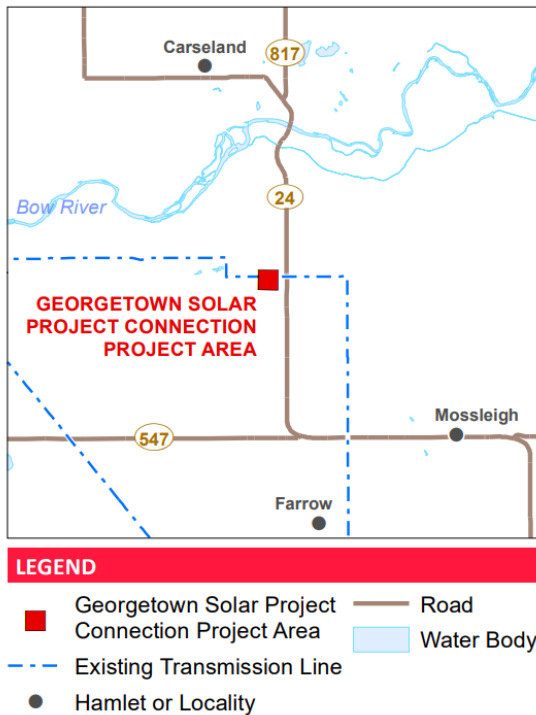
DEFINITIONS:

Transmission

Transmission lines make up Alberta's electric highway, linking the places where power is generated to where power is used. Transmission lines transport large amounts of power over long distances across the province. The transmission system connects diverse sources of power generation including wind, high-efficiency coal, natural gas and more.

CONTACT US

1-877-267-1453
stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca
www.altalink.ca/projects



Project details

AltaLink's proposed project is located approximately 8.5 kilometres south of the Hamlet of Carseland in SE-17-21-25-W4.

To connect the Georgetown Solar Project to the electric system, AltaLink's proposed project includes:

- adding one new structure on the existing 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (called 924L)
- building approximately 150 metres of new 240 kV transmission line (to be called 924AL)
- installing a new telecommunications tower within the Mossleigh **Substation** located in NE-8-21-25-W4

Transmission structures

The proposed new structure on the existing 924L will:

- be a steel lattice structure
- be located within the existing transmission line **right-of-way**

The proposed new structures on the new 924AL will:

- be steel monopole structures
- have a right-of-way of approximately 35 metres (m)

The structures on both lines will be approximately 20 to 50 m tall.

Telecommunications tower

Telecommunications towers transmit data to our system control centre.

This allows us to monitor the operation of the electric system and ensure we can provide safe and reliable power to our customers.

The proposed telecommunications tower will:

- be approximately 30 to 35 m tall (including the antenna and lightning rod)
- have a triangular base that is approximately 1.5 m on each side
- comply with Transport Canada's requirements regarding painting and lighting
- not be accessible to the public, as the structure will be inside the fenced area of an operating substation and only support AltaLink equipment at this time



The new structures will be similar to the structures in the photos above.

Please refer to the Detail Photo Map included in this package for the location of the proposed transmission line and telecommunications tower.

DEFINITIONS:

Substation

Substations are the connection points between power lines of varying voltages and contain equipment that controls and protects the flow of power. Substations include transformers that step down and step up the voltage so power can be transmitted through transmission lines or distributed to your community through distribution lines.

Right-of-way

A right-of-way (ROW) is a strip of land required for the construction, maintenance and safe operation of a transmission line. A ROW refers to the physical space in which a transmission line is located and includes areas on either side of the transmission line structures and the conductors, which are the wires that carry the electricity.

Providing your input

We will contact landowners, residents and occupants near the proposed project to gather input and address questions or concerns. Our priority is maintaining the health and safety of our employees, contractors, and the general public, while ensuring that we are able to continue to operate our system and keep the lights on for Albertans. We will follow any requested COVID-19 safety protocols for in-person meetings and accommodate your preferred meeting options, including over the phone, virtual or in-person. You can also provide input through our online feedback portal, found here: www.altalink.ca/projectfeedback.

After our consultation and notification process is complete, we will file an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). The AUC ensures the fair and responsible delivery of Alberta's utility services and will review the application through a process in which stakeholders can participate. We will notify stakeholders when we file the application and again once the AUC has reached a decision about the project. To learn more about the AUC process and how you can become involved, please refer to the brochure included in this package titled *Participating in the AUC's independent review process*.

Anticipated project schedule

Notify and consult with stakeholders	September to October 2022
File application with Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)	January 2023
Start construction if project is approved	July 2023
Construction completed	October 2023

Although we attempt to follow the anticipated project schedule it is subject to change. We will continue to provide you with updated schedule information if required as the project progresses.

OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

If the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) approves this project, you may see or hear construction crews in the area. We have set strict standards by which we operate, including restricting work hours to reduce the impacts to local residents and businesses, ensuring safe construction practices and following environmental protection measures and appropriate environmental legislation. AltaLink believes that the environmental effects of this project will be negligible. This project is not located on federal lands, therefore Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 does not apply. AltaLink's safety standards and practices are developed to meet or exceed government guidelines and codes to ensure that our facilities meet the requirements for public, employee and neighbouring facility safety.

Contact us

To learn more about the proposed project please contact:

ALTALINK

1-877-267-1453 (toll free)

E-mail: stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca

Website: www.altalink.ca/projects

To learn more about Westbridge's proposed project please contact:

Margaret McKenna

Westbridge Energy Corporation

1-587-216-0696

To learn more about Alberta's electric system and the need for the project, please contact:

ALBERTA ELECTRIC SYSTEM OPERATOR

1-888-866-2959 (toll-free)

E-mail: stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca

Website: www.aeso.ca

The 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 make your questions or concerns known to a transmission facility owner 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.

To learn more about the application and review process, please contact:

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION (AUC)

780-427-4903 (toll-free by dialing 310-0000 before the number.)

E-mail: consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca

PRIVACY COMMITMENT

AltaLink is committed to protecting your privacy. Collected personal information will be protected under AltaLink's Privacy Policy and the Personal Information Protection Act. As part of the regulatory process for new transmission projects, AltaLink may provide your personal information to Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). For more information about how AltaLink protects your personal information, visit our website at www.altalink.ca/privacy or contact us directly via e-mail privacy@altalink.ca or phone at 1-877-267-6760.

INCLUDED IN THIS INFORMATION PACKAGE:

- Project map
- Information about Electric and Magnetic Fields and Radio Frequency
- AESO Need Overview
- AUC brochure: *Participating in the AUC's independent review process*

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PROJECT

- 1) Visit: altalink.ca/projects
- 2) Search for the project title
- 3) Click **Subscribe to Updates**

LET'S TALK TRANSMISSION



www.twitter.com/altalink



www.facebook.com/altalinktransmission



LEGEND

Proposed Structure

Proposed Structure Modification

Proposed Telecommunication Tower

Proposed Transmission Line

Existing Transmission Line

35m Right of Way Boundary

Proposed Customer Substation

Construction Workspace

Residence

Wellsite

Municipal or County Boundary

Pipeline

Road

Environmentally Significant Area

Gravel Pit

Water Body

NO: 35033157
DRAWN: SG - AL
FILE NO.: XXXXXXX
REVISION: 0.01.02
AL FOLDER: Georgetown Solar
Project Connection
DATE: 2022-07-14

N

0 0.5 1 Kilometres

0 0.5 Miles

DETAIL PHOTO DP1

ALTALINK

A BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY ENERGY COMPANY

PROPOSED

Georgetown Solar Project Connection

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community
Although there is no reason to believe that there are any errors associated with the data used to generate this product or in the product itself, users of these data are advised that errors in the data may be present.



Electric and Magnetic Fields and Radio Frequency Information

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

AltaLink recognizes that people may have concerns about exposure to EMF and we take those concerns seriously.

Everyone in our society is exposed to power frequency EMF from many sources, including:

- power lines and other electrical facilities
- electrical appliances in your home
- building wiring

National and international organizations such as Health Canada and the World Health Organization (WHO) have been conducting and reviewing research on exposure to EMF for more than 40 years. Based on this research, these agencies have not recommended that the general public needs to take steps to limit their everyday exposure to EMF from high voltage transmission lines, including individuals that are located on the edge of a power line right-of-way.

If you have any questions about EMF please contact us.

Website: www.altalink.ca/emf

Email: emfdialogue@altalink.ca

Toll-free phone number: 1-866-451-7817

Radio Frequency (RF)

Telecommunication towers use Radio Frequency (RF) signals to transmit and receive information. The point-to-point signals travel along a focused path at low power levels and are well below recommended safety limits. Licensed radio links on a telecommunications tower will not impact any other licensed telecommunication frequencies used by cellular phones, over-the-air television, satellite, radio, or GPS.

The telecommunication tower described in this notification will be installed and operated on an ongoing basis to be in compliance with Health Canada's Safety Code 6, which defines safe levels of RF exposure. To ensure the structural adequacy of the tower, the design and installation will follow industry standards and sound engineering practices.

For general information relating to telecommunications systems, please contact:

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

1-800-267-9401 (toll free in Canada)

Website: www.ic.gc.ca/towers

Need for the Georgetown Solar Project Connection in the Carseland Area

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PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Add one 240 (kilovolt) kV transmission line, to connect the Facility to the existing 240 kV transmission line 924L in a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

NEXT STEPS

- The AESO intends to consider the need for this project for approval under section 501.3 of the ISO rules, Abbreviated Needs Approval Process (ANAP Rule) in early 2023.
- A minimum of 14 days prior to the project being considered under the ANAP Rule, the AESO will notify stakeholders and post supporting documents on the AESO's website at www.aeso.ca/grid/projects.
- If the AESO does not approve the need for this project under the ANAP Rule, the AESO may submit a needs identification document (NID) application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of the need for this project.

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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)

Step 5: Consultation and negotiation (if applicable)*

The Commission supports ongoing efforts to reach an agreeable outcome for the applicant and all affected parties. The Commission encourages the applicant and those who have filed a statement 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 at an AUC hearing.

Step 6: The public hearing process*

The AUC will issue a notice of hearing if there continues to be legitimate unresolved concerns with the application. The notice of hearing will provide a hearing date and location in addition to a process schedule. The AUC conducts public hearings in its Edmonton and Calgary hearing rooms and, where suitable venues exist, in communities closer to the proposed project area.

The public hearing process allows persons with standing that have unresolved concerns about the application, to express their views directly to a panel of Commission members.

An AUC hearing is a formal, evidence-based, court-like proceeding. The public can attend the hearing in person or listen to hearings online through the AUC’s website.

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 Commission to be 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: *Local Intervener Funding*, recovery of costs is subject to the Commission assessing the value of the

contribution provided by the lawyer and technical experts. People with similar interests and positions are expected 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 application decision no more than 90 days after the hearing is complete. The Commission can approve, or deny an application and can also make its approval conditional upon terms or conditions. All AUC decision reports are available to any member of the public on the AUC’s website or by obtaining a printed copy from the AUC.

Step 8: Opportunity to appeal

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

An applicant or dissatisfied participant can also ask the Commission to review its decision. An application to review a Commission 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 and Variance of Commission Decisions*.

Step 9: Construction, operation and compliance

An applicant that receives approval to build and operate a facility from the Commission 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 under “Compliance and enforcement.”

***Opportunity for public involvement**

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.

Contact us

Phone: 310-4AUC (310-4282 in Alberta)
1-833-511-4AUC (1-833-511-4282 outside Alberta)
Email: info@auc.ab.ca

Eau Claire Tower	106 Street Building
1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W.	10th Floor, 10055 106 Street
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5	Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2Y2

The Alberta Utilities Commission is 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.



**Participating
in the AUC’s
independent
review process**

Application review process

Step 1: Public consultation prior to application by proponent

Step 2: Application filed with the AUC

Step 3: Public notice issued by the AUC

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

www.auc.ab.ca

The AUC’s regulatory role in needs and facility applications and its independent review and hearing process:

The AUC uses an established process, outlined in this brochure, to review social, economic and environmental impacts of facility projects to decide if approval is in the public interest. Approvals from the AUC are required for the construction, operation, alteration and decommissioning of transmission lines and electric substations.

- Approvals are required for:
- The need for transmission upgrades.
 - The route and location of transmission facilities.
 - The siting of power plants, including renewables such as wind and solar more than five megawatts.

Sometimes a needs application is considered together with a facility application in a single hearing; sometimes separate hearings may be held to consider each application.

Step 1: Public consultation prior to application*

Prior to filing an application with the AUC for the approval of a proposed utility development, the applicant must engage in a public consultation program in the area of 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 and Hydro Developments*, and AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*.

Potentially affected parties are strongly encouraged to participate in the initial public consultation, as early involvement in discussions with an applicant may lead to greater influence on project planning and what is submitted to the AUC for approval.

The Alberta Electric System Operator, as the system planner, will notify potentially affected stakeholders of applications on the need for transmission development.

Step 2: Application filed with the AUC

When the participant involvement requirements have been completed, the applicant files its application with the AUC through a public filing system, called the eFiling System, on the AUC website.

The application is then reviewed to ensure the information required by the Commission is included. If the required information is not provided, the AUC may close the application or request more

information from the applicant. In the application, any issues that were raised during the public consultation and any related amendments to the proposal should be identified. All unresolved objections or concerns identified during the public consultation must be described in the application.

Step 3: Public notice

The AUC generally issues a notice by mail directly to those who live, operate a business or occupy land in the project area who may be affected by the Commission’s decision on the proposed project. The notice for larger facility projects with potentially greater impacts may also be published in local newspapers.

The notice will specify a submission deadline. The information required by this deadline is general in nature as outlined in Step 4. Additional opportunities to provide evidence and additional information will arise after this deadline.

Step 4: Public submissions to the AUC*

The AUC review process is referred to as a proceeding. Anyone with unresolved objections or concerns about the application can file a brief written statement with the AUC on the proceeding. The easiest way to file a statement is to fill out the form through the eFiling System found on the AUC website. The statement must include your contact information, where you reside or own property in relation to the proposed facility, your concern or interest in the application, an explanation of your position and what you feel the AUC should decide.

The AUC uses the information it gathers through the forms to decide whether to hold a hearing on the application(s). The Commission must hold a hearing if a person can demonstrate that he or she has rights that may be directly or adversely affected by the Commission’s decision on the application. Such a person is said to have standing before the Commission. If the AUC decides to hold a hearing, the AUC will provide further opportunities for participants with standing to understand the application and present their position on the application either in writing or in person.

Subject to some limited exceptions, all information and materials provided as part of an AUC proceeding will become part of the public record and will be available through the eFiling System. The AUC’s treatment of some types of information as confidential is rare and only available under limited circumstances to ensure that the AUC’s process is open and transparent.

AUC eFiling System

The eFiling System is the 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 and is how to provide your input to the AUC and monitor the 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.

***Opportunity for public involvement**

Attachment 4 – AESO Market Participant Notification Letter (February 1, 2023)

SENT VIA EMAIL

February 01, 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 Georgetown Solar Project Connection in the Carseland area

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) would like to advise you that Georgetown Solar Inc. (Georgetown) has applied for transmission system access to connect its Georgetown Solar Project (approved Facility) to the Alberta interconnected electric system (AIES) in the AESO South 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 approved Facility.

Connection Assessment Findings

An engineering connection assessment was carried out by the AESO to assess the transmission system performance following the connection of the approved Facility.¹ The connection assessment identified the potential for thermal criteria violations on the 240 kV transmission line 924L following the connection of the approved Facility, under credible worse case forecast conditions, with all transmission facilities in service (Category A). Should the AESO determine that mitigation is required to address potential thermal criteria violations under Category A conditions, the AESO may develop operational procedures or other mitigation measures.

In addition, thermal criteria violations were also identified when a single transmission facility is out of service (Category B) following the connection of the approved Facility. To mitigate the potential Category B system performance issues, existing remedial action scheme (RAS), RAS 175 will be modified by adding the approved Facility to the RAS logic, which curtails the approved Facility upon activation. The total megawatts tied to RAS 175 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 curtailment 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.

¹ The studies were performed assuming the Rate STS, *Supply Transmission Service*, contract capacity of 230 MW.

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

If the AESO determines that congestion will arise under Category A conditions, the AESO will make an application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) 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 AUC for approval of such an exception.

For Further Information

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

To support the AESO’s consideration of the Georgetown Solar Project Connection under the Abbreviated Needs Approval Process, the engineering connection assessment 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 in the AESO 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 Georgetown Solar Project Connection in the Carseland area*

Need for the Georgetown Solar Project Connection in the Carseland Area

Georgetown Solar Inc. (Georgetown) has applied to the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) for transmission system access to connect its proposed Georgetown Solar Project (Facility) in the Carseland area. Georgetown'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 924L in a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

NEXT STEPS

- The AESO intends to consider the need for this project for approval under section 501.3 of the ISO rules, Abbreviated Needs Approval Process (ANAP Rule) in early 2023.
- A minimum of 14 days prior to the project being considered under the ANAP Rule, the AESO will notify stakeholders and post supporting documents on the AESO's website at www.aeso.ca/grid/projects.
- If the AESO does not approve the need for this project under the ANAP Rule, the AESO may submit a needs identification document (NID) application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of the need for this project.

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 certain requests for system access service through the ANAP. If this project no longer qualifies for approval under the ANAP, the AESO will prepare and submit a NID.
- Is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its NID.

ALTALINK

- Is the transmission facility owner in the Carseland 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 5 – AESO Public Notification of NID Filing Website Posting (June 2023)

Georgetown Solar Project Connection (2396)

Notice of Filing

The AESO intends to file the Georgetown Solar Project Connection Needs Identification Document (NID) application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on or after July 13, 2023.

Attachment 6 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter NID Filing Notice (June 28, 2023)

AESO Stakeholder Newsletter

GRID

Georgetown Solar Project Connection – Notice of NID Filing

Georgetown Solar Inc (Georgetown) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its approved Georgetown Solar Project (Facility) in the Carseland area. Georgetown'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 924L in a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

The AESO intends to file the Georgetown Solar Project Connection Needs Identification Document (NID) application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on or after July 13, 2023.

More information is available on the AESO website. Please [click here](#) to view the project page or visit the AESO website at www.aeso.ca and follow the path Grid > Transmission Projects > Georgetown Solar Project Connection (2396) to see relevant supporting documents, including the NID application once it is filed with the AUC.