



Alberta Electric System Operator

Red Deer Region Transmission Development Needs Identification Document

April 10, 2012



The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2012-098: Alberta Electric System Operator
Red Deer Region Transmission System Development
Needs Identification Document
Application No. 1607507
Proceeding ID No. 1368

April 10, 2012

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Contents

1	Summary of decision	1
2	Background and discussion.....	1
2.1	The process for new transmission development in Alberta	1
2.2	The application before the Commission	3
2.3	Notice process.....	4
2.4	Submissions.....	4
2.4.1	Concerns raised by 22 interested parties – relevant to facilities applications ..	5
2.4.2	Concerns from the City of Red Deer.....	6
2.4.3	Concerns of the remaining seven interested parties: Taylor, Curniski, Coderry, Smith, Falk, Laursen and O’Connor	6
2.5	Information session.....	6
2.6	Submission by the City of Red Deer.....	6
2.7	Pre-hearing conference and decision	6
3	Commission findings	7
3.1	Concerns expressed by interested parties.....	7
4	Conclusion	11
5	Decision	11
	Appendix A – Acronyms and abbreviations	12
	Appendix B – Red Deer region transmission development proposed alternative.....	13
	Appendix C – Pre-hearing conference – registered appearances.....	14
	Appendix D – Proceeding participants that did not participate in the hearing.....	15
	Appendix E – AUC Decision 2011-057	16

1 Summary of decision

1. Having considered all of the evidence before it, the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) finds that no interested person has demonstrated that the Alberta Electric System Operator's (AESO) assessment of the need to expand and enhance the transmission system in the Red Deer region,¹ and the AESO's choice of its preferred alternative are technically deficient or not in the public interest. The Commission approves the needs identification document.

2. The Commission approves the proposed alternative 2 as submitted by the AESO.

2 Background and discussion

2.1 The process for new transmission development in Alberta

3. The process for approving a new transmission development in Alberta is a two-step process. The first step is the consideration of the need for the proposed development. The AESO is required to conduct its assessment of the need for the proposed development and to prepare a needs identification document. The AESO brings an application before the Commission, pursuant to Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, for approval of the needs identification document. This is called the need application.

4. Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act* provides the Commission with three different options when considering a need application. The Commission may approve the need application, deny the need application, or it may refer the need application back to the AESO with suggestions or directions for changes or additions.

5. Section 38 of the *Transmission Regulation* to the *Electric Utilities Act* guides the Commission when it considers a need application. Section 38 states:

38 When considering whether to approve a needs identification document under section 34(3) of the Act the Commission must

- (a) have regard for the principle that it is in the public interest to foster
 - (i) an efficient and competitive generation market,
 - (ii) a transmission system that is flexible, reliable and efficient and preserves options for future growth, and

¹ In this decision the "Red Deer region" refers to the Red Deer, Didsbury and a part of Wetaskiwin planning areas, which are centered on the city of Red Deer and extend south to Didsbury, north to Wetaskiwin, east to the Joffre area, and west to the Benalto and Harmattan areas.

- (iii) geographic separation for the purposes of ensuring reliability of the transmission system and efficient use of land, including the use of rights of way, corridors or other routes that already contain or provide for utility or energy infrastructure or the use of new rights of way, corridors or other routes, notwithstanding that geographic separation for the purposes of ensuring reliability of the transmission system or efficient use of land may result in additional costs,
- (b) have regard for the following matters when it considers an application for a transmission facility upgrade or expansion, or operations preparatory to the construction of a transmission facility, namely, the contribution of the proposed transmission facility:
 - (i) to improving transmission system reliability;
 - (ii) to a robust competitive market;
 - (iii) to improvements in transmission system efficiency;
 - (iv) to improvements in operational flexibility;
 - (v) to maintaining options for long term development of the transmission system;
 - (vi) to a project to which section 27 applies to provide system access service,
- (c) take into account the long term transmission system outlook document and the transmission system plan filed with the Commission,
- (d) take into account the ISO's responsibilities under the Act and regulations, and
- (e) consider the ISO's assessment of the need to be correct unless an interested person satisfies the Commission that
 - (i) the ISO's assessment of the need is technically deficient, or
 - (ii) to approve the needs identification document would not be in the public interest.

6. If the need application is granted, the Commission will issue an approval of the needs identification document.

7. The second step is the approval of the specific facilities that are proposed to meet the need that has been identified by the AESO. The transmission facility operator brings an application before the Commission for approval of its proposed physical solution, generally proposing several alternatives, for constructing the facilities that will meet the need set out in the needs identification document and approved by the Commission pursuant to Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*. This is called the facilities application. If the facilities application is granted, the Commission will issue two types of approvals:

- A permit to construct the facilities pursuant to Section 14 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.
- A licence to operate the facilities pursuant to Section 15 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.

2.2 The application before the Commission

8. On July 20, 2011, the AESO filed a need application with the Commission, pursuant to Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, for reinforcement of the transmission system in the Red Deer region (Application No. 1607507).

9. In the need application, the AESO stated that the need for transmission reinforcement in the Red Deer region is driven predominantly by the existing transmission system constraints, future load growth, and increasing overloading and low-voltage occurrences during contingency events in the area. The AESO stated that the Red Deer region's transmission system required reinforcement if the AESO's transmission reliability criteria² are to be respected.

10. The AESO also stated: "the proposed Red Deer Region Transmission Development is a regional transmission system development plan solely intended to provide efficient and reliable transmission system access to current and future customers in the Red Deer region".³

11. The AESO considered three potential alternatives to enhance the transmission system in the Red Deer region and selected alternative 2 as the proposed solution based on the detailed technical, economical, land impact and social analysis. The AESO did not apply for Commission approval of the other alternatives.

12. The recommended scope of the project includes three new substations and associated transmission lines, the rebuild of some existing transmission lines to upgrade their capacity, modifications to existing substations, and the salvage and removal of some existing facilities. The project has an estimated cost of \$216 million (+/- 30%) and is divided into two stages.

13. The reinforcements proposed in stage one of the AESO's need application are targeted to be in service between 2012 and 2014 and consist of the following components:

- Construction of three new 240/138-kilovolt (kV) substations in the Didsbury, Innisfail and Ponoka areas with associated transmission lines.
- Modifications of the Benalto, Gaetz, North Red Deer, Innisfail, Ellis, N.E. Lacombe, Ponoka, Joffre and Prentiss substations.
- Construction of approximate 20 kilometres of new 138-kV transmission line from the N.E. Lacombe to the Ellis substations.
- Rebuild of the existing 138-kV transmission lines to increase capacity from the Red Deer to the South Red Deer to the North Red Deer substations, from the Red Deer to the Sylvan Lake to the Benalto substations, and from the Red Deer to the Piper Creek to the Joffre substations.
- Split the 138-kV transmission lines between the North Red Deer and the Gaetz substations.

² The AESO's transmission reliability criteria are part of the *Alberta Reliability Standards* adopted by the AESO and are approved by the Commission. The Alberta Reliability Standards generally align with the NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation) standards and WECC (Western Electric Coordinating Committee) standards. The AESO's transmission reliability criteria are intended to ensure that all equipment operates within its acceptable thermal and voltage limits and that the electric system is stable.

³ Exhibit No. 72, AESO response to AUC-AESO-14.

- Decommissioning and salvage of the 138-kV transmission lines between the Wetaskiwin and the Ponoka substations, between the West Lacombe and the Ponoka substations, and between the Innisfail and the Red Deer substations.
- Decommissioning and salvage of the existing Didsbury substation.

14. The reinforcements proposed in stage two of the AESO's need application are targeted to be in service in 2017, when the forecasted peak load in the region is expected to reach approximately 825 megawatts. Stage two consists of the rebuild of approximate 20 kilometres of 138-kV transmission line from the Harmattan substation to the new Didsbury substation.

2.3 Notice process

15. On October 13, 2011, the Commission issued a notice of application. The notice of application stated that any person who has concerns with or objections to the application or who wishes to support the application must file a submission by November 17, 2011. The Commission provided its notice of application to interested and potentially interested parties by the following methods:

- Mailed through Canada Post by postal code region to approximately 94,000 area residents. The postal code regions included the potentially affected areas of the proposed transmission facilities, identified by the AESO.
- Published in fifteen newspapers in the Red Deer region.
- Posted on the AUC website.

16. On December 16, 2011, the Commission issued a notice of pre-hearing conference and hearing (pre-hearing notice). The pre-hearing notice indicated that anyone who intended to participate in the hearing was required to submit a list of the issues they plan to address by February 2, 2012, including whether they intend to call expert witnesses in addition to providing personal testimony. It also stated that the Commission may determine that a hearing is not required after hearing from counsel and the other interested parties at the pre-hearing conference if it is apparent that there are no issues relevant to the need application to be determined at a public hearing. The Commission provided its pre-hearing notice to potentially interested parties by the following methods:

- Mailed through Canada Post by postal code region to approximately 94,000 area residents. The postal code regions included the potentially affected areas of the proposed transmission facilities, identified by the AESO.
- Published in fifteen newspapers in the Red Deer region.
- Posted on the AUC website.

2.4 Submissions

17. In response to the notice of application, the Commission received submissions from 30 parties as described in more detail in the paragraphs that follow.

2.4.1 Concerns raised by 22 interested parties – relevant to facilities applications

18. Twenty-two parties registered statements or concerns addressing issues that are typically related to the construction or operation of the facilities. These issues are dealt with in the facilities application proceedings instead of the need application proceedings. In general terms, these concerns are:

- human and animal health and safety
- property value
- electric and magnetic effects
- cellular telephone interference and noise impact
- environmental and logistic issues on land
- objection to substation construction, extra equipment additions and new transmission lines near their residence
- lines running through parking area
- residential impact including esthetic impact, lifestyle, etc.
- objection to wind generation
- recommendation to bury the lines

19. These 22 interested parties are listed below:

- Sharon Duplessis
- Robert and Sharon Fisher⁴
- Council of Canadians, Red Deer and Area Chapter
- Woo Je Jo
- Uwe and Jamie Jung
- Michael and Ann Davies
- Jachin Mullen
- Darcy Blackmore
- Donald and Shirley Parker
- Philip and Kimberley Dunn
- Edwin Woodrow and Karen Yakimishyn
- Lois Pike
- Brian and Trudy Veldkamp
- Don Beardsworth
- Barry Baich
- Bryce and Angela Morrison
- Jim Wallace (representative of Red Deer Bridge Club)
- Ron and Bonnie Thiele
- Martin and Gwen Touchette
- Eric and Phyllis Johanson
- Doug and Lorene Luke
- Gert and Betty Lund

⁴ The Fishers submitted a statement of intention to participate form which indicated their names, but did not identify any specific concerns.

2.4.2 Concerns from the City of Red Deer

20. The City of Red Deer submitted a statement of intent to participate and indicated that its concerns included setbacks from transmission lines, and the impact on land development within the City of Red Deer municipal boundary and areas related to its future annexation plans. The City of Red Deer withdrew its objection to the need application on February 8, 2012, prior to the pre-hearing conference.

2.4.3 Concerns of the remaining seven interested parties: Taylor, Curniski, Coderry, Smith, Falk, Laursen and O'Connor

21. The Commission notes that these seven interested parties raised issues other than matters that address site-specific impacts to their properties. Those issues were:

- The cost of upgrades being charged to rate payers.
- The dependency between the critical transmission infrastructure projects filed by AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) and ATCO Electric Ltd., and the upgrades proposed for the Red Deer area.
- Whether the upgrade is to facilitate the export of power from Alberta.
- A request for the need for the upgrades to be reviewed by an independent third party from outside the province.

2.5 Information session

22. On January 25, 2012, as set out in the pre-hearing notice, the Commission held a public information session in Red Deer.

2.6 Submission by the City of Red Deer

23. In response to the pre-hearing notice, the Commission received only one submission, which was from the City of Red Deer and contained a list of issues. On February 8, 2012, the City of Red Deer withdrew its statement of intent to participate prior to the pre-hearing conference.

2.7 Pre-hearing conference and decision

24. The pre-hearing conference was held on February 9, 2012, at the Black Knight Inn in Red Deer before Carolyn Dahl Rees, Vice-Chair.

25. None of the parties that filed submissions or objections in response to the notice of application or the pre-hearing notice attended the scheduled pre-hearing conference, nor did any party other than the City of Red Deer, file a list of issues, as specifically requested by the Commission, prior to the pre-hearing conference. Further, no interested party appeared in person or by proxy at the conference except for the AESO and AltaLink.

26. At the pre-hearing conference, the AESO gave an undertaking to provide a concordance between its application and subsections 38(a) to 38(d) of the *Transmission Regulation* detailing

how the AESO addressed each of these matters⁵ to assist the Commission with its review of the application. The AESO filed its detailed undertaking on March 1, 2012.

27. On March 2, 2012, the Commission issued Decision [2012-057](#).⁶ The Commission stated that some of the interested parties touched upon matters that may be relevant to the Commission's consideration of the need application. However, given the lack of public participation in the pre-hearing conference conducted by the Commission, the Commission decided that it would determine the application utilizing a written process rather than an oral public hearing. A copy of Decision 2012-057 is attached as [Appendix E](#) to this decision.

28. In Decision 2012-057, the Commission set up a schedule for the written process stating that any interested party who wished to participate further in the written process was required to file their submissions or evidence with the Commission in writing by 4 p.m. on March 23, 2012.

29. No interested parties filed any submissions or evidence with the Commission by March 23, 2012.

3 Commission findings

3.1 Concerns expressed by interested parties

30. The Commission notes that all concerns expressed by interested parties in this proceeding can be grouped into two related categories: facility application-related concerns and potential need-related concerns.

31. The Commission notes that 22 parties filed submissions that raised issues solely relevant to facilities application proceedings. These issues are the issues set out in paragraph 18 above and relate primarily to potential impacts of transmission facility development on owners and occupiers of land. While these interested parties may have a right that may be directly and adversely affected by a decision of the Commission in the facilities applications proceedings, the Commission has no view on these matters at this time. Matters relevant to the approval by the Commission of a need identified by the AESO are set out in paragraph 5 above and do not include specific potential impacts of transmission facility development on individual owners and occupiers of land. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the submissions from these 22 parties do not raise issues relevant to the need application. The Commission does not make any comment on the merit of these submissions with respect to the facilities applications that may be filed to meet the need set out by the AESO in the need application.

32. The Commission notes that AltaLink has submitted a facility application (Application No. 1607711) to meet the need to upgrade existing substations forming part of stage one of the needs identification document. The Commission understands that AltaLink will prepare and file other facility applications to meet the remaining segments of the need for transmission upgrades as set out by the AESO in the needs identification document. These facility applications should

⁵ See transcript of pre-hearing conference, discussion between the Vice-Chair and counsel for the AESO at page 10, line 18 to page 12, line 10; particularly, page 12, lines 12 to 19.

⁶ Decision 2012-057: Alberta Electric System Operator – Red Deer Region Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document Pre-hearing Conference, Application No. 1607507, Proceeding ID No. 1368, March 2, 2012.

clearly show the exact locations of the proposed transmission facilities. The interveners that expressed concern about the facilities in this proceeding will have an opportunity to actively participate during the facility application phase, which is expected after this proceeding is completed.

33. The Commission notes that the City of Red Deer withdrew its submission on February 8, 2012, and, consequently, no further determination is required with respect to the issues raised in its submission.

34. The Commission notes that seven interested parties raised issues other than those that address site-specific impacts to their properties and observes that some of these issues may be potentially relevant to the need for the facilities upgrades. These issues were set out in paragraph 21 above.

35. To address any issues relevant to the need identified by the AESO, the Commission requested in the pre-hearing conference decision that any interested parties who wish to participate further file their submissions or evidence by March 23, 2012. The Commission observes that no further submissions or evidence were filed.

36. The Commission states that the record for this proceeding closed on March 23, 2012.

3.2 Transmission Regulation and specific findings with respect to each section

37. The Commission is satisfied that it should approve the application. In coming to this decision the Commission had specific regard to the direction provided in subsections 38(a) through 38(e) of the *Transmission Regulation* as discussed in the following paragraphs.

38. The Commission considers that the level of detail presented by the AESO in this proceeding was sufficient for its purposes, that is, it was sufficient to justify the need for the proposed transmission development in the Red Deer region.

39. Subsection 38(a) of the *Transmission Regulation* provides that the Commission must:

- (a) have regard for the principle that it is in the public interest to foster
 - (i) an efficient and competitive generation market,
 - (ii) a transmission system that is flexible, reliable and efficient and preserves options for future growth, and
 - (iii) geographic separation for the purposes of ensuring reliability of the transmission system and efficient use of land, including the use of rights of way, corridors or other routes that already contain or provide for utility or energy infrastructure or the use of new rights of way, corridors or other routes, notwithstanding that geographic separation for the purposes of ensuring reliability of the transmission system or efficient use of land may result in additional costs,

40. The Commission is satisfied that the public interest criteria set out in subsection 38(a) are met. Reliable electrical transmission facility infrastructure is a prerequisite to having an efficient and competitive generation market. The AESO has studied the performance of the existing transmission system and the proposed alternatives under forecasted load, generation scenarios

and different system conditions.⁷ The Commission is satisfied that the AESO's proposed alternative 2 will provide a reliable and efficient transmission system which also has the flexibility for the future load growth and transmission system expansion.⁸ The Commission considers that the proposed alternative 2 uses land efficiently because it will reduce the impact on agricultural land, the environment, residential and visual aspects by discontinuing the operation of some existing transmission lines.⁹

41. Pursuant to subsection 38(b) of the *Transmission Regulation*, the Commission must:

- (b) have regard for the following matters when it considers an application for a transmission facility upgrade or expansion, or operations preparatory to the construction of a transmission facility, namely, the contribution of the proposed transmission facility:
 - (i) to improving transmission system reliability;
 - (ii) to a robust competitive market;
 - (iii) to improvements in transmission system efficiency;
 - (iv) to improvements in operational flexibility;
 - (v) to maintaining options for long term development of the transmission system;

42. The Commission is satisfied that the criteria set out in subsection 38(b) have been met. The AESO's proposed alternative 2 will enhance system reliability, efficiency and operational flexibility, which will consequently promote a robust competitive electric market.¹⁰ In this application, concerns about reliability, system efficiency and operational flexibility are met by means of new 240-kV substations, new transmission lines, new reactive power compensation devices, the capacity upgrade of the existing transmission lines and the discontinuing operation of some exiting transmission facilities. The Commission considers that the proposed transmission enforcement also preserves options for the long-term plan of the transmission system in the Red Deer region by providing capacity to meet the forecast load until 2017.¹¹

⁷ Exhibit 2, Application, Section 2, pages 2 to 4 and Section 3, pages 8 to 9; Exhibit 11, Appendix A, Section 2.6, pages 16 to 17, Section 3.5, pages 27 to 28, Section 4.2, pages 32 to 46 and Section 4.2.1, pages 33 to 34; Exhibit 9, Appendix B, Section 4, pages 6 to 7.

⁸ Exhibit 2, Application, Section 2.2, pages 3 to 4, Section 3.1 pages 5 to 8, Section 3.2 pages 8 to 9 and Section 3.7, pages 11 to 12; Exhibit 11, Appendix A, Section 2.0, pages 10 to 23, Section 3.5, pages 27 to 28, Section 4.2, pages 32 to 46, Section 4.2.1, pages 33 to 34, Section 4.2.3, pages 41 to 44, Section 5, pages 47 to 51, Section 6, pages 52 to 55, Section 7, pages 56 to 59, Section 8.3, page 61 and Section 9.1, pages 65 to 68; Exhibit 21, Appendix E, Section 4, pages 2 to 3 and Section 5, pages 3 to 4; Exhibit 79, Response to AUC-AESO-21.

⁹ Exhibit 2, Application, Section 3.2, pages 8 to 9, Section 3.6, page 10 and Section 3.7, pages 10 to 11; Exhibit 22, Appendix F, Executive Summary, pages iii to v, Section 1.4, pages 18 to 19 and Section 2.3, pages 30 to 35.

¹⁰ Exhibit 2, Application, Section 2.2, pages 3 to 4, Section 3.2, pages 8 to 9 and Section 3.7, pages 10 to 11; Exhibit 11, Appendix A, sections 5, 6 and 7, pages 47 to 57, Section 8.3, page 61, Section 9.1, pages 65 to 68, Section 2.0, pages 10 to 23, Section 3.5, pages 27 to 28 and Section 4.2, pages 32 to 46; Exhibit 21, Appendix E, Section 4, pages 2 to 3 and Section 5, pages 3 to 4.

¹¹ Exhibit 2, Application, Section 3.1, page 5 and Section 3.7, pages 10 to 11; Exhibit 11, Appendix A, Section 9.1, pages 65 to 68; 2011 Draft AESO Transmission System Plan, Section 4.5.4.3, page 123; Exhibit 72, AESO response to AUC-AESO-14.

43. Subsections 38(c) and (d) of the *Transmission Regulation* state that the Commission must:

- (c) take into account the long term transmission system outlook document and the transmission system plan filed with the Commission,
- (d) take into account the ISO's responsibilities under the Act and regulations.

44. The Commission has reviewed the need identified by the AESO in the needs identification document together with references in the AESO's 2011 long-term transmission system plan which the AESO has filed with the Commission, and is satisfied that the need application and the long-term plan are consistent.¹² The Commission also finds that this application is reflective of the AESO's responsibilities;¹³ in particular, its responsibility to direct the safe, reliable and economic operation of Alberta's interconnected transmission system¹⁴ and its responsibility to plan the transmission system.¹⁵

45. Finally, subsection 38(e) of the *Transmission Regulation* directs that the Commission must:

- (e) consider the ISO's assessment of the need to be correct unless an interested person satisfies the Commission that
 - (i) the ISO's assessment of the need is technically deficient, or
 - (ii) to approve the needs identification document would not be in the public interest.

46. The Commission considers that the issues raised by interested parties in relation to need, while they may be legitimate concerns of the parties, did not challenge the technical adequacy of the AESO's need assessment for the Red Deer region. The Commission notes that some of the comments could be interpreted to touch generally on matters relevant to the public interest. However, there were no submissions made in this regard. Therefore, the Commission finds that no interested person has satisfied the Commission that the AESO's assessment of the need to expand and enhance the transmission system in the Red Deer region and the AESO's choice of its proposed alternative are technically deficient or not in the public interest.

47. The Commission has reviewed the application in light of the principles and matters it is required to consider pursuant to Section 38 of the *Transmission Regulation*. Since no interested party has satisfied the Commission that the AESO's assessment of the need to expand and enhance the transmission system in the Red Deer region is technically deficient or that approval of the needs identification document is not in the public interest, the Commission considers the AESO's assessment of need to be correct, in accordance with subsection 38(e) of the *Transmission Regulation*.

¹² Exhibit 2, Application, Section 2.1, pages 2 to 3; Exhibit 11, Appendix A, Section 2.5, page 15, Section 2.6, pages 16 and 17 and Section 8.0, pages 60 to 61; 2011 Draft AESO Transmission System Plan, Section 4.5.4.3, page 123; Exhibit 72, AESO response to AUC-AESO-14.

¹³ Exhibit 2, Application, Section 1.1, page 1, Section 2.1, pages 2 to 3, Section 3.3, page 9, Section 3.6, page 10 and Section 3.9, pages 12 to 13 and Part C, pages 22 to 23.

¹⁴ This responsibility is set out in Section 17(h) of the *Electric Utilities Act*.

¹⁵ This responsibility is set out in Section 15 of the *Transmission Regulation*.

4 Conclusion

48. Having considered the evidence filed by all interested parties, the Commission is satisfied that the AESO has addressed the principles and matters referenced in Section 38 of the *Transmission Regulation*. In particular, the Commission is satisfied that no interested person has demonstrated that the AESO's assessment of the need to expand and enhance the transmission system in the Red Deer region, in order to address the existing transmission constraints, future load growth and increasing overloading and low-voltage occurrences, is technically deficient or not in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission approves the needs identification document. The Commission also approves the proposed alternative 2 as filed by the AESO.

5 Decision

49. Pursuant to Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the Commission approves Application No. 1607507 and grants the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Needs Identification Document Approval No. U2012-187 to the AESO for the Red Deer region transmission system development (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on April 10, 2012.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

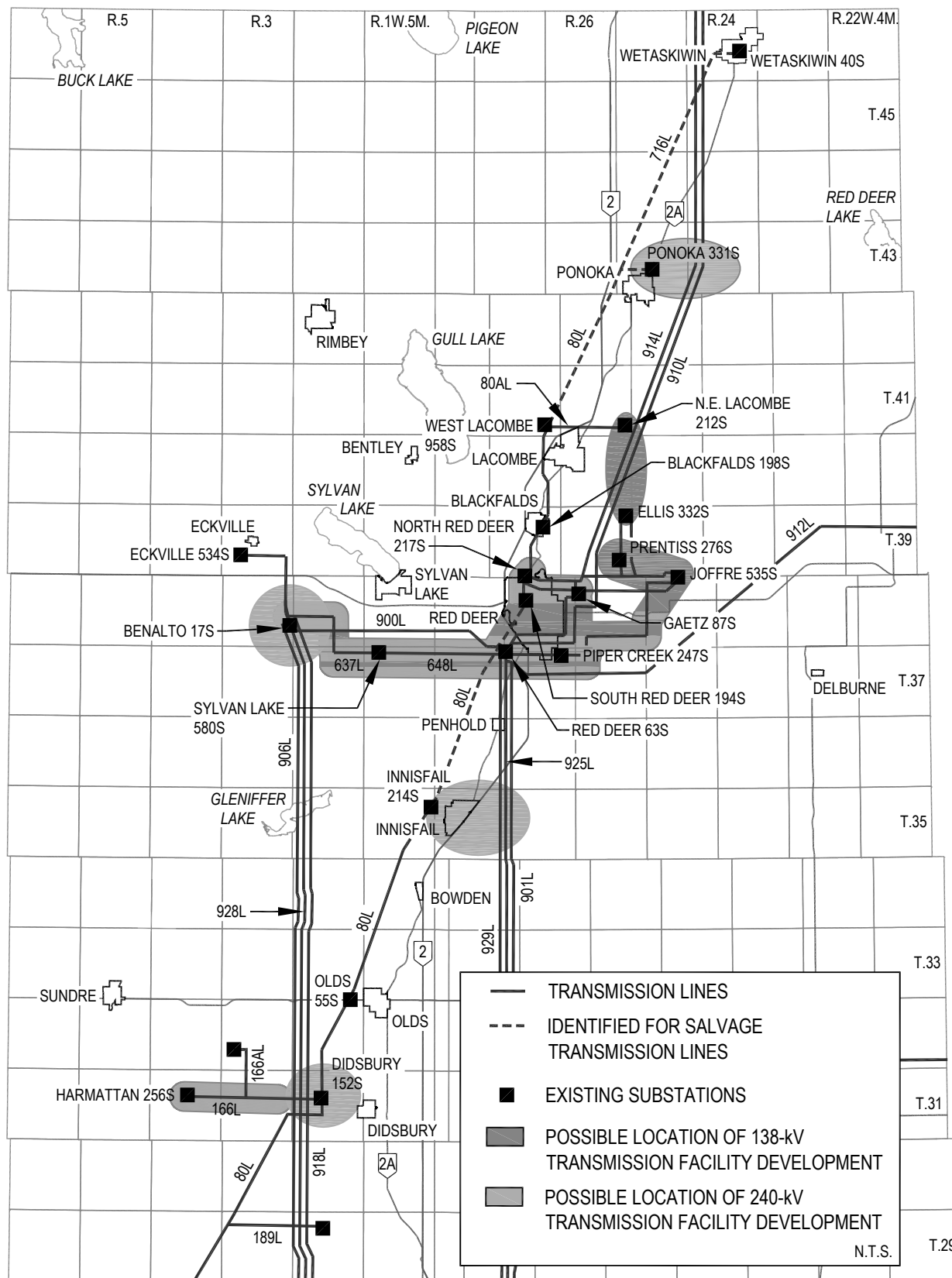
(original signed by)

Carolyn Dahl Rees
Vice-Chair

Appendix A – Acronyms and abbreviations

AESO	Alberta Electric System Operator (also the ISO)
AUC	The Alberta Utilities Commission
ISO	Independent System Operator (also AESO)
kV	kilovolt

Appendix B – Red Deer region transmission development proposed alternative



Appendix C – Pre-hearing conference – registered appearances

Name of Organization (Abbreviation) Counsel or Representative (APPLICANTS)	Witnesses
Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO or ISO) J.H. Smellie	W. Clendining N. Le Blanc
AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) R. Lonergan J. Yearsley	

Alberta Utilities Commission
Commission Panel C. Dahl Rees, Vice-Chair
Commission Staff I. Maharaj (Commission Counsel) T. Wilde A. Brinker

Appendix D – Proceeding participants that did not participate in the hearing

Name of Organization (Abbreviation) Counsel or Representative
S. Duplessis Council of Canadians, Red Deer and Area Chapter W. Jo U. and J. Jung M. and A. Davies J. Mullen D. Blackmore D. and S. Parker P. and K. Dunn E. Woodrow and K. Yakimishyn L. Pike B. and T. Veldkamp D. Beardsworth B. Baich B. and A. Morrison J. Wallace R. and B. Thiele M. and G. Touchette E. and P. Johanson D. and L. Luke G. and B. Lund R. and S. Fisher B. and J. Taylor D. Curniski L. Coderry A. Smith J. Falk C. and L. Laursen G. O'Connor City of Red Deer

Appendix E – AUC Decision 2011-057

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Appendix E -
2012-057 AESO - Rec

(consists of 20 pages)



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Red Deer Region Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document

Pre-hearing Conference

March 2, 2012

The Alberta Utilities Commission

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Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Details of the application.....	1
1.2	Commission’s process.....	2
2	Legislative framework.....	3
3	Determination of whether there are issues relevant to the needs application	4
3.1	Concerns raised by 22 interested parties – relevant to facilities applications	4
3.2	Concerns from the City of Red Deer	5
3.3	Concerns of the remaining seven interested parties: Taylor, Curniski, Coderry, Smith, Falk, Laursen, O’Connor.....	5
3.4	Commission findings	6
4	Pre-hearing conference decision	7
	Appendix A – Notice of pre-hearing conference and hearing	9

1 Introduction

1.1 Details of the application

1. The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) filed a needs identification document with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) on July 20, 2011, requesting approval of the need for new transmission development in the Red Deer region to reliably serve the current and future load in the region (needs application). The recommended scope of the project includes new substations and transmission lines, the rebuild of some existing transmission lines to upgrade their capacity, and the salvage and removal of some existing facilities. The project has an estimated cost of \$216 million (+/- 30%) and is divided into two stages.

2. The reinforcements proposed in stage one of the AESO's needs application are targeted to be in service between the fourth quarter of 2012 and 2014, and consist of the following components:

- Construct three new 240/138-kilovolt (kV) substations in the Didsbury, Innisfail and Ponoka areas with associated transmission lines.
- Modify the Benalto, Gaetz, North Red Deer, Innisfail, Ellis, NE Lacombe, Ponoka, Joffre and Prentiss substations.
- Construct 20 kilometres of new 138-kV transmission line from the NE Lacombe substation to the Ellis substation.
- Rebuild existing 138-kV transmission lines to increase capacity from the Red Deer to the South Red Deer to the North Red Deer substations, from the Red Deer to the Sylvan Lake to the Benalto substations, and from the Red Deer to the Piper Creek to the Joffre substations.
- Split the 138-kV transmission lines between the North Red Deer substation and the Gaetz substation.
- Decommission and salvage 138-kV transmission lines between the Wetaskiwin and the Ponoka substations, between the West Lacombe and the Ponoka substations, and between the Innisfail and the Red Deer substations.
- Decommission the existing Didsbury substation.

3. The reinforcements proposed in stage two of the AESO's needs application are targeted to be in service in 2017, when the forecasted peak load in the region is expected to reach approximately 825 megawatts. Stage two consists of the rebuild of 20 kilometres of 138-kV transmission line from the Harmattan substation to the new Didsbury substation.

1.2 Commission's process

4. The Commission issued a notice of application for the AESO's needs application on October 13, 2011, with a deadline for submissions by interested parties to the Commission of November 17, 2011.

5. The notice of application was mailed to approximately 94,400 residents who reside or occupy land within the potentially affected areas of the proposed transmission facilities. The notice of application was also published in the Red Deer Advocate on Monday, October 24, 2011; and the Bashaw Star, Rimbey Review, Carstairs Courier, Didsbury Review, Innisfail Province and the Olds Albertan on Tuesday, October 25, 2011; and the Ponoka News, Wetaskiwin Times, Red Deer Express and the Stettler Independent on Wednesday, October 26, 2011; and the Camrose Canadian, Lacombe Globe, Eckville Echo and Sylvan Lake News on Thursday, October 27, 2011.

6. In response to the notice of application, 30 interested parties filed submissions, indicating concerns and objections with the proposed transmission development.

7. The Commission issued a notice of pre-hearing conference and hearing (pre-hearing notice) on December 16, 2011. The pre-hearing notice was mailed to approximately 94,400 residents who reside or occupy land within the potentially affected areas of the proposed transmission facilities. The pre-hearing notice was also published in the Bashaw Star, Rimbey Star, Carstairs Courier, Didsbury Review, Innisfail Province and Olds Albertan on Tuesday, January 3, 2012; and the Ponoka News, Wetaskiwin Times, Red Deer Advocate and Stettler Independent on Wednesday, January 4, 2012; and the Camrose Canadian, Lacombe Globe, Eckville Echo and Sylvan Lake News on Thursday, January 5, 2012; and the Red Deer Express on Wednesday, January 11, 2012.

8. The pre-hearing notice listed the schedules and locations of the AUC's public information session, pre-hearing conference and public hearing for the project.

9. In the pre-hearing notice, the Commission clearly requested anyone who intends to participate in the hearing to submit a list of the issues they intend to address, including whether they intend to call expert witnesses in addition to providing personal testimony, before February 2, 2012.

10. In addition, the pre-hearing notice stated that the Commission may determine that a hearing is not required after hearing from counsel and the other interested parties at the pre-hearing conference if it is apparent that there are no issues relevant to the needs application to be determined at a public hearing. A copy of the pre-hearing notice is attached as [Appendix A](#) to this decision.

11. The Commission held a public information session on January 25, 2012, in Red Deer. The hearing process and opportunities for participation were explained at the information session. Ten people attended the information session, including one media representative.
12. In response to the pre-hearing notice, only the City of Red Deer submitted a list of issues they intended to address, prior to the pre-hearing conference. The City of Red Deer withdrew its statement of intent to participate on February 8, 2012.
13. The Commission held a pre-hearing conference on February 9, 2012, in Red Deer. The purpose of the pre-hearing conference was to assist the Commission in clarifying, defining and limiting the issues for the hearing that are relevant to the determination of the needs application. Except for the AESO and AltaLink Management Ltd., no interested party attended the pre-hearing conference. No members of the general public attended the pre-hearing conference.

2 Legislative framework

14. The needs application was filed by the AESO pursuant to Section 34(1)(a) of the *Electric Utilities Act* which states:

34(1) When the Independent System Operator determines that an expansion or enhancement of the capability of the transmission system is or may be required to meet the needs of Alberta and is in the public interest, the Independent System Operator must prepare and submit to the Commission for approval a needs identification document that

- (a) describes the constraint or condition affecting the operation or performance of the transmission system and indicates the means by which or the manner in which the constraint or condition could be alleviated ...

15. Section 38 of the *Electric Utilities Act Transmission Regulation*, subsections 38(a) through 38(d), sets out the matters to which the Commission must have regard when considering an application for approval of a needs identification document filed by the AESO. Subsections 38(a) through 38(d) read:

38 When considering whether to approve a needs identification document under section 34(3) of the Act, the Commission must

- (a) have regard for the principle that it is in the public interest to foster
 - (i) an efficient and competitive generation market,
 - (ii) a transmission system that is flexible, reliable and efficient and preserves options for future growth, and
 - (iii) geographic separation for the purposes of ensuring reliability of the transmission system and efficient use of land, including the use of rights of way, corridors or other routes that already contain or provide for utility or energy infrastructure or the use of new rights of way, corridors or other routes, notwithstanding that geographic separation for the purposes of ensuring reliability of the transmission system or efficient use of land may result in additional costs,

- (b) have regard for the following matters when it considers an application for a transmission facility upgrade or expansion, or operations preparatory to the construction of a transmission facility, namely, the contribution of the proposed transmission facility:
 - (i) to improving transmission system reliability;
 - (ii) to a robust competitive market;
 - (iii) to improvements in transmission system efficiency;
 - (iv) to improvements in operational flexibility;
 - (v) to maintaining options for long term development of the transmission system;
 - (vi) to a project to which section 27 applies to provide system access service,
- (c) take into account the transmission system plan filed with the Commission,
- (d) take into account the ISO's responsibilities under any enactment,

16. Subsection 38(e) sets out the tests that an interested party must meet in order to challenge the need set out in a needs identification document. Subsection 38(e) reads as follows:

- 38(e)** [The Commission must] consider the ISO's assessment of the need to be correct unless an interested person satisfies the Commission that
- (i) the ISO's assessment of the need is technically deficient, or
 - (ii) to approve the needs identification document would not be in the public interest.

3 Determination of whether there are issues relevant to the needs application

3.1 Concerns raised by 22 interested parties – relevant to facilities applications

17. Twenty-two parties filed statements of intention to participate in response to the notice of application addressing issues that are typically related to the construction or operation of the facilities. These issues are more properly dealt with in the facilities application proceedings and not in the needs application proceedings. In general terms, these concerns are:

- human and animal health and safety
- property value
- EMF effects
- cell phone interference and noise impact
- environmental and logistic issues on land
- objection to substation construction, extra equipment additions and new transmission lines near their residence
- lines running through parking area
- residential impact including esthetic impact, lifestyle, etc.
- objection to wind generation
- recommendation to bury the lines

18. These 22 interested parties are listed below:

- Sharon Duplessis
- Robert and Sharon Fisher¹
- Council of Canadians, Red Deer and Area Chapter
- Woo Je Jo
- Uwe and Jamie Jung
- Michael and Ann Davies
- Jachin Mullen
- Darcy Blackmore
- Donald and Shirley Parker
- Phillip and Kimberley Dunn
- Edwin Woodrow and Karen Yakimishyn
- Lois Pike
- Brian and Trudy Veldkamp
- Don Beardsworth
- Barry Baich
- Bryce and Angela Morrison
- Jim Wallace (representative of Red Deer Bridge Club)
- Ron and Bonnie Thiele
- Martin and Gwen Touchette
- Eric and Phyllis Johanson
- Doug and Loren Luke
- Gert and Betty Lund

3.2 Concerns from the City of Red Deer

19. The City of Red Deer submitted a statement of intention to participate and indicated that its concerns included setbacks from transmission lines and the impact on land development within City of Red Deer municipal boundary and its future annexation plans. The City of Red Deer withdrew its objection to the needs application on February 8, 2012, prior to the pre-hearing conference.

3.3 Concerns of the remaining seven interested parties: Taylor, Curniski, Coderry, Smith, Falk, Laursen, O'Connor

20. The Commission notes that these seven interested parties raised issues other than issues that address site-specific impacts to their properties. Those issues were:

- the cost of upgrades being charged to rate payers
- the dependency between the critical transmission infrastructure projects filed by AltaLink and ATCO and the upgrades proposed for the Red Deer area
- whether the upgrade is to facilitate the export of power from Alberta
- a request for the need for the upgrades to be reviewed by an independent third party from outside the province

¹ The Fishers submitted a statement of intention to participate form which indicated their names, but did not identify any specific concerns.

² See transcript of pre-hearing conference, discussion between the Vice Chair and counsel for the AESO at page 10, line 18 to page 12, line 10; particularly, page 12, lines 12-19.

3.4 Commission findings

21. When considering a needs application, the Commission addresses issues relating primarily to the need for transmission system upgrades, often to address population and load growth in an area. Matters relevant to the approval by the Commission of a need identified by the AESO are set out in paragraphs 15 and 16 above and do not typically include land owner specific impacts of transmission facility development.

22. In reaching its decision with respect to whether a needs identification document ought to be approved, the Commission must consider the matters set out in subsections 38(a) to (d), inclusive, of the *Electric Utilities Act Transmission Regulation* as set out above in paragraph 15.

23. At the pre-hearing conference, the AESO undertook to provide a concordance between its application and subsections 38(a) to (d) of the *Electric Utilities Act Transmission Regulation* detailing how the AESO addressed each of these matters² to assist the Commission with its review of the application.

24. With respect to an objection or concern raised by an interested party, as set out in paragraph 16 above, an interested party must satisfy the Commission that the AESO's assessment of the need is technically deficient, or that approval of the needs application would not be in the public interest.

25. The Commission notes that 22 parties filed submissions that raised issues addressing site-specific impacts to their properties.

26. The Commission notes that the City of Red Deer withdrew its submission on February 8, 2012, and, consequently, no further determination is required with respect to the issues raised in that submission.

27. The Commission notes that seven of the interested parties raised issues other than issues that address site specific impacts to their properties, and observes that some of these issues may be potentially relevant to the need for the facilities upgrades.

28. As noted in paragraph 9 above, the Commission provided clear direction in the pre-hearing notice that if issues relevant to the determination of needs application were not raised by the interested parties, the Commission may determine that a public hearing is not required.

29. The Commission is of the view that sufficient notice was given to interested parties to provide a list of issues that they intended to address at the hearing as well as clarification as to whether they intended to call expert evidence. The pre-hearing notice stated that parties intending to participate in the public hearing with respect to this matter should be present at the pre-hearing conference and should file a list of issues, not to exceed two pages in length, on or before February 2, 2012.

² See transcript of pre-hearing conference, discussion between the Vice Chair and counsel for the AESO at page 10, line 18 to page 12, line 10; particularly, page 12, lines 12-19.

30. No statements of issues were received prior to the February 2, 2012 date, with the exception of the submission from the City of Red Deer. Further, no interested party appeared in person or by proxy at the pre-hearing conference.

31. The Commission is of the view that an oral public hearing is not required with respect to this matter in light of the lack of interest to date from the public, and that a written hearing process will be a fair and transparent way to ensure that all relevant evidence is in front of the Commission before it makes a decision as to whether to approve the needs identification document or not.

4 Pre-hearing conference decision

32. The Commission finds that sufficient notice of the pre-hearing conference was provided to the public, through the mail-out of the pre-hearing notice to approximately 94,400 households and the publication of the pre-hearing notice in 15 local newspapers.

33. The Commission is of the view that its expectation was clear in the pre-hearing notice, that parties who wished to participate in a formal public hearing were to provide a list of issues they intended to address and attend the pre-hearing conference.

34. Only the City of Red Deer provided a list of issues in response to the pre-hearing notice. None of the interested parties attended the pre-hearing conference. No other members of the public attended the pre-hearing conference.

35. The City of Red Deer withdrew its statement of intent to participate prior to the pre-hearing conference. Other parties may have been satisfied that their concerns with regard to the need application were addressed prior to the pre-hearing conference.³ The Commission notes that no party, other than the City of Red Deer, contacted the Commission to discuss why they, or their representative, would not or could not attend the pre-hearing conference.

36. The Commission relied upon the information submitted by interested parties prior to the pre-hearing conference to determine whether any issues raised were relevant to the determination of the needs application.

37. Since some of the interested parties touched upon matters that may be relevant to the Commission's consideration of the application, the Commission has determined that a hearing process is appropriate. However, given the lack of interest of the public and the interested parties in attending the public oral proceedings offered by the Commission, the Commission has decided that it will determine the application utilizing a written process rather than an oral public hearing.

³ Counsel for the AESO stated at the pre-hearing conference that the AESO had been continuing its consultation efforts by attempting to address concerns raised by the registered parties through personal contact at page 8, lines 12-20 of the transcript of the pre-hearing conference.

38. The schedule for the written process will be as follows:

- a) Submissions or evidence from any of the interested parties who wish to participate further must be filed with the Commission in writing by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 23, 2012.
- b) The AESO will have until 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2012, to respond to interested parties' submissions or evidence, including any information found in the submissions filed before the pre-hearing conference.
- c) If the Commission desires further evidence or argument, it will communicate with interested parties and the AESO on or before Friday, April 13, 2012.

39. The Commission will finalize its own review of the application and supporting documentation and utilizing the written hearing process set out above, will proceed to determine this matter.

Dated on March 2, 2012.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Carolyn Dahl Rees
Vice-Chair

Appendix A – Notice of pre-hearing conference and hearing

[\(return to text\)](#)



Appendix A to
Decision 2012-057.pc

(consists of 7 pages)

Notice of Pre-Hearing Conference and Hearing

Proceeding ID No. 1368

Application No. 1607507
Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)
Red Deer Region Transmission System Development
Needs Identification Document Application

This notice contains important dates and information for participating in the proceeding.

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) is a quasi-judicial regulatory body responsible for making decisions about utility-related applications, such as building transmission lines, substations and power plants. The AUC is also responsible for making decisions about the need for some transmission system developments, including the need for new or rebuilt transmission lines and substations.

The AESO is responsible for planning electric facility development in Alberta. The AESO filed a needs identification document (NID) registered as Application No. 1607507 with the Commission on July 20, 2011 pursuant to Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act* and Section 38 of the *Transmission Regulation*. In the NID, the AESO identifies the need for development and describes the proposed solution with respect to the electric system in the Red Deer region of Alberta to serve the existing and forecasted loads in the region.

The NID application deals only with the need for and the proposed solution to develop the transmission reinforcement, not the construction of the facilities. The construction of transmission lines and facilities requires a separate application to the AUC by the transmission facility operator, which is AltaLink Management Ltd., for these facilities.

The AUC is now reviewing the AESO's need application to ensure it is complete. An application is complete once the Commission ensures that it includes all of the information necessary in relation to the technical requirements of AUC Rule 007: *Rules Respecting Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, and Industrial System Designations*, as well as other information requirements. If necessary, the AUC may request additional information from the applicant to ensure the application is complete before further steps are taken.

In this application the AESO reported various options which it had considered to develop the transmission system in the Red Deer region. Of these options, the AESO selected a two-stage approach as detailed below to implement the development. A map is attached to illustrate the proposed development. The map shows general areas where the AESO has identified the need

for potential transmission system developments. This map is not intended to show the actual line routes or substation locations. The exact location of all potential transmission system developments will be addressed by the facility applications.

Stage One – The target in-service date for the proposed reinforcements in Stage One is between the fourth quarter of 2012 and 2014.

1. New 240/138-kV substations and associated transmission lines:

- a. Build a new substation in the Didsbury area and connect to transmission line 918L. Install a 240/138-kV, 200-megavolt-ampere (MVA) transformer in the substation. Add new 138 kV line segments to re-terminate the existing transmission lines from the existing Didsbury 152S substation to the new Didsbury substation
- b. Build a new substation in the Innisfail area and connect to transmission line 929L. Install a 240/138-kV, 200MVA transformer in the substation. Add a new double-circuit 138-kV transmission line from the substation to the Innisfail 214S substation
- c. Build a new substation in the Ponoka area and connect to transmission line 910L. Install a 240/138-kV, 200MVA transformer in the substation. Add a new double-circuit 138-kV transmission line from the substation to the Ponoka 331S substation

2. Additions or modifications to existing substations:

- a. Add a second 240/138-kV, 200-MVA transformer and associated equipment at Benalto 17S substation
- b. Modify the existing 138-kV buswork and add switchgear equipment at Gaetz 87S substation and North Red Deer 217S substation to facilitate the separation of transmission lines 768L and 778L.
- c. Add switchgears at the existing Innisfail 214S, Ellis 332S, NE Lacombe 212S and Ponoka 331S substations in order to terminate new transmission lines from the new 240-kV substations
- d. Install one 50-megavolt-ampere reactive (MVar), 138-kV capacitor bank and associated equipment at each of Joffre 535S and Prentiss 276S substations. Install a 25-MVar, 138-kV capacitor bank and associated equipment at Ellis 332S substation

3. New 138-kv transmission line developments:

- a. Build approximately 20 km of transmission line from NE Lacombe 212S substation to Ellis 332S substation.

4. Rebuild existing 138-kV transmission lines by using larger conductors or splitting to increase the capacity of the line:

- a. Re-build approximately five km of the 80L transmission line from South Red Deer 194S substation to North Red Deer 217S substation, and an additional five km of line from South Red Deer 194S to Red Deer 63S substations

- b. Re-build approximately 35 km of 648L transmission line from Red Deer 63S substation to Sylvan Lake 580S substation and 637L from Sylvan Lake 580S substation to Benalto 17S substation
- c. Re-build approximately 45 km of the 755L transmission line from Red Deer 63S substation to Piper Creek 247S substation to Joffre 535S substation
- d. Split transmission lines 768L and 778L between the North Red Deer 217S and Gaetz 87S substations to create two separate circuits

5. Discontinue operation, decommission and salvage existing substation and 138-kV transmission lines:

- a. existing Didsbury 152S substation and associated infrastructure
- b. approximately 40 km of transmission line 716L from Wetaskiwin 40S substation to Ponoka 331S substation; approximately 30 km of transmission line 80L from West Lacombe 958S substation to Ponoka 331S substation; and approximately 25 km of transmission line 80L from Innisfail 214S substation to Red Deer 63S substation.

Stage Two – The target in-service date for the proposed reinforcements in Stage Two is 2017 when the forecasted peak load in the region is expected to reach approximately 825MW.

1. Rebuild existing 138-kV transmission lines:

Rebuild approximately 20 km of transmission line from Harmattan 256S substation to the new substation in the Didsbury area using larger conductors to increase the capacity of the line

Pre-hearing conference:

The AUC will hold a pre-hearing conference with respect to this application as follows:

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, February 9 , 2012	Commencing at 9 a.m.	Black Knight Inn 2929 50 Avenue Red Deer, AB T4R 1H1

The purpose of the pre-hearing conference is to assist the Commission in defining the issues for hearing that are relevant to the need for and the proposed solution to develop the transmission reinforcement.

Attendance at the pre-hearing conference should include all counsel and all interveners who expect to attend the hearing and present evidence.

The Commission requests that anyone who intends to participate in the hearing submit a list of the issues you intend to address, including whether you intend to call expert witnesses in addition to providing personal testimony **before February 2, 2012**. It is expected that this list of issues will not exceed two pages.

Please include the following information with your submission:

- Your name or organization name, address, telephone number and email address.
- Whether you will be represented by a representative or legal counsel and, if so, the name, address, telephone number and email address of that representative.
- The legal land description of your property.
- The list of your issues
- The nature and scope of your issues:
 - whether you (or your representative) will attend the hearing in **Red Deer, Alberta**
 - whether you (or your representative) intend to cross-examine the applicants' witnesses

Public hearing:

The Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the application. However, the Commission may determine that a hearing is not required after hearing from counsel and the other interested parties at the pre-hearing conference, if it is apparent that there are no issues relevant to the NID approval application to be determined at a public hearing.

Particulars of the public hearing, should it be necessary to hold a public hearing, are detailed as follows:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, June 5 , 2012*	Commencing at 9 a.m. daily	Black Knight Inn 2929 50 Avenue Red Deer, AB T4R 1H1

*The hearing has been tentatively scheduled for four full days. Depending on the evidence and number of participants in the hearing, the second, third and fourth days may not be necessary.

Please note that the applicants and interveners must appear before the Commission at the commencement of the hearing on **Tuesday, June 5, 2012.**

Public information session:

The Commission will hold an information session to explain the hearing process. **The merits of the application will not be discussed at that time.**

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, January 25, 2012	Commencing at 7 p.m.	Black Knight Inn 2929 50 Avenue Red Deer, AB T4R 1H1

Participating in the hearing:

Any person with an interest in, concerns about, or objections to the application must file a submission with the Commission in accordance with Section 24 of AUC Rule 001: *Rules of Practice*. If all concerns and objections received by the Commission are withdrawn by interveners prior to the start of the hearing, the AUC may cancel the hearing.

If you intend to present written evidence, in addition to the list of issues, at the hearing, you **must submit that written evidence to the AUC prior to the hearing**. Written evidence can be reports prepared by experts or written information (including maps, charts, photographs and narrative statements) prepared by an intervener personally. The **deadline for filing written evidence** is **April 12, 2012**, as indicated in the schedule and process section below. Any report that was prepared by an expert, and which is being filed in support of an intervener's position, must clearly state the qualifications of the expert who prepared the report and the name of the person who directed that the report was to be prepared. Evidence prepared by an intervener personally should indicate that fact clearly. Please be aware that the author of any report or other written evidence that an intervener expects the Commission to rely upon must be present and available at the hearing to be cross-examined.

Submissions should be filed using the Digital Data Submission system accessible from the E-Filing Services on our website. When uploading your submission through the DDS system, select Procedural Submission from the submission type pull-down menu. When uploading documentary evidence, select Intervener Evidence from the submission type pull-down menu.

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 our website. For assistance with E-Filing Services contact the AUC at 780-643-1055.

If you are unable to upload your submission you can send an electronic version by email to the AUC at filings@auc.ab.ca with the subject: Proceeding ID No. 1368 or mail a copy to the AUC:

The Alberta Utilities Commission
Facilities Division – Re: Proceeding ID No. 1368
Fifth Avenue Place
Fourth Floor, 425 First Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3L8

Persons with standing may qualify for intervener funding to assist with presenting their interests in a well-prepared, well-reasoned and well-documented way. Details on intervener funding are specified in AUC Rule 009: *Rules on Local Intervener Costs* and summarized in the *Local Intervener Costs Brochure* available in the Newsroom section of our website.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

Documents that you file in this proceeding will be placed on the public record. If your documents do not contain personal information, the general public will have access to your documents through the AUC website. If your documents do contain personal information, only individuals and organizations who register to participate in this proceeding will have access to your documents. If you do not want your documents placed on the public record, before you file your documents, you must apply for a confidential ruling under Section 13 of the AUC Rule 001: *Rules of Practice*.

The AUC will only collect and use your personal information for the purposes of this proceeding. The AUC's legal authority to collect your personal information for this proceeding is Section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Schedule and process:

The Commission has established the following process to deal with the application:

<i>Process step</i>	<i>Date</i>
Information session	January 25, 2012
List of issues from interveners	February 2 , 2012
Pre-hearing Conference	February 9,2012
Pre-hearing Decision	March 1, 2012
Information requests (questions) to applicant from interveners	March 15, 2012
Responses from applicant to questions from interveners	March 29, 2012
Filing of hearing evidence from interveners	April 12, 2012
Information requests to interveners	April 26, 2012
Responses from interveners to information requests	May 10, 2012
Filing of reply evidence by applicant	May 22, 2012
Commence hearing (9:00 am)	June 5 , 2012

Additional information:

Details of the application are available on the AUC website (www.auc.ab.ca) through the Electronic Filing Services link found on the home page, followed by using the Proceeding Search link and entering Proceeding ID No. 1368 or by using the following URL:

https://www.auc.ab.ca/eub/dds/eps_Query/ProceedingDetail.aspx?ProceedingId=1368

To obtain detailed application information or a paper copy of the application, contact the applicant as follows:

Alberta Electric System Operator
2500, 330 Fifth Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0L4
Attention: Nicole Weigel
Telephone: 403-539-2874
Facsimile: 403-539-2949
Email: need.applications@aes0.ca

AUC contact information:

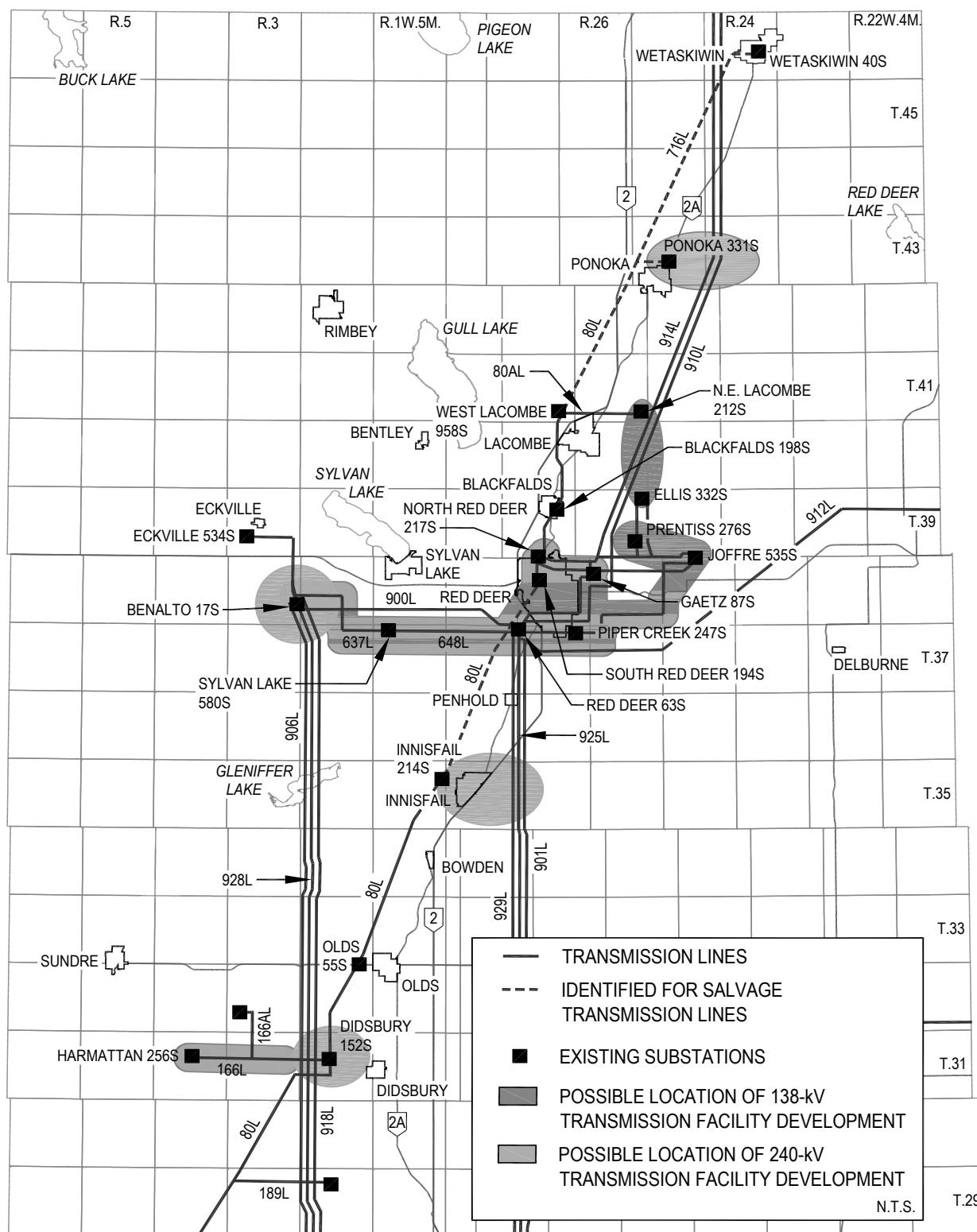
For information about AUC procedures, contact the lead application officer as follows:

Sophie Jiang
Facilities Division
Telephone:403-592-4418
Email: sophie.jiang@auc.ab.ca

Issued on December 16, 2011

The Alberta Utilities Commission
Douglas A. Larder, QC, General Counsel

Red Deer Region Transmission Development Project Map



Note: This map shows the general areas where the AESO has identified the need for potential transmission system developments. This map does not identify the actual line routes and substation locations. This map is based on information supplied in the application.