

Alberta Transmission Siting Information

General Information:

All transmission line project must obtain a permit from the Alberta Utilities Commission. [Hydro and Electric Energy Act Part 2 §14](#). Need is determined under the Electric Utilities Act.

Siting Entities:

Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)

Authorizations Needed:

Permit issued by the AUC.

Planning:

“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

- 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;
- describes a need for improved efficiency of the transmission system, including means to reduce losses on the interconnected electric system, or
- describes a need to respond to requests for system access service.”
[Electric Utilities Act §34\(1\)](#).

The ISO may “direct the owner of a transmission facility to submit, for Commission approval under the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, a transmission facility proposal to meet the need identified.” [Electric Utilities Act §35\(1\)](#).

General Siting Process:

The AUC is required to make a decision on a permit in a timely manner, within 180 days if possible. [Hydro and Electric Energy Act 15.2\(1\)](#). If the AUC cannot make its decision within 180 days it must inform the applicant of the reasons why it has not made its decision and give an estimated date for the decision. [Hydro and Electric Energy Act 15.2\(2\)\(a\)](#). The AUC must then make a decision within 90 days. [Hydro and Electric Energy Act 15.2\(2\)\(b\)](#).

If the ISO submits a needs identification document that concerns the same transmission line project proposal for which a permit is being sought, the two may be combined into one decision. [Hydro and Electric Energy Act 15.4](#).

“When the Commission is considering an application for an approval, permit or licence under this Part in respect of a transmission line or part of a transmission line that has the potential to meet a need identified in a needs identification document that has been approved by the Commission under section 34(1) of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the Commission shall take into account a certification by the Independent System Operator that the technical aspects of the application meet the requirements set out in the needs identification document.” [Hydro and Electric Energy Act 15.1](#).

“Subject to the approval of the Minister responsible for the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, the Commission may make regulations as to the measures to be taken in the construction, operation or abandonment of any power plant or transmission line for the control of pollution and ensuring environment conservation.” [Hydro and Electric Energy Act 5\(4\)](#).