

# Notice of hearing

## Berland River Transmission Connection Project

### The Alberta Electric System Operator and AltaLink Management Ltd. have filed applications for transmission development in the Fox Creek area

#### Proceeding 29355

#### Applications 29355-A001 to 29355-A008

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC), the independent utilities regulator, will be considering the electric transmission development applications in Proceeding 29355. If you feel you may be affected by these applications, you can provide input to the AUC to review before it makes its decision.

**Written evidence is due March 26, 2025.**

**A virtual oral hearing is scheduled to commence on May 27, 2025, at 9 a.m.**

The Alberta Electric System Operator has applied for approval, under the *Electric Utilities Act*, for the need to connect NGTL GP Ltd.'s approved Berland River compressor station to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.

AltaLink Management Ltd. has filed applications under the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* to meet the need identified by the Alberta Electric System Operator. AltaLink has applied to construct and operate a new 138-kilovolt (kV) substation, designated as Berland River 1182S; a new 138-kV switching station, designated as Pine Creek 328S; and approximately 59 kilometres of 138-kV transmission line, designated as Transmission Line 620L, which would connect the Berland River 1182S Substation to the Pine Creek 328S Switching Station. The proposed facilities are located approximately 25 kilometres south of Fox Creek in the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16, Yellowhead County and Woodlands County. AltaLink has proposed a preferred and an alternate route for the transmission line. The Commission may approve or deny either of the proposed routes.

In addition, AltaLink has applied to:

- Construct approximately 100 metres of 138-kV transmission lines, designated as 614L and 685L, to create a new in-and-out configuration to connect the existing Transmission Line 685L to the proposed Pine Creek 328S Switching Station.

- Modify a short segment of the existing Transmission Line 685L from an overhead shield wire to an overhead fibre optic cable.
- Install a new 138-kV circuit breaker and associated equipment at the existing Benbow 397S Substation.
- Re-route a short section of existing Transmission Line 714L to a new termination circuit breaker at the existing Benbow 397S Substation.

The map included in this notice identifies the location of the proposed facilities.

### **Additional information about the applications**

The applications and any associated documents are publicly available and can be accessed from the eFiling System on the AUC website [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca). Alternatively, for more information about what is being applied for, or for a copy of the applications, please contact:

|                                                                     |                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alberta Electric System Operator                                    | AltaLink Management Ltd.                                                  |
| Brenda Hill                                                         | Nora Panahi                                                               |
| Phone: 403-539-2850                                                 | Phone: 403-267-5909                                                       |
| Email: <a href="mailto:brenda.hill@aeso.ca">brenda.hill@aeso.ca</a> | Email: <a href="mailto:regulatory@altalink.ca">regulatory@altalink.ca</a> |

If you intend to present evidence at the hearing, you must be present at the commencement of the hearing and submit written evidence by **March 26, 2025**.

For more information about participating in this proceeding contact:

Kyle Surgenor at 403-592-4386 or email your questions to [kyle.surgenor@auc.ab.ca](mailto:kyle.surgenor@auc.ab.ca).

### **New participant registrations**

If you wish to participate in this proceeding, please visit our website and log in to the eFiling System, go to Proceeding 29355, and register to participate under the “registered parties” tab. For guidance on how to use the eFiling System, please visit [www.auc.ab.ca/how-to-use-efiling](http://www.auc.ab.ca/how-to-use-efiling). Alternatively, please contact us at 310-4AUC (310-4282) in Alberta or [info@auc.ab.ca](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca) for more information or assistance with filing a statement of intent to participate. The lead application officer, Kyle Surgenor, can also be contacted at [kyle.surgenor@auc.ab.ca](mailto:kyle.surgenor@auc.ab.ca) or 403-592-4386.

Statements of intent to participate must include your name, address, phone number, legal land location, description of your land in relation to the proposed development and a description of your interest in the land, your business, or your activities which may be affected by the proposed project. Please also briefly describe the issues you would like the AUC to consider when making its decision.

The AUC must consider the Alberta Electric System Operator’s assessment of the need to be correct unless someone satisfies the Commission that the needs application is technically deficient, or that to approve it would be contrary to the public interest.

### **Participant information session**

Should a party request one, the AUC will hold an information session to provide information about how you may become involved in this proceeding and the funding which may be available to you to support your position, which includes costs for legal representation and expert witnesses. To request an information session, please contact Kyle Surgenor at [kyle.surgenor@auc.ab.ca](mailto:kyle.surgenor@auc.ab.ca) or 403-592-4386 by **February 26, 2025**.

### **Privacy**

To support an open and transparent process, information you send to the AUC will be publicly available to anyone registered in this proceeding. If there is confidential information you would like to file, a request must be made in advance of filing this information.

### **Participating in the hearing**

The virtual oral hearing will be held remotely using a video conferencing platform. Participants are responsible for ensuring that they have access to all documentary evidence filed on the record of the proceeding, either through the eFiling System or in their preferred format. Further information about the virtual hearing process will be issued separately.

If you intend to present evidence at the hearing, you must be present at the commencement of the hearing and submit written evidence by **March 26, 2025**. Your written evidence should include your statement about your intended level of participation and include whether you or your representative will:

- Attend the hearing.
- Cross-examine any of the applicant's witness panels.

Written evidence can be reports prepared by experts or written information (including maps, charts, photographs and narrative statements) prepared by an intervener personally, and clearly identified as such. 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 and the name of the intervener who directed that the report was to be prepared. Please be aware that the author of any report or other written evidence that an intervener expects the Commission to rely upon must be available to be cross-examined at the hearing.

### **Alternative ways for Indigenous elders and community members to present oral evidence**

The Alberta Utilities Commission has granted standing to Swan River First Nation, Driftpile Cree Nation and Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Association. The Commission is interested in whether these groups anticipate having elders, knowledge holders and/or community members provide oral evidence to the Commission, and if so whether there are cultural protocols that should be followed or accommodations that would help them feel more comfortable. For example, the Commission is able to hold Indigenous knowledge sessions to facilitate the provision of evidence in a manner that respects and upholds traditional knowledge sharing protocols.

The Commission asks parties who are interested in any additional or alternative process steps to identify this to the Commission by **March 5, 2025**. Depending on the requests received, the Commission may modify the process schedule or organize a technical session between parties to finalize logistics.

### **Participation by NGTL GP Ltd.**

The Alberta Utilities Commission has granted standing to NGTL. NGTL has status as an intervener to express its support of the applications. The Commission expects to ask information requests of NGTL regarding the basis for its system access service request. Given that NGTL's interest in this proceeding aligns with that of the applicants, the Commission will not permit NGTL to ask information requests of the applicants. NGTL may file intervener evidence by the March 26, 2025, deadline, and ask information requests of the other interveners, should it so choose.

### **Summarized process schedule**

The Commission has established the following process to consider the applications:

| <b>Process step</b>                                                                                                             | <b>Date*</b>         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Information requests (questions) from AUC and interveners to applicants and NGTL                                                | March 5, 2025        |
| Parties to file requests for additional process steps or accommodations (technical meeting, Indigenous knowledge session, etc.) | March 5, 2025        |
| Applicants and NGTL's deadline to respond to information requests                                                               | March 12, 2025       |
| Interveners' written evidence deadline                                                                                          | March 26, 2025       |
| Information requests (questions) on intervener evidence                                                                         | April 9, 2025        |
| Intervener's deadline to respond to information requests                                                                        | April 23, 2025       |
| Applicants' reply evidence deadline                                                                                             | May 7, 2025          |
| Virtual hearing test session                                                                                                    | May 20, 2025, 2 p.m. |
| Commencement of hearing                                                                                                         | May 27, 2025, 9 a.m. |

\* All submissions are due by 4 p.m.

The Commission is expecting a high number of hearings throughout the spring and summer. Parties should notify the Commission of any scheduling constraints as early as possible.

Issued on February 21, 2025.

Alberta Utilities Commission

