

# Types of utility development projects

## Electric transmission development projects:

### 1. Need for electric transmission facilities:

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is the independent agency responsible for planning and operating the Alberta Interconnected Electric System, the province-wide electric system. As the planner and operator of the system, the AESO evaluates the requirements of the electric transmission system. If the AESO determines that expansion or enhancement of the transmission system is required to meet the needs of Albertans it applies to the AUC for approval of a needs identification document. The public is notified that the needs application has been received and they can contribute to this review.

The AUC must consider the AESO's assessment of the need to be correct unless someone satisfies the AUC that the needs application is technically deficient, or that to approve it would be contrary to the public interest.

### 2. Electric transmission facilities:

When the AESO identifies a need for modifications to existing electric transmission components or the need to build additional power lines or substations, it assigns the project to a transmission facility owner.

This transmission facility owner then must look at the technical requirements in the needs identification document and begin to work on proposed developments to meet the need identified by the AESO.

This is the phase where the types and specific locations of new transmission facilities are evaluated and proposed to Alberta residents through the

required participant involvement program, which is specified in AUC Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*.

After the application is filed, the AUC notifies the public through mailed public notices and sometimes through newspaper advertisements as well.

The AUC can consider need and facility applications at the same time through a single proceeding.

### Natural gas transmission projects:

Gas utility pipeline companies must submit an application to the AUC for the construction, operation or modification of gas utility pipelines as specified in Rule 007. The gas utility company is also required to conduct a participant involvement program and advise all local residents within a specified area of the proposed development. The AUC will then notify local residents upon submission of the application.

### Power generation applications:

The AUC determines whether the application is in the public interest, with specific focus on environmental, economic and social considerations and it ensures opportunities for public input.

The siting (or location) of the power generating facility is subject to Rule 007. The applicant must conduct participant involvement programs and obtain an approval from the AUC before construction.

The generation of power within Alberta is deregulated and there is no requirement for the AUC or the AESO to determine whether power generation is needed or where it is needed.