

December 16, 2020

To: Parties currently registered in Proceeding 25469

**Alberta Electric System Operator
Central East Transfer-out Transmission Development Project Needs Identification Document
Proceeding 25469
Application 25469-A001**

**ATCO Electric Ltd.
Central East Transfer-out Transmission Development Project Facility Applications
Proceeding 25469
Applications 25469-A002 to 25469-A007**

**AltaLink Management Ltd.
Central East Transfer-out Transmission Development Project Facility Applications
Proceeding 25469
Applications 25469-A008 to 25469-A010**

Ruling on standing

1. In this ruling, the Alberta Utilities Commission determines the standing of additional members of the Landowners Opposed to Route C group to participate in a public hearing in which the Commission will consider an application by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) for approval of a needs identification document (NID), and facility applications by ATCO Electric Ltd. and AltaLink Management Ltd. for the Central East Transfer-out (CETO) Transmission Development Project. The CETO project would run east of Red Deer, Alberta to the Halkirk, Alberta area.
2. The Commission granted standing to the Landowners Opposed to Route C group on November 18, 2020. On December 14, 2020, the group's representative, Daryl Bennett, submitted statements of intent to participate on behalf of Brian and Antoinette Laughlin, Taylor and Katie Hunt, Terry and Joan Rushton, Melanie and Michael Gish and Rhonda Walgenbach. Daryl Bennett also stated that Jason and Shauna Felzien, who previously filed a statement of intent to participate, had joined the Landowners Opposed to Route C group.¹
3. Persons who have demonstrated that they have rights that may be directly and adversely affected by the Commission's decision on the applications are legally entitled to participate in the hearing. This permission to participate is referred to as standing.
4. The Commission has authorized me to communicate its decision on standing of the additional members of the Landowners Opposed to Route C group.

¹ Jason Felzien was granted standing on November 18, 2020.

Ruling

5. The Commission is satisfied that Brian and Antoinette Laughlin, Taylor and Katie Hunt, Terry and Joan Rushton, Melanie and Michael Gish, and Rhonda Walgenbach have demonstrated that they have legal rights that may be directly and adversely affected by the Commission's decision on the applications and grants them standing. The aforementioned persons own, reside on or occupy property located within 800 metres of the finalized right-of-way of the proposed routes. The potential effects described by these persons include visual impacts, impacts on wildlife and the environment, impacts on recreation, impacts on property value, safety impacts, agricultural impacts and impacts to water supply. In addition to site specific impacts, concerns were also raised with the need for the project and its potential affect on electricity rates in Alberta.

6. In addition, and consistent with its past practice, the Commission will exercise its discretion to allow participation in the proceeding by other individuals not identified in this ruling and its ruling of November 18, 2020 who indicate that they intend to participate as a member of the Landowners Opposed to Route C group.

Costs eligibility

7. Persons who have been granted standing in the facility applications fall within the definition of "local intervener" in Section 22 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act* and are therefore eligible to file a costs claim seeking recovery of the costs of their participation in this proceeding in accordance with the Commission's Rule 009: *Rules on Local Intervener Costs*.

8. The Landowners Opposed to Route C group is eligible to potentially recover the costs incurred to represent those of its members that have been granted standing in this proceeding and have authorized the landowner group to represent them. In other words, the group's eligibility to make a local intervener costs claim is entirely dependent on it representing a person who is a local intervener. The Landowners Opposed to Route C group may not be eligible for honoraria and personal disbursements associated with members who have not been determined to have standing.

9. The Commission emphasizes that eligibility to claim costs does not guarantee full recovery of those costs. Any claims for costs must be filed after this proceeding is concluded, in accordance with Rule 009, and cost recovery is subject to the Commission assessing the value of a party's contribution to the proceeding. The Commission encourages parties with similar interests and positions to work together to ensure that any expenditures are minimized and costs are not duplicated.

Further process

10. In accordance with the Commission's November 18, 2020 ruling on the AESO's request to extend the deadline for responses to intervener information requests, the revised process schedule is set out below for convenience:

Process step	Date
AESO technical session	December 8, 2020
Intervenors' information requests (questions) to applicants	December 17, 2020
Applicants' deadline to respond to information requests	January 20, 2021
Motion day to address outstanding information request issues	February 3, 2021
Intervenors' written evidence deadline	February 17, 2021
Information requests to intervenors	February 26, 2021
Intervenors' deadline to respond to information requests	March 12, 2021
Applicants' reply evidence deadline	March 22, 2021
Commencement of hearing	March 31, 2021

11. Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at 403-592-4360 or by email at rob.watson@auc.ab.ca.

Yours truly,

Rob Watson
Commission Counsel
Facilities Division