



EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc.

Fibre Optic Cable FO-132

August 30, 2022

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 27472-D01-2022

EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc.

Fibre Optic Cable FO-132

Proceeding 27472

Application 27472-A001

August 30, 2022

Published by the:

Alberta Utilities Commission

Eau Claire Tower

1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W.

Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5

Telephone: 310-4AUC (310-4282) in Alberta

1-833-511-4AUC (1-833-511-4282) outside Alberta

Email: info@auc.ab.ca

Website: www.auc.ab.ca

The Commission may, no later than 60 days of the date of this decision and without notice, correct typographical, spelling and calculation errors and other similar types of errors and post the corrected decision on its website.

1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves an application from EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc. (EDTI), to construct a fibre optic telecommunications cable, designated as FO-132.

2 Application

2. EDTI owns fibre optic cables FO-26 and FO-66, which connect the Garneau and Rosedale substations in Edmonton. EDTI stated that in recent years the remaining overall capacity of the cables has reduced to less than 20 per cent. Further, should one of the cables fail, the remaining cable would not have sufficient capacity to provide the required teleprotection functions. EDTI submitted that it is required to mitigate the risk as well as satisfy the 99.99 per cent availability requirement of ISO Rules *Interconnected Electric System Protection Requirements*, Section 502.3, subsection 23.

3. EDTI applied to construct and operate an approximately 4.4-kilometre fibre optic cable, designated as FO-132, between the Rosedale and Garneau substations to address the capacity and availability risk. EDTI stated that the cost to construct Fibre Optic Cable FO-132 was previously included in its 2020-2022 tariff application and approved in Decision 24798-D01-2020.¹ EDTI explained that the project was delayed as the initial routing was too similar to the existing path for fibre optic cables FO-26 and FO-66 and due to a risk of subsurface disturbances around the Walterdale Bridge. Instead, EDTI proposed the following for Fibre Optic Cable FO-132:

- Cleaning and preparing one kilometre of existing conduit from the Rosedale Substation to cross under the North Saskatchewan River.
- Installing one kilometre of underground conduit utilizing horizontal direction drilling to connect two existing manholes in the North Saskatchewan River Valley area.
- Installing 2.4 kilometres of fibre optic cable underground through existing manholes from the North Saskatchewan River Valley area to the Garneau Substation, as well as installing fibre optic cable underground in the conduit from the Rosedale Substation under the North Saskatchewan River and through the North Saskatchewan River Valley.

¹ Decision 24798-D01-2020: EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc. – 2020-2022 Transmission Facility Owner Tariff Application, Proceeding 24798, April 17, 2020.

3 Findings

4. For the reasons outlined below, the Commission finds that approval of the proposed project is in the public interest having regard to the social, economic, and other effects of the project, including its effect on the environment.

5. The Commission has determined that the information requirements specified in Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines* have been met. The Commission finds that the fibre optic cable is necessary to satisfy ISO Rules *Interconnected Electric System Protection Requirements*, Section 502.3, subsection 23.

6. EDTI consulted with the City of Edmonton and notified stakeholders about the project. EDTI confirmed that there are no outstanding objections or concerns from stakeholders or interested parties regarding the project. The Commission accepts EDTI's assertion that there will be no impacts on directly adjacent stakeholders given that the project would be located on land owned by the City of Edmonton or by the Crown (crossing under the North Saskatchewan River) and finds that the participant involvement program for the proposed project meets the requirements of Rule 007. The Commission issued a notice of application; no submissions were received in response to the notice.

7. As the project occurs within existing disturbed areas and utility rights-of-way, the Commission agrees that significant impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat are not anticipated. Further, the project is primarily being constructed in residential areas in Edmonton, which limits the potential for environmental impacts. EDTI has consulted with the City of Edmonton and Alberta Environment and Parks on the portions of the project that would cross through the North Saskatchewan River Valley. The Commission finds that the project is unlikely to have any significant impact on the environment and wildlife.

8. The Commission is satisfied with EDTI's commitment² to include the construction of Fibre Optic Cable FO-132 in its Indigenous monitoring program and to consult with interested Indigenous nations and communities.³

9. Based on the foregoing, the Commission considers the application to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

² Exhibit 27472-X0041.01, EDTI-AUC-22JUL2022-001-003, PDF page 3.

³ Exhibit 27472-X0010, Appendix I - RS5_FO132_Indigenous Engagement.

4 Decision

10. Pursuant to sections 14 and 15 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application 27472-A001 and grants EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc. the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Telecommunications Facilities Permit and Licence 27472-D02-2022 to construct and operate Fibre Optic Cable FO-132 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on August 30, 2022.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Carolyn Dahl Rees
Chair