



**Alberta Electric System Operator  
Needs Identification Document Application**

**AltaLink Management Ltd.  
Facility Applications**

**Georgetown Solar Project Connection**

**October 26, 2023**

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 28327-D01-2023: Georgetown Solar Project Connection

Alberta Electric System Operator  
Needs Identification Document Application  
Proceeding 28327  
Application 28327-A001

AltaLink Management Ltd.  
Facility Applications  
Proceeding 28327  
Applications 28327-A002 to 28327-A005

October 26, 2023

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](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca)  
Website: [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca)

The Commission may, no later than 60 days from 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.

**Alberta Electric System Operator**  
**Needs Identification Document Application**

**AltaLink Management Ltd.**  
**Facility Applications**  
**Georgetown Solar Project Connection**

**Decision 28327-D01-2023**  
**Proceeding 28327**  
**Applications 28327-A001 to 28327-A005**

---

**1 Decision summary**

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves a needs identification document application from the Alberta Electric System Operator and transmission facility applications from AltaLink Management Ltd. for the proposed Georgetown Solar Project Connection. For the reasons that follow, the Commission finds that approval of the applications is in the public interest having regard to the social, economic, and other effects of the proposed facilities, including their effect on the environment.

**2 Applications**

2. Georgetown Solar Inc. previously received Commission approval to construct the Georgetown Solar + Energy Storage Project, which includes a solar power plant and battery energy storage system (the power plant) and the Mossleigh 1051S Substation.<sup>1</sup>

3. Building a new transmission facility in Alberta requires two applications. The first, a needs identification document application (needs application), is filed by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) explaining why a new transmission facility is required. The second, a facility application, is filed by a transmission facility owner proposing equipment to meet the AESO's identified need having regard for factors that include location, detailed design and routing considerations as well as consultation with potentially affected persons.

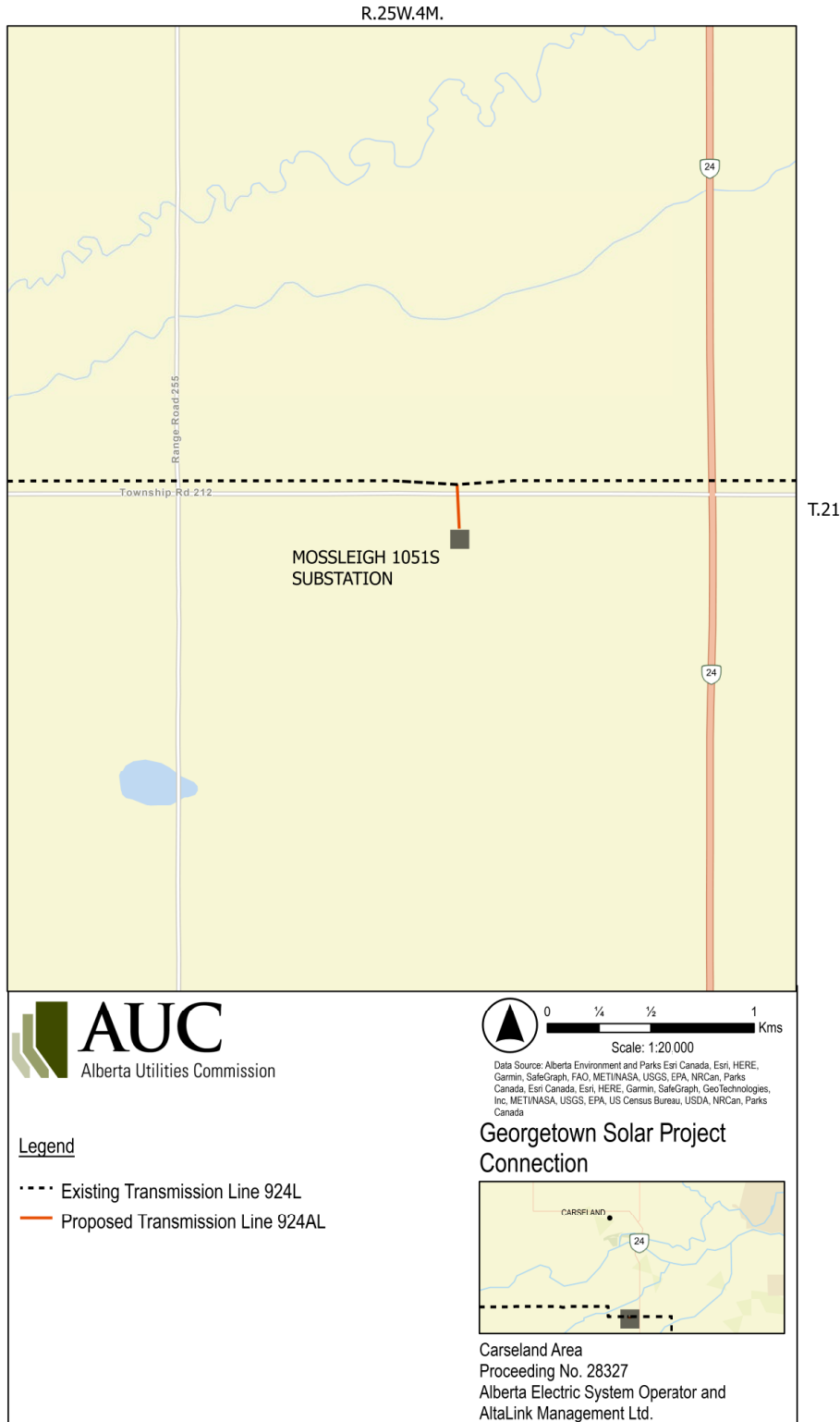
4. To connect the Georgetown Solar + Energy Storage Project to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System, the AESO filed a needs application and AltaLink Management Ltd. filed facility applications for approval to construct and operate the facilities to meet the need identified by the AESO. A map of the proposed facilities is shown in Figure 1.

5. Details of the needs application and facility applications and the Commission's reasons for approving them are addressed in the sections that follow.

---

<sup>1</sup> Power Plant Approval 27205-D02-2021, Proceeding 27205, Application 27205-A001, November 2, 2021, and Substation Permit and Licence 27205-D03-2021, Proceeding 27205, Application 27205-A002, November 2, 2021.

Figure 1. Georgetown Solar Project Connection



## 2.1 Alberta Electric System Operator needs identification document application

6. Under Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the AESO is required to submit a needs application when it determines that an expansion of the transmission system is required and to file that application with the Commission for approval. The needs application must describe what is driving the need for the expansion. In this case, the expansion arises from a request for system access service.

7. When considering whether to approve a needs application, the Commission must determine if the application has met the requirements of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the *Transmission Regulation*, and Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*. If the Commission determines that the requirements have been met, then the Commission must consider the needs application in accordance with Section 38 of the *Transmission Regulation*.

8. Subsection 38(e) of the *Transmission Regulation* requires the Commission to consider the AESO's assessment of the need to be correct unless an interested person satisfies it that the AESO's assessment of the need is technically deficient, or approval of the application is not in the public interest.

9. The AESO filed a needs application to add one 240-kilovolt (kV) circuit to connect the approved Mossleigh 1051S Substation to the existing Transmission Line 924L using a T-tap configuration.

10. The AESO stated that the proposed transmission development provides a reasonable opportunity for AltaLink to exchange electric energy and ancillary services and that the proposed transmission development is consistent with the AESO's long-term plans.

11. The Commission finds that the needs application contains all the information required by the *Electric Utilities Act*, the *Transmission Regulation* and Rule 007.

12. The AESO directed AltaLink to assist it in conducting a participant involvement program. The Commission has reviewed the joint participant involvement program and finds that it meets the requirements of Rule 007.

13. The AESO conducted studies to assess the impact the development and associated generation would have on the transmission system. The AESO's studies indicate that the connection may cause thermal violations, which may require generation to be curtailed. The probability of required pre-curtailment would depend on generation profiles and operating conditions. Closer to the in-service date, if the AESO determines that congestion will arise under Category A conditions, the AESO may make an application to the AUC to obtain approval for an "exception" under Section 15(2) of the *Transmission Regulation*.

14. The Commission finds that the AESO has filed all the relevant information required in the needs application. No interested person intervened in the proceeding to dispute the AESO's assessment of the need. Therefore, in accordance with subsection 38(e) of the *Transmission Regulation*, the Commission considers the AESO's assessment of the need to be correct and approves the AESO's needs application.

## 2.2 AltaLink Management Ltd. facility applications

15. To meet the need identified in the AESO's application, AltaLink filed facility applications, which proposed to:

- Modify two structures on the existing Transmission Line 924L and install a new steel lattice structure at the midspan of these two structures
- Construct approximately 150 metres of new 240-kV transmission line, designated as Transmission Line 924AL.
- Install a new telecommunications tower, up to 40 metres in height, within the Mossleigh 1051S Substation.

16. The Commission finds that the facility applications filed by AltaLink comply with the information requirements set out in Rule 007 and are consistent with the need identified by the AESO.

17. AltaLink submitted that it requires construction workspace and additional right-of-way in the southeast quarter of Section 17, Township 21, Range 25, west of the Fourth Meridian (SE-17-21-25-W4); the southwest quarter of Section 17, Township 21, Range 25, west of the Fourth Meridian (SW-17-21-25-W4); and the northeast quarter of Section 8, Township 21, Range 25, west of the Fourth Meridian. The impacted landowners on these quarter sections declined to consult with AltaLink on the project. AltaLink stated that these stakeholders were sent a letter, via registered mail, confirming that they declined to consult with AltaLink and asked that they contact AltaLink if they had any further questions or concerns.

18. The Commission issued a notice of applications and did not receive any statements of intent to participate. To better understand the impact on the landowners, the Commission issued an information request to clarify where AltaLink was proposing additional right-of-way. AltaLink clarified that the additional right-of-way is located in SW-17-21-25-W4 and SE-17-21-25-W4. No additional right-of-way is required on the north side of the existing right-of-way where these landowners are located.

19. The Commission considers that since the impacted landowners have been notified by AltaLink and by the Commission, it can be considered that the necessary information was provided to affected parties about the nature, details and potential impacts of the project. It can also be considered that the participant involvement program (PIP) gave potentially affected parties an opportunity to ask questions and express their concerns. Thus, the PIP guidelines of Rule 007 have been met and the Commission is satisfied that there are no outstanding concerns.

20. AltaLink retained Western EcoSystems Technology, ULC to prepare an environmental evaluation report to support the Georgetown Solar Project Connection. The environmental evaluation report stated that the project area is agricultural and the land is cultivated. It concluded that, with the mitigation measures proposed, any adverse effects associated with the construction and operation of the project will be non-significant. AltaLink has committed to adhere to its standard requirements<sup>2</sup> for soil handling. The Commission considers that given the scope of the project, project siting on agricultural land and AltaLink's commitment to follow its

<sup>2</sup> AL-ENV-6011: Soil Handling Standard and Procedure.

operational standards, the environmental effects due to the project will be limited. The Commission also notes that ephemeral water bodies are within 100 metres but not within the project footprint or temporary workspace. There is no overlap with native vegetation nor are there impacts to wetlands or water bodies.

21. The Commission considers that the incremental impacts on the environment and landowners would be minimal. The Commission notes that Transmission Line 924AL would be only 100 metres in length and would be located on the same quarter section of land where components of the power plant and the associated substation would be located. The proposed modifications to Transmission Line 924L will be on land that is already disturbed by the existing transmission line and the new right-of-way is an extension of the existing right-of-way into an adjacent road allowance. In addition, the proposed telecommunications tower will be installed within the fenced area of the already-approved Mossleigh 1051S Substation.

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

### **3 Decision**

23. The Commission approves the needs identification document application, Application 28327-A001, under Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act* and grants the Alberta Electric System Operator the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Needs Identification Document Approval 28327-D02-2023.

24. The Commission approves applications 28327-A002 to 28327-A005, under sections 14, 15, 18 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, and grants AltaLink Management Ltd. the following approvals:

- Transmission Line Permit and Licence 28327-D03-2023, to alter and operate Transmission Line 924L (Appendix 2).
- Transmission Line Permit and Licence 28327-D04-2023, to construct and operate Transmission Line 924AL (Appendix 3).
- Telecommunications Facilities Permit and Licence 28327-D05-2023, to construct and operate Telecommunication Tower 1051R (Appendix 4).
- Connection Order 28327-D06-2023, to connect Transmission Line 924AL to Georgetown Solar Inc.'s Mossleigh 1051S Substation (Appendix 5).

25. The appendixes will be distributed separately.

Dated on October 26, 2023.

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Matthew Oliver, CD  
Commission Member