

# ATCO

## SHAPE the conversation



August 2023

## GARNIER LAKES TRANSMISSION PROJECT

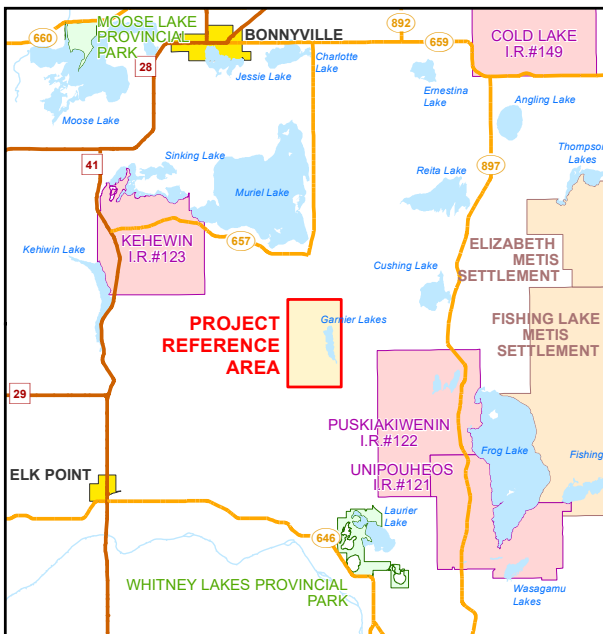
This newsletter provides you with information about electric transmission facilities being proposed in your area. This package provides important project information and outlines our public consultation process. We invite any comments, questions, or concerns you may have.

The proposed ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) Garnier Lakes Transmission Project (the Project) will be located approximately 26 kilometres (km) southeast of Bonnyville, Alberta and will connect a customer's generation facility to the electrical grid.

If approved, the Project will include the construction of approximately six km of single circuit 144 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (to be called 7LA53) which will connect the customer's substation to the existing 144 kV transmission line 7LA53 in a T-tap configuration. The portion of existing transmission line 7LA53 from the Lindbergh 969S substation to the proposed T-tap connection point will be renamed 7LC53.

The Project also required modifications to the existing transmission line to accommodate the T-tap connection of proposed transmission line 7LA53. Please refer to the technical details and proposed route mosaic map for further details.

If you are in the direct vicinity of the proposed facilities, ATCO will contact you in the coming weeks.



### Project Need

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for the safe, reliable and economic planning and operation of the provincial transmission grid. For more information about why this project is needed, please refer to the AESO's Need Overview included with this package or visit [www.aeso.ca](http://www.aeso.ca).

If you have any questions or concerns about the need for this project or the proposed transmission development to meet the need, you may contact the AESO directly. You can also make your questions or concerns known to an ATCO representative who will collect your personal information for the purpose of addressing your questions and/or concerns to the AESO. This process may include disclosure of your personal information to the AESO.

### Included in this package:

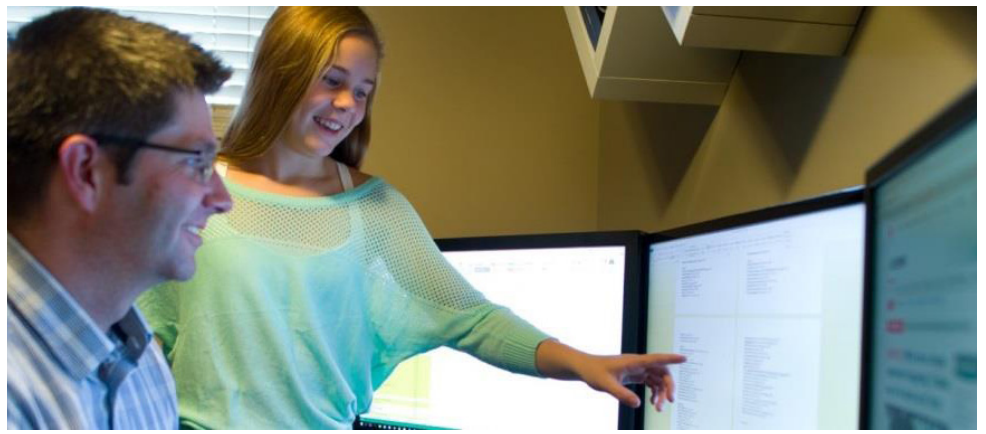
- Technical Details
- Route mosaic map
- AESO Need Overview
- AUC Brochure: *Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications*
- Reply form and postage paid envelope

## LOCAL BENEFITS

Upgrading the transmission system in your area will:

- Improve access to safe, secure and reliable power
- Allow future businesses to connect to Alberta's electric system
- Encourage investment in our province

If you are a local business and would like to be considered for approved vendors list, please contact us toll free at 1-800-668-2248.



## The Process

Our research indicates that you are in the vicinity of the proposed route concept for the Garnier Lakes Transmission Project.

In the coming weeks, if you have an interest in lands located on or beside the proposed route, you will be contacted by an ATCO representative to further discuss the project and to address any questions or concerns you may have. You can also provide feedback and share other information using the enclosed reply form and postage paid envelope.

Consultation with landholders routinely leads to improvements on our projects. We have adjusted project plans as a result of feedback and conversations with landholders.

When consultations have been completed, ATCO will submit a facility application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to obtain approval for the construction and operation of the proposed facilities.

## Transmission Routes

Prior to consultation with landholders, ATCO considers numerous constraints including:

- Environmentally sensitive areas
- Planned developments
- Construction and engineering constraints
- Existing infrastructure (i.e. other transmission lines, roads, highways, pipelines, telecommunication towers)
- Wetlands
- Quarter and section lines
- Other special consideration (i.e. access roads)

The enclosed map shows the proposed route for this project. Facilities have been located in an effort to minimize impacts to industrial operations, while also minimizing potential impacts to the environment.

## THE SCHEDULE

Public consultation begins sharing information about the project in order to find the best options.

We gather your input. Based on this input and other factors, route option(s) are selected.

ATCO submits an application to the AUC to build the proposed facilities.

The AUC reviews the application in a public process.

If approved, construction of the new facilities begins.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**  
a continuous process that occurs throughout the life of the project

## The Right-of-Way

The term right-of-way refers to the area a transmission line uses including areas on either side of the line. Rights-of-way must have a minimum width to ensure safety and ongoing access for maintenance.

For safety reasons, some general restrictions on the use of the land in direct vicinity of the transmission line may apply. These include setbacks for development.

Details including width and position of the right-of-way will depend on the type and size of the required structure, existing land use, surrounding features and other factors.

The right-of-way will follow property boundaries, if feasible, and in some situations, will follow existing features like a road, pipeline or another powerline.

The typical width of the right-of-way for this project is 18 metres (m). Additional land may be required on each side of the primary right-of-way for vegetation control.

Once a proposed route has been submitted to the AUC, ATCO begins coordinating agreements with the landholders to acquire right-of-way. Once a right-of-way is constructed, landholders continue to use the right-of-way subject to the terms of agreements made between the landholder and ATCO.

### Access Trails and Temporary Workspace

Access trails may be required in areas where terrain conditions or the presence of wetlands make driving along the right-of-way impractical.

In addition, temporary workspace may be required along the edge of the right-of-way and in other selected locations. The exact location of temporary workspaces has yet to be determined. Arrangements for temporary workspace will be discussed and negotiated with landholders individually.



### Project notification

AUGUST 2023

SEPTEMBER 2023  
Consultation  
begins

Application filed  
with the AUC

NOVEMBER 2023

NOVEMBER 2024  
If approval is granted,  
construction begins

Facilities completed  
and operating

APRIL 2025

# CONTACT INFORMATION

Your comments and concerns are important to us. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about this project or if you would like to share information with us.

- Call us toll free at: **1-855-420-5775** or
- Contact the planner directly

## Jenna Jewell

Land Planning  
ATCO Electric Ltd.  
10035-105 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5J 1C8

Email: [consultation@atcoelectric.com](mailto:consultation@atcoelectric.com)  
Website: [www.electric.atco.com](http://www.electric.atco.com)  
Fax: 780-420-5030

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## Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)

Phone: 1-888-866-2959  
Email: [stakeholder.relations@aesoc.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aesoc.ca)  
Website: [www.aesoc.ca](http://www.aesoc.ca)

## Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)

Phone: 780-427-4903  
(For toll-free, dial 310-0000 first)  
Email: [consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca](mailto:consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca)  
Website: [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca)

# ATCO



## Approval Process

Alberta's electrical system is regulated by the AUC, an independent agency of the province that ensures the fair and responsible delivery of utility services. Before ATCO can begin construction on a project, the AUC must approve the facility application, which includes details such as locations of electric transmission facilities and proposed alterations. For more information about how you can participate in the AUC approval process, please refer to the enclosed AUC brochure, *Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications*.

## Next Steps

The consultation process for this project is ongoing. Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding this Project. You can provide feedback and share other information by contacting us (toll free) at **1-855-420-5775** or by email at [consultation@atcoelectric.com](mailto:consultation@atcoelectric.com).

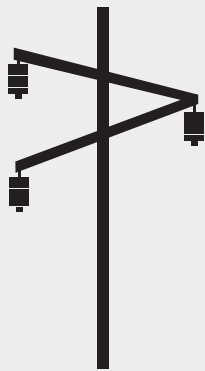
**ATCO**

# The Technical Details

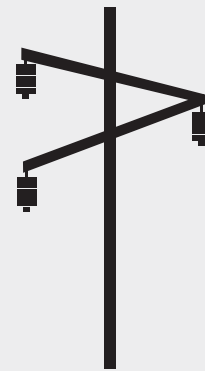
August 2023

## GARNIER LAKES TRANSMISSION PROJECT

The technical details of facilities associated with the Garnier Lakes Transmission Project are described in this fact sheet. Designs may vary as plans are finalized.

**New 144 kV Transmission Line 7LA53**

Approximately six km of new single-circuit 144 kV transmission line (to be called 7LA53).

**Existing 144 kV Transmission Line 7LA53**

Modifications to the existing single-circuit 144 kV transmission line 7LA53.

### THE DETAILS

If approved, the new 144 kV transmission line 7LA53 will consist of:

- Three conductor wires
- One overhead optical protection ground wire
- Wood pole 'Wishbone' structures

Transmission line 7LA53 will connect to existing transmission line 7LA53 (to be renamed 7LC53) in a T-tap configuration and terminate at the customer's substation. The typical structure is described in more detail on the back of this fact sheet.

### THE DETAILS

If approved, modifications will include adding one disconnect switch to accommodate the T-tap connection of the proposed transmission line 7LA53.

The proposed T-tap connection point is located in NE 12-58-5 W4M.

The portion of existing transmission line 7LA53 from the Lindbergh 969S substation to the proposed T-tap connection point will be renamed 7LC53.

## What It Will Look Like

If approved by the AUC, the new 144 kV transmission line will be built with wood pole 'Wishbone' structures similar to the one shown here.

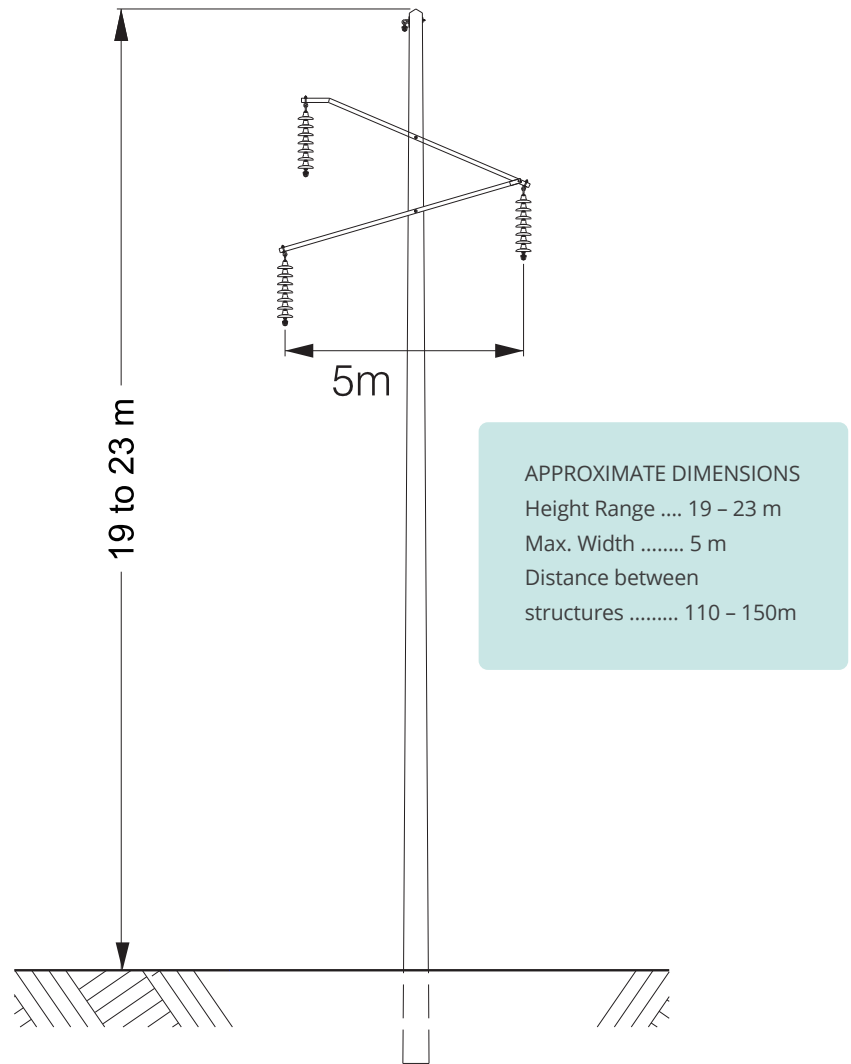
Structures will be single-circuit. This means they will have one set of three wires strung across them. One overhead optical protection ground wire will be strung at the top of the structures to protect the line from lightning and provide communication services. The distance between structures will range from 110 m to 150 m.

Non-typical structures may be taller in height or have wider bases.

Guy wires and anchors may be required where the line ends, bends, goes around corners or avoids obstacles. In all cases, minimum clearance will meet or exceed provincial safety regulations.

Typical right-of-way for this project is 18 m. Rights-of-way are cleared of trees, brush and debris to allow access for construction and ongoing maintenance.

*Note: Details may change as the project develops and designs are finalized*



Typical right-of-way for this project – 18 metres

## Definitions

**Circuit:** A circuit is a group of wires electricity flows through. ATCO's transmission lines can be single or double circuit. A single-circuit line has three wires and a double-circuit line has six. A transmission line may also have one or two shield wires on the top of the structures to protect the line from lightning.

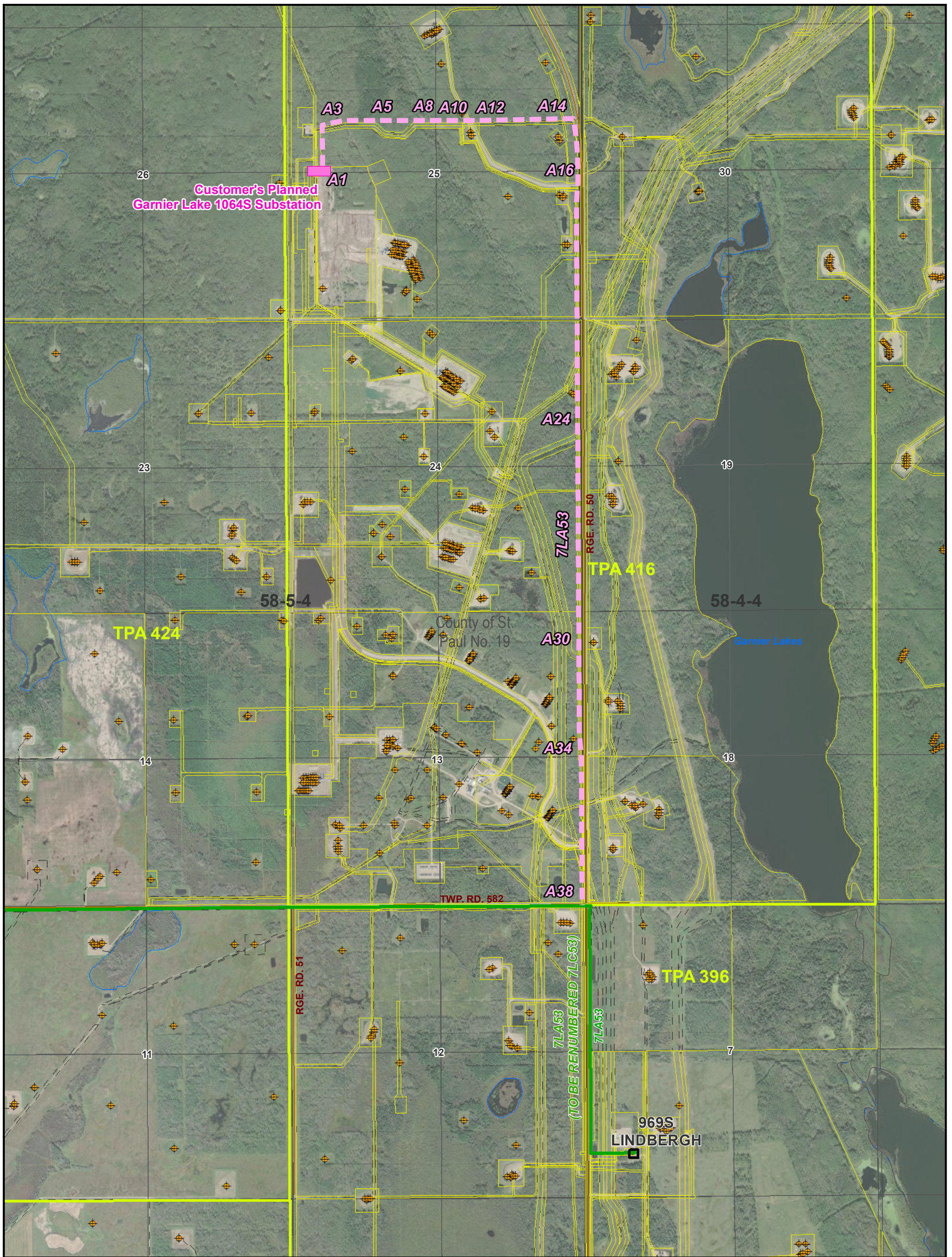
**Consultation:** A consultation is a meeting where advice, information and views are exchanged.

**Kilovolt (kV):** A kilovolt is equal to one thousand volts. This unit of measurement is most commonly used when describing transmission and distribution lines.

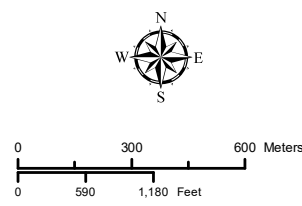
Distribution and transmission lines in Alberta carry between 4-kV (4,000 volts) and 500-kV (500,000 volts).

**Right-of-way:** A right-of-way is the use of a strip of land acquired for the construction and operation of a transmission line. The term right-of-way is also used to refer to the physical space a transmission line encompasses including areas on either side of the line.

**Termination:** A termination is the point where a power line ends and connects to a substation.

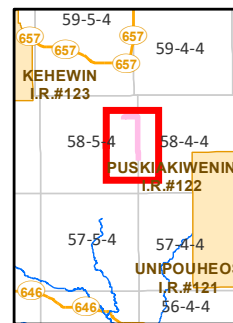


- Proposed 144 kV Transmission Line Route
- Proposed Route Node
- Customer's Planned Substation Boundary
- Existing Substation Footprint
- Existing 144 kV Transmission Line
- Surface Well Site
- TPA
- Current Disposition
- Existing Easement R/W
- Parcels
- Road
- Waterbody
- Municipal Boundary



**NOTES:**  
- Only facilities in the vicinity of the project are shown.

This map is the property of ATCO. This map is not intended to be used in place of Alberta One Call. Always practice extreme caution when near power



INDEX MAP



Garnier Lakes Transmission Project

PROPOSED ROUTE MOSAIC MAP

August 2023

RS-7LA53 - N1 - 01

# Need for the Cold Lake Area Energy Centre Project Connection in the Bonnyville area

*Strathcona Resources Ltd. (Strathcona Resources) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its proposed Cold Lake Area Energy Centre Project (Facility) in the Bonnyville area.*

*Distribution of the original AESO Need Overview began in March 2021. As a result of a change in schedule, the AESO determined that a Need Overview Update is required to provide revised next steps.*

*Strathcona Resources' request can be met by the following solution:*

## PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Add one 144 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the Facility to the existing 144 kV transmission line 7LA53 in a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

## REVISED NEXT STEPS

- In late 2023, the AESO may consider the need for this project for approval under section 501.3 of the ISO rules, *Abbreviated Needs Approval Process (ANAP Rule)*, or apply to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of the need.
- The AESO will notify stakeholders via the AESO's website at [www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects](http://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects) prior to the project being considered under the ANAP Rule or prior to filing a needs identification document (NID) application with the AUC.

*The following organizations have key roles and responsibilities in providing access to the transmission system:*

## THE AESO

- Must plan the transmission system and enable access to it for generators and other qualified customers.
- Can approve eligible projects through the ANAP Rule and for non-eligible projects, the AESO will prepare and submit a NID to the AUC for approval.

## ATCO

- Is the transmission facility owner in Bonnyville area.
- Is responsible for detailed siting and routing, constructing, operating, and maintaining the transmission facilities.
- Is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its transmission facilities applications.

## WHO IS THE AESO?

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) plans and operates Alberta's electricity grid and wholesale electricity market safely, reliably and in the public interest of all Albertans. We are a not-for-profit organization with no financial interest or investment of any kind in the power industry.

We appreciate your views, both on the need for transmission system development and proposed transmission plans. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us directly.

## CONTACT US

Alberta Electric System Operator

AESO Stakeholder Relations  
[stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca)  
1-888-866-2959

2500, 330-5th Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB T2P 0L4  
Phone: 403-539-2450

[www.aeso.ca](http://www.aeso.ca) |  [@theaeso](https://twitter.com/theaeso)





# Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications

## The AUC regulatory review process to consider facility applications for utility projects



The AUC uses an established process to review social, economic and environmental impacts of facility projects to decide if approval of a project is in the public interest.

The AUC considers applications requesting approval of the need for transmission development and facilities applications seeking approval to construct, operate, alter and decommission electric and natural gas facilities. Applications, as specified in AUC Rule 007, are required for:

- The need for transmission upgrades.
- The route and location of transmission facilities.
- The siting of power plants.
- The construction of a battery storage system.
- The designation of an industrial system.
- The need for and siting of natural gas utility pipelines.

Sometimes the Alberta Electric System Operator's needs identification document application is considered together with a facility application in a single proceeding; sometimes separate proceedings are held to consider each application.

## Application review process



- Step 1: Public consultation prior to applying to the AUC
- Step 2: Application filed to the AUC
- Step 3: Public notice
- Step 4: Public submissions to the AUC
- Step 5: Consultation and negotiation
- Step 6: The public hearing process
- Step 7: The decision
- Step 8: Opportunity to appeal
- Step 9: Construction, operation and compliance

## Application review process

### Step 1: Public consultation prior to applying to the AUC



An applicant seeking approval of a proposed utility development project is required to engage in a participant involvement program prior to filing an application with the AUC. The public involvement program involves consultation with persons whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by the proposed project so that concerns may be raised, addressed and, if possible, resolved.

The application guidelines and requirements for facility applications can be found in AUC Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*.

Potentially affected parties are strongly encouraged to participate in the public consultation, also called a participant involvement program. Early, active and ongoing discussions with an applicant may lead to greater influence on project planning and what is submitted to the AUC for approval.

### Step 2: Application filed to the AUC



When the applicant has concluded its consultation with potentially affected parties and the participant involvement requirements have been completed, the applicant files its application through the AUC online public filing system, called the eFiling System.

AUC staff members review each application submitted to verify that all of the application requirements in Rule 007 have been met before an application is deemed complete. If all of the required information is not provided, the application may be closed or missing information will be requested of the applicant. Rule 007 specifies, among other requirements, that applicants must submit the results of a public involvement program in its application that includes information about how applicants consulted and notified stakeholders and Indigenous groups and identifies any unresolved objections and concerns about the project.

### Step 3: Public notice



When the AUC receives an application it is assigned a proceeding number and the AUC generally mails a notice of application directly to those who live, operate a business or occupy land in the project area who may be directly and adversely affected if the AUC approves the application. The notice initiates the opportunity for formal intervention in the proceeding to consider an application or applications. The notice of application will also set out important dates and information about where to find the application and other items being considered. The five-digit eFiling System proceeding number in the notice is the most efficient way to find information about a proposed project through the AUC website.

### Step 4: Public submissions to the AUC



Prior to the submission deadline provided in the notice, formal submissions of outstanding concerns and unresolved objections about a project may be submitted to the AUC. To submit a concern, participants will need to register to participate in the proceeding, which involves providing a brief written statement called a statement of intent to participate. Submissions are filed electronically through the eFiling System. The information filed becomes part of the public record and is an important part of the process to ensure that outstanding concerns are heard, understood and considered.

The AUC uses the information gathered through statement of intent to participate submissions to decide whether to hold a hearing on the application(s). The AUC must hold a hearing if a concerned person can demonstrate that they have rights that may be directly or adversely affected by the AUC's decision on the application. Such a person is said to have standing before the AUC. If the AUC decides to hold a hearing, the AUC will provide further opportunities for participants with standing to ask the applicant questions on the public record and present their position on the application either in writing or in person. Hearings may

be held in writing, in person or virtually through web-conference software.

## AUC eFiling System

The eFiling System is the online tool that the AUC uses to manage applications and submissions in its proceeding-based review. The eFiling System gives access to all public documents associated with an application. The system is also used to submit your concerns and provide input to the AUC and can be used to monitor related proceeding filings. Those who do not have access to the internet can send submissions, evidence and other material by mail and the AUC will upload the submission on their behalf.

## Step 5: Consultation and negotiation (if applicable)



The AUC supports efforts to reach a mutually agreeable outcome among the applicant and affected parties. The AUC encourages the applicant and those who have filed a statement of intent to participate to continue to attempt to resolve any outstanding issues. If all concerns can be satisfactorily resolved this may eliminate the need for a formal hearing. However, if there continues to be unresolved issues, those matters will typically be addressed in an AUC hearing.

## Step 6: The public hearing process



The AUC will issue a notice of hearing if a person with standing continues to have legitimate unresolved concerns with the application. The notice of hearing will provide a hearing date and location, or specify if the hearing will be held in writing or virtually. When the AUC holds a public hearing, registered parties are given the opportunity to express their views directly to a panel of Commission members. Any member of the public can listen to an in-person or virtual oral hearing. An oral public hearing operates similar to a court proceeding.

Participants in a hearing can either represent themselves or be represented by a lawyer. In addition, participants may hire experts to assist in preparing and presenting evidence to support their position.

## Cost assistance



A person determined by the AUC to have standing or a local intervener can apply for reimbursement of reasonable costs. Those who hire a lawyer or technical experts must be aware that while reimbursement for the costs of legal and technical assistance is available under AUC Rule 009: *Rules on Local Intervener Costs*, recovery of costs is subject to the AUC's assessment of the value of the contribution provided by the lawyer and technical experts in assisting the AUC to understand the specifics of the case. It is also subject to the AUC's published scale of costs.

People with similar interests and positions are expected and encouraged to work together to ensure that expenditures for legal or technical assistance are minimized and costs are not duplicated.

## Step 7: The decision



The AUC's goal is to issue its written decision no more than 90 days after the close of record. The AUC can approve, or deny an application and can also make its approval conditional upon terms or conditions. AUC decisions are publicly available through the AUC website at [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca).

## Step 8: Opportunity to appeal



An applicant or participant in a proceeding may formally ask the Court of Appeal of Alberta for permission to appeal an AUC decision. An application for permission to appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date the decision is issued.

An applicant or participant in a proceeding can also ask the AUC to review its decision. An application to review a decision must be filed within 60 days from the date the decision is issued and satisfy the limited grounds described in AUC Rule 016: *Review of Commission Decisions*.

## Step 9: Construction, operation and compliance



An applicant that receives approval to build and operate a facility from the AUC is expected to follow through on any commitments it has made to parties and must adhere to any conditions that were set out in that approval. If concerns about compliance with approval conditions and post-construction operations cannot be resolved with the applicant, they can be brought to the AUC's attention for consideration. The AUC has significant compliance and enforcement powers for all approved applications. Additional information is available on the AUC website.



The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the government of Alberta that ensures the delivery of Alberta's utility services take place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public interest.

We are committed to ensuring that Albertans whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by a utility development project are informed of the application and have the opportunity to have their concerns heard, understood and considered.

## Contact us

Phone: 310-4AUC  
1-833-511-4282 (outside Alberta)  
[info@auc.ab.ca](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca)  
[www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca)

Eau Claire Tower  
1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5



10035 – 105 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 1C8

# SHAPE THE CONVERSATION

## GARNIER LAKES TRANSMISSION PROJECT

### REPLY FORM

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Date (DD/MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization Name (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Please help us identify new contacts**

You were contacted about this project because ATCO identified you or your company/organization as having a land interest in the vicinity of the project. Is there anyone else associated with your property, such as other owners, renters or occupants, who we should also contact? If so, please provide the name(s), contact information and their land interest.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive all future correspondence about this project by Email (If this is your preference, please check the box)

**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT PRIVACY:** *The information on this form is being collected to identify concerns with proposed changes to and/or the siting of power transmission facilities, and to comply with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) rules regarding the submission of transmission facilities applications. This information may be provided to electric facility owners, Alberta's Surface Rights Board, and the Alberta Electric System Operator. Your comments and personal information may also be publicly accessible through the AUC website, should it be submitted to the AUC as part of a transmission facility application – subject to Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. **If you wish to keep your information confidential, you must make a request to the AUC (403-592-4376).** If you have questions or concerns about your information or how it may be used or disclosed as part of this process, please contact us (see contact information below).*

**Please let us know by checking a box below if either statement applies to you:**

I do not have concerns with the Project based on the information provided

I have concerns with the Project based on the information provided

**Please share any comments or concerns that you have about the Project:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**HOW TO SUBMIT:** Please use the enclosed envelope to return by mail or fax to 780-420-5030. If you would like more information about the project, please contact us toll free 1-855-420-5775 or by Email: [consultation@atcoelectric.com](mailto:consultation@atcoelectric.com).