

Bill 50, the *Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009*

Proposes amendments to three pieces of legislation:

Alberta Utilities Commission Act

Electric Utilities Act

Hydro and Electric Energy Act

Bill 50 approves the need for critical transmission infrastructure.

What is critical transmission infrastructure and who needs it?

Four projects are identified in Bill 50:

1. Two new high-voltage direct current lines between Edmonton and Calgary that will carry more power to [Alberta consumers in central and southern Alberta](#).
2. One new alternating current line between Edmonton and the Heartland area to carry power to [industrial consumers like Alberta upgrading facilities](#).
3. Two new alternating current lines between Edmonton to Fort McMurray to carry power from [co-generation plants to Alberta consumers](#).
4. A substation in Calgary to provide more reliable service to [customers in south Calgary](#).



Getting Transmission Built: What Changes Under Bill 50?

Step 1 (**NO CHANGE**): The Alberta Electric System Operator:

- forecasts future demand for electricity;
- determines what additions or upgrades are needed to meet that demand; and
- consults in areas that could be affected.

Step 2: The Alberta Electric System Operator submits a “needs” application to the Alberta Utilities Commission.

- **Bill 50 proposes that the need for critical transmission infrastructure be approved by the Government of Alberta.**

Step 3: The Alberta Electric System Operator assigns the transmission project to a transmission facility owner.

- **Recent regulatory amendments propose that the Minister of Energy may assign a project to a transmission company.**
- **Future critical transmission infrastructure projects will be assigned through a competitive process.**



Getting Transmission Built: What Changes Under Bill 50?

Step 4 (NO CHANGE): The transmission company:

- consults with landowners on a specific route.

Step 5 (NO CHANGE): The transmission company

- proposes a specific route; and
- **makes a “facilities” application to the Alberta Utilities Commission.**

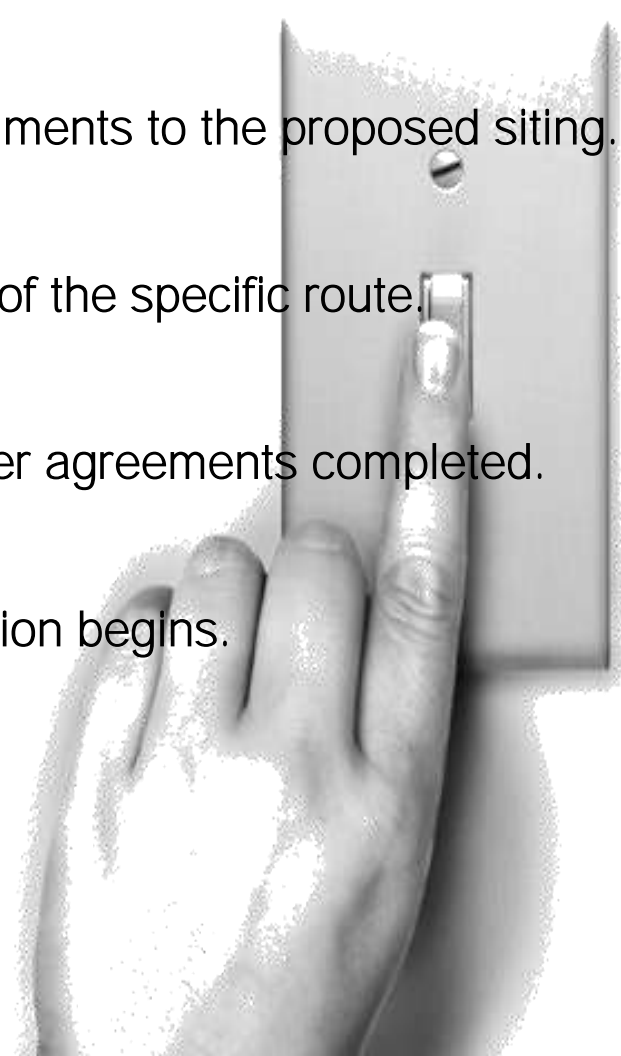
Step 6 (NO CHANGE): The Alberta Utilities Commission:

- holds public hearings on the proposed route, affected landowners may intervene; and
- may approve or suggest amendments to the proposed siting.

Step 7 (NO CHANGE): Approval of the specific route.

Step 8 (NO CHANGE): Landowner agreements completed.

Step 9 (NO CHANGE): Construction begins.



Electricity in Alberta: Who's Who

Government of Alberta, Alberta Energy: the Minister of Energy is responsible for making sure Albertans have a sufficient and reliable supply of electricity, today and in the future. The Minister of Energy, Honourable Mel Knight, is the sponsor of Bill 50.

www.energy.alberta.ca

Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC): this quasi-judicial commission is the provincial regulator responsible for electric transmission facilities. It is responsible for making decisions on the siting of transmission lines and towers. It is also responsible for making sure the rates Alberta consumers pay for transmission are just and reasonable.

www.auc.ab.ca

Utilities Consumer Advocate (UCA): this Government of Alberta office represents Alberta consumers at rate hearings, which is where transmission rates for consumers are determined. www.ucahelps.gov.ab.ca

Transmission company: these are some of the companies that could construct, own and operate transmission lines and towers for Alberta consumers:

AltaLink: www.altalink.ca ATCO Electric: www.atcoelectric.com

ENMAX: www.enmax.com EPCOR: www.epcor.ca TransCanada: www.transcanada.com

Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO): this not-for-profit agency plans and operates Alberta's electric system. www.aeso.ca

**Government
of Alberta** ■
Energy



The Legislative Process

First Reading: a bill is formally introduced to the Legislative Assembly.

Second Reading: a bill is debated by the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). A vote is called at this reading.

Committee of the Whole: the bill is looked at in detail. Clause by clause consideration of the bill occurs. Amendments may be proposed.

Third Reading: MLAs vote on the bill for the last time. Voting is by simple majority.

Royal Assent: the Lieutenant Governor approves the bill on behalf of the Queen.

Proclamation: A bill only comes into force on proclamation.

Bill 50 has gone through first reading. Second reading has started and will continue in the fall 2009 legislative session.

