

# BUFFALO PLAINS WIND FARM CONNECTION



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You are receiving this newsletter because you are near the Buffalo Plains Wind Farm Connection project and we want your input.

Buffalo Plains Wind Farm Inc. (the Proponent) has applied to the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) for transmission system access to connect its proposed Buffalo Plains Wind Farm to the Alberta electric system. For the Buffalo Plains Wind Farm Connection project, the Proponent is proposing to construct approximately 15km of new transmission line to connect the proposed Amber 611S substation to the existing AltaLink Milo 365S substation. The Proponent is responsible for the design and construction of the new transmission line. Once in service, AltaLink will assume the operation and maintenance of the new line as part of the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.

## Who is the Alberta Utilities Commission?

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) is a quasi-judicial independent agency established by the Government of Alberta, responsible to ensure that the delivery of Alberta's utility service takes place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public interest. They regulate investor - owned natural gas, electric and water utilities, and certain municipally-owned electric utilities to protect social, economic and environmental interests of Alberta where competitive market forces do not.

# Project Details

The proposed project is located near the Village of Lomond, in Vulcan County. The project involves constructing approximately 15km of new transmission line to connect the Proponent's proposed Amber 611S substation to be located on the SW 36-16-21 W4M to AltaLink's existing Milo 365S substation located in NW 13-18-21 W4M. Design is ongoing and further details will be provided as the Project progresses.

The new line is expected to consist of a mix of H-frame, monopole, and dead-end structures which may be wood or steel. Structures are expected to be 20m to 35m in height with spans from 75m to 250m, depending on the type of structure. The structures and line will fall within an easement up to 37.5m located on both private and crown land. Example images of the proposed structure types are included in this package.

The proposed Routes A and C are located in the existing County right-of-way and would require a smaller easement on private land.

## Routing Selection

Several factors are taken into account in an effort to site a route with the least overall impact. Some of the factors considered include: existing land use, environmental effects, Indigenous community interests, agriculture, existing infrastructure, proximity to residences and economic viability.

Three routes plus three variations of these routes are being proposed for this project, as shown on the enclosed route maps. The eastern route (Route D) parallels an existing AltaLink Management Ltd. transmission line and the middle route (Route C) and western route (Route A) are sited within the existing County right-of-way.

## Land Acquisition

The proposed transmission line will be located on a mix of private land and crown land and will require a right-of-way up to 37.5m wide, which will be acquired from landowners and the Province of Alberta in the form of an easement agreement. Route A or C would also require a license from Vulcan County in order to construct the transmission line in the existing County right-of-way. In addition to the easement, temporary areas will be required for workspace and access roads.

### What is an "easement"?

A right to use private or crown land to construct, access and maintain the proposed transmission line structures and wires.



### What is a "transmission line"?

Transmission lines are structures and wires that transport large amounts of power over long distances from sources of power generation such as wind, solar, natural gas and more to customers across the province.

# Providing Your Input

Based on recommendations from local and national health authorities, the Proponent has made the decision to not hold a public open house at this time. We will contact landowners, residents and occupants near the proposed project to gather input and address questions or concerns. After the consultation process is complete we will file an application with the AUC. The AUC will review the application through a process in which stakeholders can participate. The AUC will notify stakeholders after the Facilities Application has been submitted. To learn more about the AUC process and how you can become involved, please refer to the brochure included in this package titled Public involvement in a proposed utility development.

## Facilities Application

A transmission facility owner proposing to build an electric facility must submit an application to the AUC to obtain a permit to construct and a license to operate the facility. The application filed is often referred to as a facilities application. The Proponent expects to file a facilities application in November 2021. The AUC will then review the facilities application and either approve (with or without conditions) or deny the application.

To learn more about the AUC application and review process, please contact:

### **Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)**

Phone: (780) 427-4903

Toll-Free by dialing 310-000 before the number

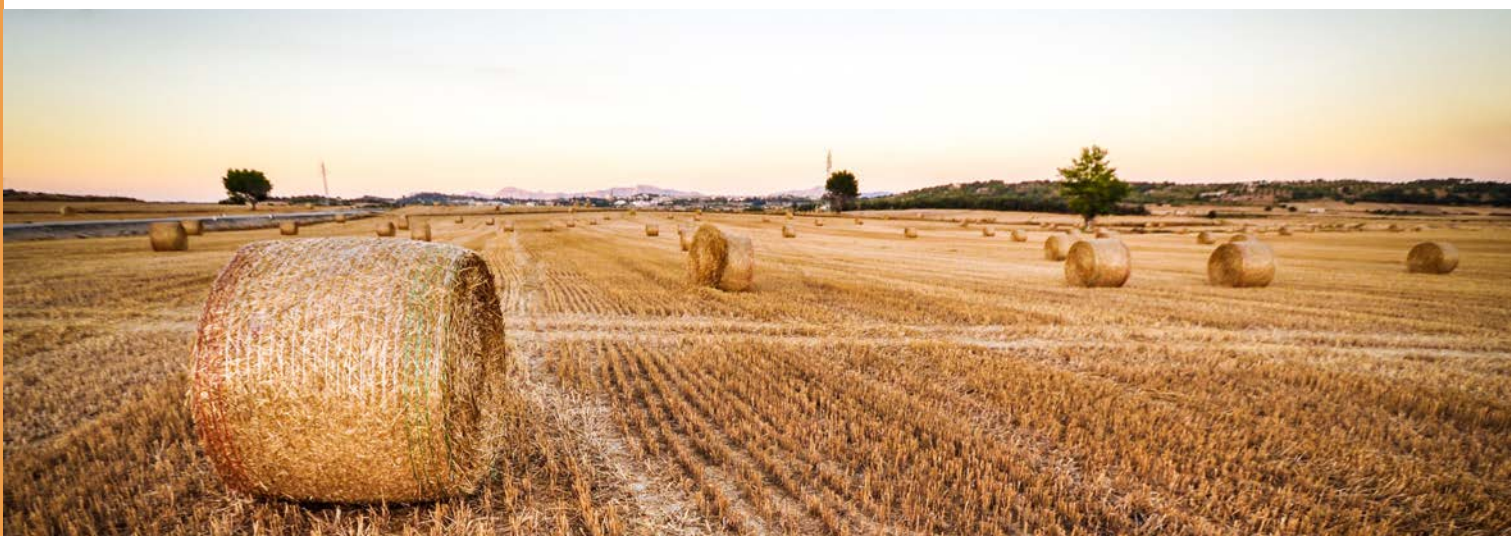
Email: [consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca](mailto:consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca)



AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) is responsible for the modifications at the existing Milo 356S substation that are also required to connect the Buffalo Plains Wind Project. AltaLink's modifications are separate from the facilities that the Proponent is proposing to construct. To learn more about the Milo 356S substation modifications, please contact:

### **AltaLink Management Ltd.**

1-877-267-1453 (toll-free)  
[stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca](mailto:stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca)





## Who is the AESO?

The 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 a Buffalo Plains Wind Farm Inc. 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.

**Alberta Electric System Operator  
(AESO)**

1-888-866-2959

[stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca)



## Anticipated Project Schedule

April 2021	Notification to stakeholders
Ongoing	Public consultation
November 2021	File Facilities Application with AUC
February 2022	Anticipated AUC approval
Q2 2022	Construction commencement (if approved)

## Contact Us

For more information on the project, or to request a personal consultation, please contact:

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[sbrown@sabreenergyconsulting.com](mailto:sbrown@sabreenergyconsulting.com)