



**Electricity planning and
approval in Alberta**

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Presentation Outline:

- Major players
- How it works – Pre Bill 50
- Problems with pre-Bill 50
- What Bill 50 does and does not do
- Moving forward?

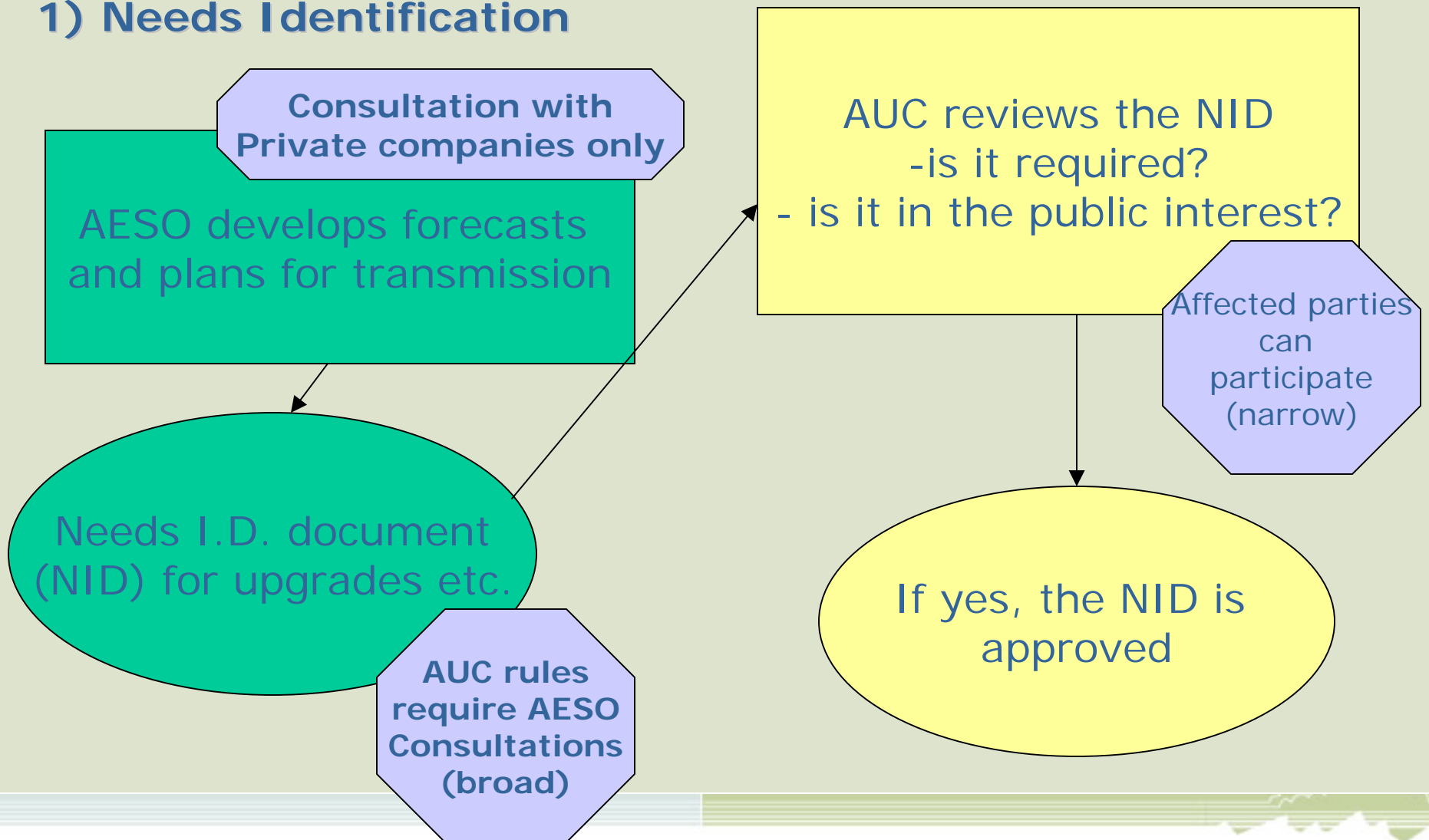


- **Alberta Electricity System Operator (AESO) also known as ISO**

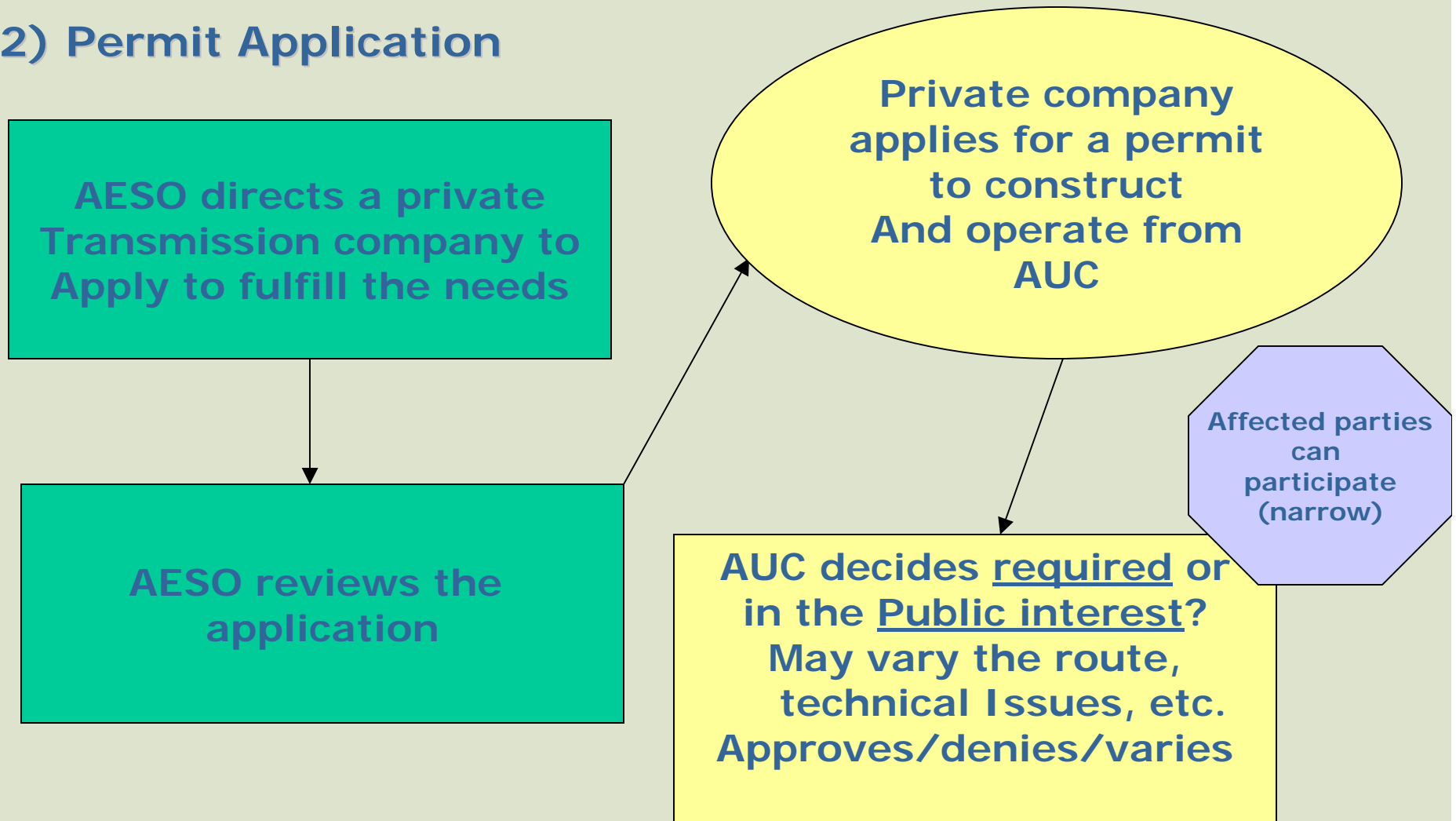
- **Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)**



1) Needs Identification



2) Permit Application



Pre-Bill 50 process presented problems:

- Identifying need
- AESO mandate
- Public doesn't have right to participate
- No right to a hearing

The much hated standing test and AUC process

- Directly and adversely affected people only (since 1960s) Must have a legally recognized interest or right (i.e. property rights), must be distinct from community as a whole. Not the public.
- AUC has required **proof** on balance of probabilities of declining property values, health risks, etc. Cannot cross-examine a company rebuttal.

(for example, AUC decision 2008-128)

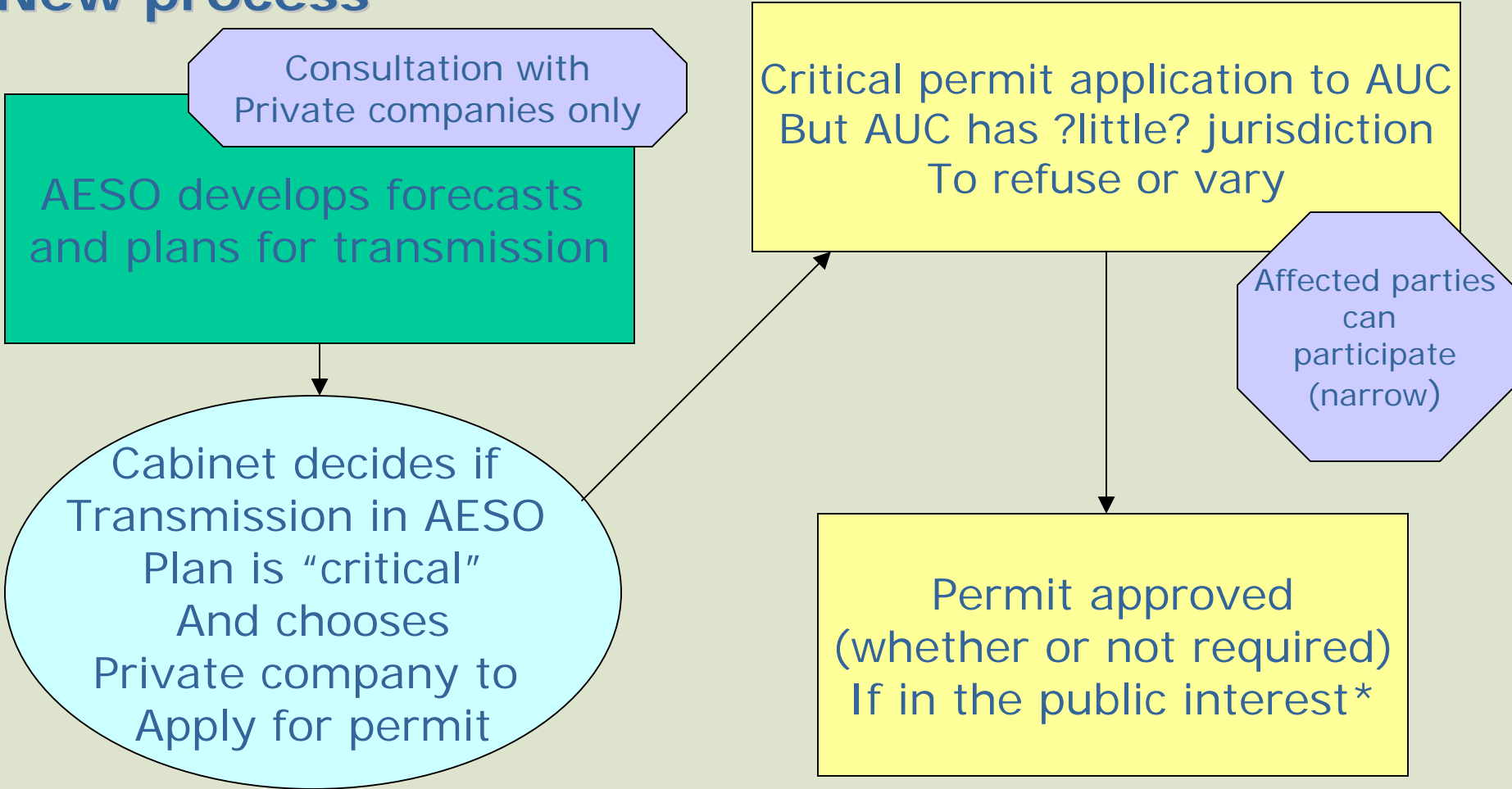
The Result?

- ☹️ Some people cannot participate at all.
- ☹️ “directly and adversely affected” people participate but become frustrated.
- ☹️ The public interest is not well-served.

The Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009
passed Nov 25, 2009.

- Amends 3 statutes: *Alberta Utilities Commission Act, Electric Utilities Act, and the Hydro and Electric Energy Act.*
- Creates new category of “Critical Transmission Infrastructure” (CTI)
- Adds regulation-making powers and Cabinet power to designate CTI
- Designates critical transmission projects

New process



What projects can be designated “Critical”?

- Project must be contained in an AESO plan under the *Transmission Regulation*
- The project must also be:
 - an intertie OR
 - “serve areas of renewable energy” (not defined) OR
 - is a double circuit transmission facility that is designed to be energized at a nominal voltage at or greater than 240 kV, OR

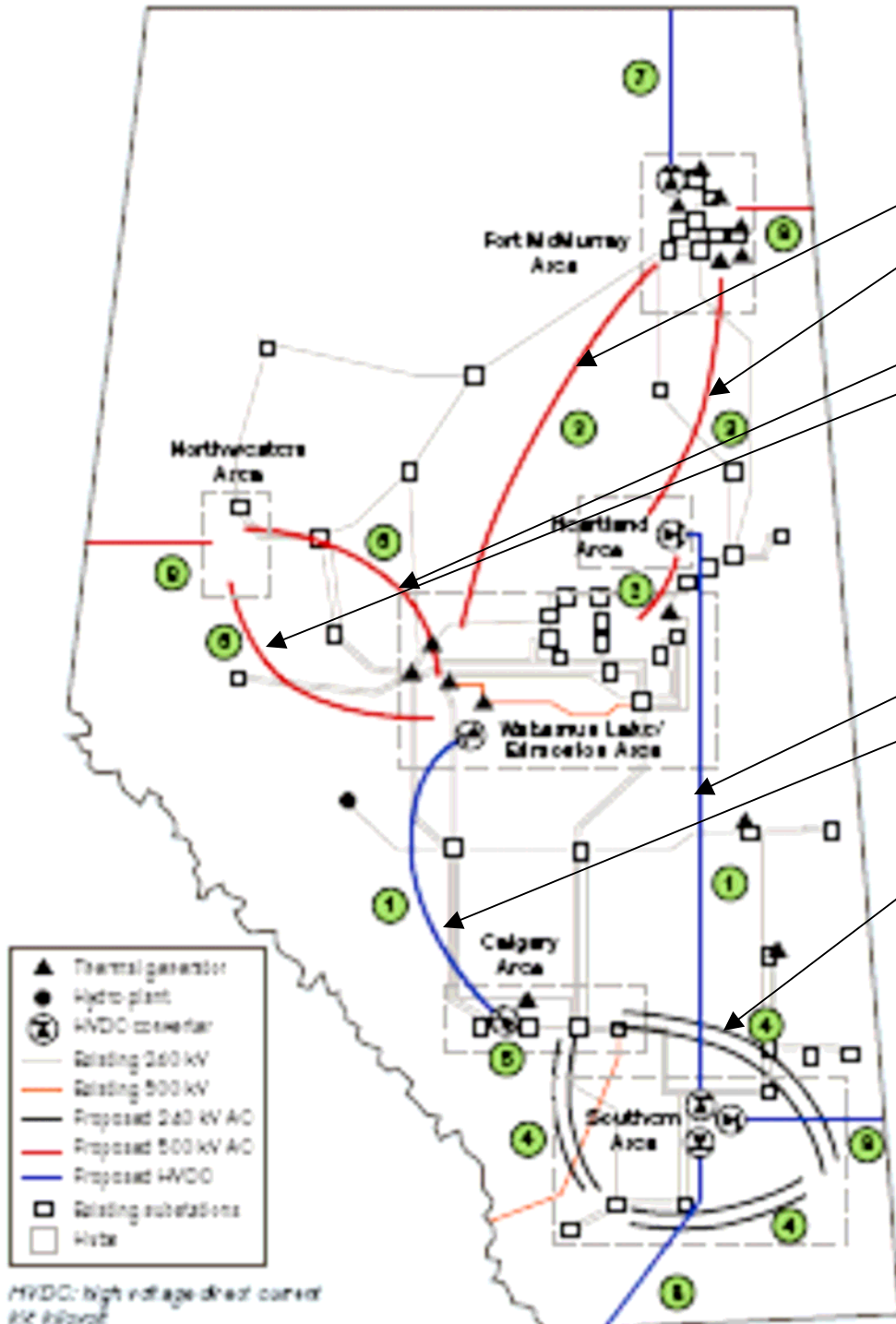
...Or anything else!

Is, in the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, critical* to ensure the safe, reliable and economic operation of the interconnected electric system.

- Critical is not defined, how determined?
- “safe, reliable and economic” replaces all other considerations in the legislation. For example, public interest, cost.

Amendments on Nov 24

- Phased implementation of new lines: AESO to publish “milestones”
- cost reporting
- public interest put back into the permit hearing, so AUC has *some* jurisdiction



Two 500 kV transmission facilities from the Edmonton area to Fort McMurray

Two 500 kV AC lines from the Wabamun Lake/Edmonton area to the Northwest region (not in Bill 50)

Two high voltage 500 kV direct current transmission facilities between the Edmonton and Calgary regions.

Southern AB Transmission Loop (wind) Not in Bill 50

4 interties NSEW

- Doesn't fix limitations of need identification or planning
- AESO still prepares a transmission "plan" with discussion of generation forecasts (July 2009)
- Transmission lines are still exempt from approvals and EA process under the EPEA (since 2008)
- AUC still considers site issues, although powers are now more limited
- No change in process where transmission is not designated critical
- Does not change "standing" to appear before AUC.

So, what does this mean for
me?

I have a transmission line concern, is there
anything I can do with Bill 50?



AUC's approach to CTI (Heartland Transmission)

- **Simplified Standing for some residents:** landowner or entitled occupant of land to have standing if he/she lives or operates a business within 800 meters of:
 - the “proposed site” or “edge of the finalized rights-of-way” (for either the preferred or alternate route)
- Parties have the opportunity to pre-register by filing a statement of intent to participate (SIP) with the Commission.

File a Statement of Intent to Participate (SIP) (rule 001)

- a full description of your concern / how approval of the application would directly and adversely affect you; and
- a full explanation of your position, including why you believe that the Commission should accept your recommendation
- Costs submissions under Rule 009
- Contact information
- A description of those participants or interveners who will be considered to have standing within the scope of the application can be found either in the Pre-hearing Decision or the Notice of Hearing.

Local Intervener costs

AUC Rule 009

- “Local Intervener” = land that may be directly and adversely affected
- Advance costs
- Interim Costs
- Final Costs
- Professional & legal fees/expenses

Understand the process!

- Bill 50 means that participation in forecasting and planning with the AESO is more important than ever. Engage with the AESO early on.
- Engage politically early on, only Cabinet decides if lines are critical, Director of ABENV decides if EA. Use other tools, like lobbyist registry.
- Just because a line is “critical” does not mean there is no more process, AUC permit application hearings are also important processes for critical transmission.

Interties and exports

- National Energy Board (see Canada Gazette)
- Renewable energy Bill 50 Regulations

Is it all bad? ...No,

utilize renewable incentives in the Bill!

- New regulation power for all renewable transmission, make the most of it.
- Possibility of “fast-tracking” renewable transmission projects with critical designations. Some cons = siting issues but pros include climate change benefit potential.

Is there a better way to do this?

Integrated transmission and generation planning with public participation would help

- First evaluate trends and study usage of electricity. When? Why?
- Then set renewable generation priorities, incentives and identify conservation opportunities.
- Examine all the available options! Make environment a priority.
- *Then* decide how to get any necessary new electricity to consumers with transmission.



Thank you

Questions?

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