



**2569059 Alberta Inc.,
Alberta Electric System Operator and
AltaLink Management Ltd.**

Laramide Battery Energy Storage Facility and Connection

April 30, 2026

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 28906-D01-2026

2569059 Alberta Inc., Alberta Electric System Operator and AltaLink Management Ltd.

Laramide Battery Energy Storage Facility and Connection

Applications 28906-A001 to 28906-A006

Proceeding 28906

April 30, 2026

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Applications 28906-A001
to 28906-A006**

1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission denies an application from 2569059 Alberta Inc. (Enfinite), to construct and operate a 100-megawatt battery energy storage facility, known as the Laramide Battery Energy Storage Facility (the energy storage project).

2. The Commission has weighed the energy storage project's impacts and benefits and finds that the energy storage project is not in the public interest because the energy storage project's non-compliance with municipal planning documents and land use policies is material and has the potential to significantly and negatively impact environmental, social, economic and other community objectives for the municipality. The Commission's conclusion that Foothills County's municipal land use planning should be given significant weight is reinforced by Foothills County's consideration of emergency response resourcing in establishing an industrial corridor and continuing concerns regarding emergency response planning for the proposed energy storage project.

3. As the energy storage project is denied, the following applications are not required and are therefore also denied by the Commission:

- the application from Enfinite to construct and operate the Laramide 1172S Substation;
- the application from the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) for the need to connect the Laramide Battery Energy Storage Facility;
- the applications from Enfinite and AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) to construct, connect and jointly operate Transmission Line 1141L; and
- the applications from AltaLink to alter its Foothills 237S Substation and connect the Laramide Battery Energy Storage Facility, by Transmission Line 1141L, to the Foothills 237S Substation.

2 Project and applications summary

4. On March 14, 2024, Enfinite Corporation¹ and 2569059 Alberta Inc. (Enfinite) filed Application 28906-A001 seeking approval for Enfinite to construct and operate the

¹ Enfinite Corporation is the general partner of Enfinite Limited Partnership. Enfinite Infrastructure Group Inc. is the sole limited partner of Enfinite Limited Partnership and the sole shareholder of 2569059 Alberta Inc.

100-megawatt and 400-megawatt-hour Laramide Battery Energy Storage Facility (the energy storage project), consisting of 105 Tesla Megapack 2XL units.

5. The energy storage project is proposed to be located approximately seven kilometres east of High River, Alberta, and north of Frank Lake, within Foothills County, on land owned by Enfinite. The energy storage project is proposed to be located at either a preferred site or an alternate site:

- The preferred site is in Legal Subdivision 2, Section 18, Township 19, Range 27, west of the Fourth Meridian.
- The alternate site is in Legal Subdivision 8, Section 18, Township 19, Range 27, west of the Fourth Meridian.

6. At the request of Enfinite, the Commission placed the energy storage project application into abeyance until the related interconnection applications were filed.

7. On January 16, 2025, the AESO applied for approval of the need to connect Enfinite's proposed energy storage project to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System. The needs identification document application was merged into Proceeding 28906 as Application 28906-A002.

8. On January 17, 2025, Enfinite and AltaLink filed applications to meet the need identified by the AESO.

9. Enfinite filed applications seeking approval to construct and operate the Laramide 1172S Substation and an approximately one- to two-kilometre-long, single-circuit, 240-kilovolt (kV) transmission line designated as 1141L. The proposed transmission line would be jointly operated by Enfinite and AltaLink until the transmission line is transferred to AltaLink in a future application to the AUC. Enfinite's additional applications were merged into Proceeding 28906 as applications 28906-A003 and 28906-A004.

10. AltaLink filed applications seeking approval to alter its Foothills 237S Substation and connect the Laramide Battery Energy Storage Facility, by Transmission Line 1141L, to the Foothills 237S Substation. AltaLink's applications were merged into Proceeding 28906 as applications 28906-A005 and 28906-A006. The Foothills 237S Substation is located approximately 2.1 kilometres north of Frank Lake and is the closest facility to the lake in this proceeding.

11. Transmission Line 1141L would connect either site of the Laramide 1172S Substation with AltaLink's existing Foothills 237S Substation. Enfinite proposed overhead and alternate underground transmission line route options for each site, for a total of four potential routes.

12. In this decision, the Commission refers to the energy storage project, the Laramide 1172S Substation, Transmission Line 1141L, the alterations to Foothills 237S Substation and the connection of Transmission Line 1141L to Foothills 237S Substation collectively as the project.

13. Maps of the project's preferred and alternate sites, and proposed overhead and alternate underground transmission line route options are included in the following figures:

Figure 1. Preferred project site and route options

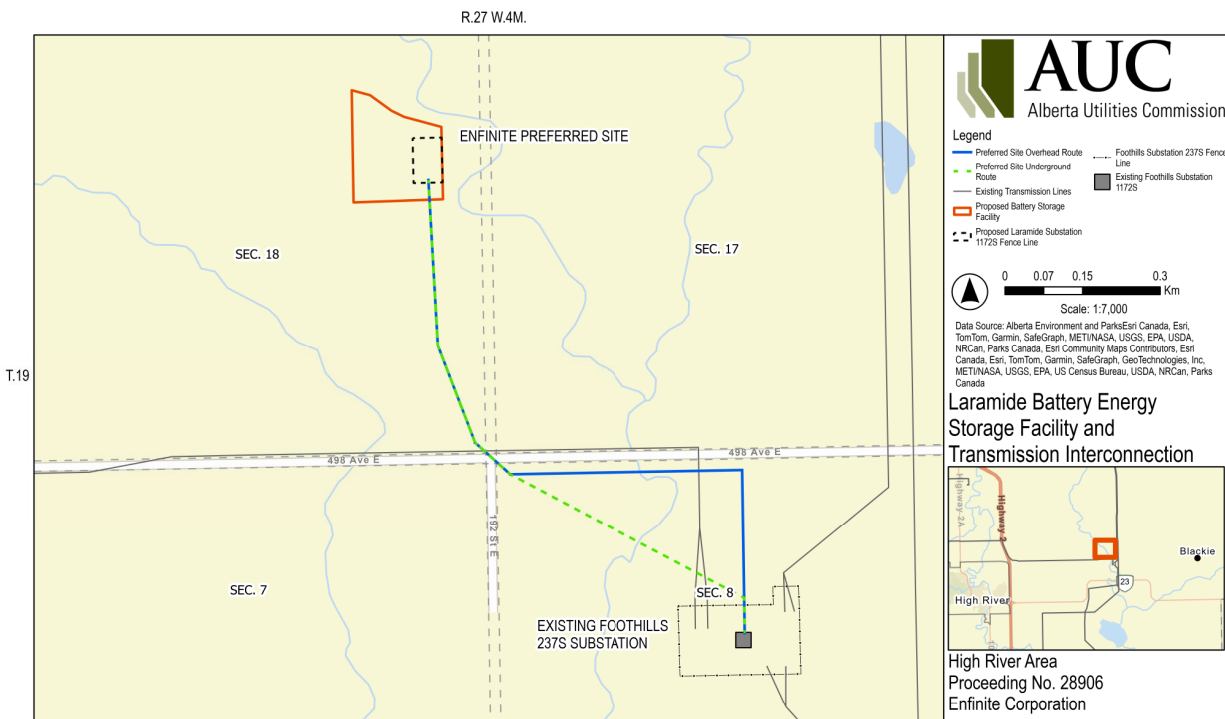
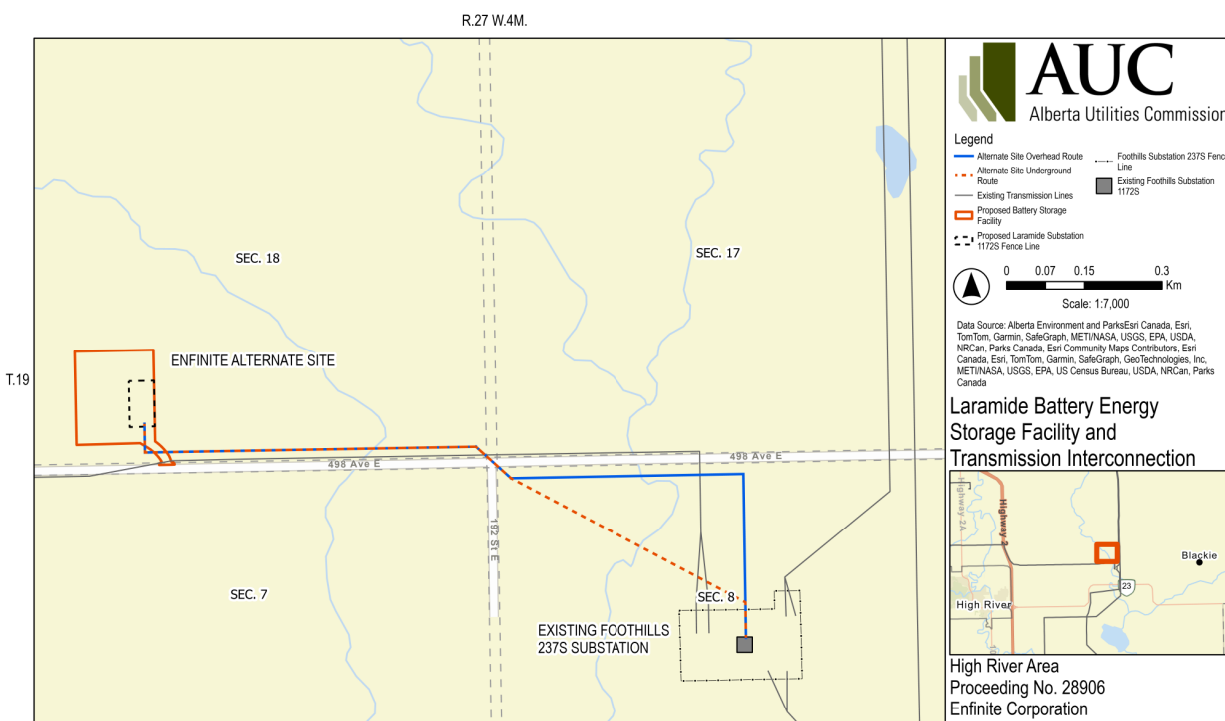


Figure 2. Alternate project site and route options



2.1 Interveners

14. On February 13, 2025, the Commission issued a notice of applications for the project in accordance with Rule 001: *Rules of Practice*. The Commission granted standing² to members of the Frank Lake North Concerned Citizens Group (FLNCC) and participation rights to Foothills County.

15. The FLNCC's concerns included the project's impacts on farmable land, impacts to livestock, safety impacts including fire risks, impacts on the environment including wildlife and habitat, and concerns about the adequacy of Enfinite's consultation. The FLNCC requested that the Commission deny Enfinite's applications or, if approved, include specific conditions as outlined in its submissions.

16. Foothills County is the municipality in which the project is located. It was represented by Rick Saulnier, Director of Community and Emergency Services and Heather Hemingway, Director of Planning. Foothills County's concerns related to the location of the proposed energy storage project, fire and safety concerns, and environmental concerns. Foothills County submitted that it did not support the project and that the project was not in the public interest. It recommended that the energy storage project should instead be located in the Highway 2A Industrial Area Structure Plan area (the industrial corridor).

17. The Commission also permitted the Alberta Wilderness Association and Frank Lake Bird and Biodiversity Group to file written statements in the proceeding.

18. The Commission held an oral hearing for the project in September 2025 and, following the hearing, initiated an additional written process that included information requests to Enfinite and argument and reply argument on Enfinite's responses. The Commission required additional information on the topics of noise mitigation, reclamation security and consultation with Foothills County.

3 What is the Commission's role and how does it assess the public interest?

19. The Commission is an independent regulator responsible for considering applications for power plants, substations, transmission lines and energy storage facilities in accordance with the legislative framework.³

20. In considering applications for power plants, substations, transmission lines and energy storage facilities, the Commission has a broad public interest mandate conferred on it by Section 17(1) of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*: it must consider whether the proposed project is in the public interest, having regard to its social, economic, environmental and other effects.⁴ As a starting point, applications for power plants, substations, transmission lines and energy storage facilities filed with the Commission must comply with Rule 007: *Facility*

² Exhibit 28906-X0159, AUC Ruling on standing; and Exhibit 28906-X0276, Ruling on the Frank Lake Bird and Biodiversity Group's motion.

³ *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, sections 13.01, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 21.

⁴ *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, Section 17.

*Applications*⁵ and Rule 012: *Noise Control*. These rules set out a comprehensive set of requirements for a facility application.

21. Building a new transmission facility in Alberta requires two applications. The first, a needs identification document application, is filed by the AESO explaining why a new transmission facility is required. The second, a facility application, is filed by a transmission facility owner or market participant 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.

22. Conducting a public interest assessment requires the Commission to assess and balance the competing elements of the public interest in the context of each specific application before it. Part of this exercise is an analysis of the nature of the impacts associated with a particular project, and the degree to which the applicant has addressed these impacts. Balanced against this is an assessment of the project's potential public benefits. The assessment includes the positive and adverse impacts of the project.

23. The applicant bears the onus of demonstrating that approval of its project is in the public interest. Interveners may attempt to show that the applicant has not met its onus by demonstrating the effects of the project on their interests and explaining what a better balancing of the public interest might be. The Commission's role is to test and assess the evidence before it and engage in a multi-faceted analysis established by the regulatory regime, to determine if the project should be approved, and if so, whether any conditions should apply.

3.1 How does the Commission consider municipal planning instruments?

24. Municipalities play a unique role in land use planning and have a strong interest in upholding local objectives. The Commission considers municipal land use when determining if a project is in the public interest⁶ and values the insights that municipalities can provide on the potential effects of projects including the regional context of their planning documents and land use policies.⁷ While the Commission considers municipal planning documents and land use policies in making its public interest determination, these documents and policies are also assessed against existing provincial laws, project impacts (social, economic and environmental effects), and compliance with Rule 007 and Rule 012.

⁵ On November 6, 2025, a new version of Rule 007 came into effect. Among other changes, the name of the rule was revised to Rule 007: *Facility Applications*. The applications are being considered under the prior version, Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*.

⁶ Decision 27842-D01-2024: Aira Wind Power Inc. – Aira Solar Project and Moose Trail 1049S Substation, Proceeding 27842, Applications 27842-A001 and 27842-A002, March 21, 2024, paragraph 28; Decision 27486-D01-2023: Foothills Solar GP Inc. – Foothills Solar Project, Proceeding 27486, Applications 27486-A001 and 27486-A002, April 20, 2023, paragraph 23.

⁷ Decision 28086-D01-2024: Three Hills Solar Power Corp. – Three Hills Solar Project, Proceeding 28086, Application 28086-A001, June 12, 2024.

25. Although the Commission endeavors to achieve consistency with municipal planning instruments, under sections 619 and 620 of the *Municipal Government Act*,⁸ the Commission's decision on applications takes precedence over municipal planning documents.⁹ That is, municipalities do not have a veto. This approach aims to reduce regulatory burden and ensures that issues heard and determined at the provincial level are not reheard at the municipal level.¹⁰

4 Discussion and findings

26. In this section the Commission discusses the issues with the greatest weight in its determination that approval of the project is not in the public interest.

27. Although certain aspects of the project may vary between the energy storage project's preferred and alternate sites proposed by Enfinite, the issues given the greatest weight by the Commission in its decision are common to both locations. Many of the concerns raised by the FLNCC and Foothills County were also common to both proposed sites. Accordingly, the Commission's discussion and findings should be read as applicable to both sites.

28. The Commission first discusses whether the energy storage project's non-compliance with municipal land use planning is acceptable. It then discusses the energy storage project's emergency response plan and proposed commitments in the context of Foothills County's outstanding concerns with the project.

4.1 Is the energy storage project's non-compliance with municipal land use planning acceptable?

29. A significant issue in this proceeding is the energy storage project's compliance with municipal planning documents and land use policy. Municipal planning documents include municipal development plans, area structure plans, land use bylaws and other municipal bylaws.

30. The energy storage project is proposed in the East District of Foothills County, where agriculture is the predominant land use, and municipal planning documents state that conversion of agricultural land to other uses is discouraged.¹¹

⁸ *Municipal Government Act*, sections 619 and 620.

⁹ *Borgel v Paintearth (Subdivision and Development Appeal Board)*, 2020 ABCA 192, paragraph 22. This was affirmed most recently by the Court of Appeal of Alberta in *Canmore (Town of) v Three Sisters Mountain Village Properties Ltd.*, 2023 ABCA 278, paragraphs 74 and 75.

¹⁰ Decision 29226-D01-2025: Fox Meadows Wind Inc. – Fox Meadows Wind Project, Proceeding 29226, Applications 29226-A001 to 29226-A003, June 20, 2025, paragraphs 30 and 31.

¹¹ Exhibit 28906-X0235, Foothills County Evidence Submission AUC 28906, PDF page 2, citing Foothills County, MDP [municipal development plan] 2010, adopted by Bylaw No. 78/2010 and amended by Bylaw No. 52/2016, Agriculture section.

31. Foothills County's position is that the appropriate location for the energy storage project is the industrial corridor.¹² While an energy storage facility is not currently a permitted or discretionary land use anywhere in the county,¹³ Foothills County explained that its municipal development plan directs that industrial land uses be located in the industrial corridor.¹⁴ Foothills County also explained that the industrial corridor has full-time firefighting coverage, reliable access to year-round piped water for firefighting, proximity to major power infrastructure and available land zoned for industrial use.¹⁵

32. Members of the FLNCC also raised concerns related to the energy storage project's non-compliance with municipal planning documents and land use policy.¹⁶

33. In response to the feedback it received from Foothills County and other stakeholders about not siting the energy storage project in the industrial corridor, Enfinite explained that it did consider siting the energy storage project in the industrial corridor, but chose the proposed and alternate sites instead because:

- The energy storage project required a connection to the 240-kV system to enable the project to provide broader support to the electric system.
- Connecting to the 240-kV system from a site in the industrial corridor would require an approximately 15-kilometre-long transmission line, compared to the proposed transmission line which is between one and two kilometres in length. The proposed and alternate sites therefore reduced the proliferation of transmission infrastructure in the area and mitigated impacts to wildlife.
- The proposed and alternate sites are expected to minimize proximity to residences.
- The proposed and alternate sites are on the portions of the quarter section with the lowest agricultural production and represent, at most, approximately six per cent of the farmable land within the quarter section. The remainder of the quarter section would continue to be used for agricultural purposes.¹⁷

34. When asked about Enfinite's choice to prioritize a shorter transmission line over siting the energy storage project in accordance with municipal planning documents and land use policy, Foothills County stated that it is not concerned about the scenario where an energy storage facility is sited in the industrial corridor and requires a 15-kilometre long transmission line to

¹² Exhibit 28906-X0235, Foothills County Evidence Submission AUC 28906, PDF pages 2-3; Exhibit 28906-X0320, Opening Statement, PDF pages 1 and 14.

¹³ Transcript, Volume 2, page 418, lines 18-22.

¹⁴ Exhibit 28906-X0235, Foothills County Evidence Submission AUC 28906, PDF page 2. Other electric energy-related facilities are currently included in the land use bylaw as permissible discretionary land uses in the Highway 2A corridor: see Foothills County, Land Use Bylaw No. 60/2014, sections 15.2.4 and 15.3.4, which list "Solar Power System, Commercial" as a discretionary use in the General Industrial District and the Industrial Edge District, respectively. Both of these districts are located within the industrial corridor.

¹⁵ Exhibit 28906-X0320, Opening Statement, PDF pages 1 and 14.

¹⁶ Exhibit 28906-X0240, Appendix A - Submissions of Barbara and Ted Harty, PDF page 3, paragraph 11, citing the attached M.D. of Foothills No. 31, "Growth Management Strategy" (February 2013); Transcript, Volume 4, page 649, line 25 to page 651, line 3.

¹⁷ Exhibit 28906-X0006.01, AttachmentG_ParticipantInvolvementProgram, PDF page 19; Exhibit 28906-X0341, Opening Statement - Enfinite (September 19, 2025), PDF page 2.

connect to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.¹⁸ While the Commission generally supports siting projects to minimize transmission infrastructure, to be clear, in this proceeding the Commission is not assessing whether the energy storage project should have been located in the industrial corridor, it is assessing whether the energy storage project's non-compliance with municipal planning documents and land use policies is acceptable.

35. The applicant made a siting decision based on its view of the optimal balancing between a variety of trade-offs – ultimately prioritizing minimizing the transmission infrastructure required to connect the energy storage project to the system over compliance with municipal planning documents and land use policy. The crux of the siting issue in this proceeding is that the hosting municipality fundamentally disagrees about the trade-offs that the applicant made and believes that compliance with municipal planning documents and land use policy should have been prioritized over the minimization of transmission infrastructure.

36. In determining whether the energy storage project is in the public interest, the Commission must assess the balance between benefits and negative impacts in making the siting determination.

37. As discussed in Section 3.1, municipal input is important to the Commission's understanding of the context, background and local concerns about a project. The Commission considers municipal requirements, including municipal planning documents and land use policies, and municipal concerns when evaluating whether a proposed project is in the public interest. While the Commission is not bound by municipal planning documents or policies, including those that might prohibit or impose limitations on the development of an energy storage project on certain lands, the Commission endeavours to achieve consistency with them.

38. Foothills County's municipal planning documents communicate land use planning as well as environmental, social, economic and other community objectives for the municipality. They reflect local perspectives on the acceptable impacts of new development.

39. This is not a case where a municipality has unreasonably developed land use policies in order to restrict energy storage facilities in the municipality. Rather, Foothills County's municipal planning framework was developed over decades in consultation with stakeholders and adopted by a democratically elected municipal council.¹⁹ Read together, the municipal planning documents demonstrate a credible and rational commitment on the part of Foothills County to finding balance and compromise between conflicting land uses and perspectives.

40. Foothills County has clearly communicated that industrial projects should be located in the industrial corridor and not in an agricultural district. This choice is reflective of a multitude of factors including environmental, social and public safety objectives. In particular, the Commission acknowledges that the industrial corridor has full-time firefighting coverage and

¹⁸ Transcript, Volume 2, page 419, line 17 to page 420, line 5.

¹⁹ Foothills County, MDP [municipal development plan] 2010, adopted by Bylaw No. 78/2010 and amended by Bylaw No. 52/2016 and Foothills County, Highway 2A Industrial ASP [area structure plan], adopted by Bylaw 98/2010, both of which describe the process for the development and adoption of the respective document in an introduction section. Foothills County Land Use Bylaw No. 60/2014 states in the User Guide section that it "reflects the County's regulation and policy, including the Municipal Development Plan 2010 as adopted by Bylaw No. 78/2010 and amended by Bylaw 52/2016."

reliable access to year-round piped water for firefighting, while the agricultural district does not. The lack of full-time firefighting coverage and reliable access to year-round piped water for firefighting in the vicinity of the proposed and alternate sites contribute to Foothills County's main unresolved safety concerns about the energy storage project, as further discussed below.

41. It is not contested that the energy storage project does not comply with Foothills County's municipal planning documents and land use policies. The Commission finds that this non-compliance is material and has the potential to significantly and negatively impact environmental, social, economic and other community objectives for the municipality.

42. As noted above, the Commission endeavors to achieve consistency with municipal planning documents and land use policies, but ultimately the Commission's decision on applications takes precedence. In other words, the Commission is not required to adhere to these documents and policies; however, the Commission does place weight on them and on Foothills County's rationale for the land use decisions contained within them when performing the overall public interest assessment for a facilities application.

43. On the record of this proceeding, the Commission is faced with a municipality that has made clear choices about where industrial development should be located within the municipality and a proposed project that is not compliant with those choices. The impact of its non-compliance with municipal planning documents is exacerbated due to the nature and scale of the proposed energy storage project and the associated safety and emergency response concerns raised by Foothills County related to the availability and proximity of emergency response resources.

44. Enfinite submitted that the project would be in the public interest for a variety of reasons, including that it would significantly enhance the reliability, resilience and efficiency of the Alberta Interconnected Electric System, generate property tax revenue for the county, and support construction labour and industries in the supply chain. Enfinite also committed to contributing \$10,000 annually for the improvement and maintenance of the nearby Frank Lake Important Bird Area and to supporting the county fire department and emergency services department with training.²⁰

45. The Commission acknowledges that Enfinite's view of the appropriate balancing of impacts differs from Foothills County's, but in this particular case, the Commission places significant weight on Foothills County's position and finds that the material non-compliance with Foothills County's municipal planning documents and land use policies outweighs the benefits of the project.

46. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the energy storage project is not in the public interest. The weight placed on the material non-compliance with municipal planning documents and the Commission's overall public interest balancing is specific to the record of this proceeding, including the nature and scope of the proposed energy storage project and the concerns raised by the interveners. It should not be construed as implying that any non-compliance with municipal planning documents is unacceptable or that a proposed project that is non-compliant with municipal planning documents could not be, on balance, in the public interest.

²⁰ Exhibit 28906-X0297, Enfinite Reply Evidence Submission (2 September 2025), PDF pages 44-46.

4.2 Emergency response planning

47. While its findings in Section 4.1 are determinative of the energy storage project application, the Commission provides the following commentary with respect to Enfinite's emergency response plan. As discussed below, the emergency response plan is appropriate for this stage of the project and meets Rule 007 requirements. However, Foothills County continues to have concerns regarding emergency response planning. This, along with the fact that Foothills County's decision to establish an industrial corridor considered emergency response resourcing, reinforce that in this particular case, Foothills County's municipal land use planning should be given significant weight.

48. Enfinite retained Energy Safety Response Group (ESRG), Ollson Environmental Health Management, Calvin Consulting Group Ltd. and RWDI to provide evidence on battery fire-related risk and emergency response planning. Enfinite also submitted a draft site-specific emergency response plan that outlined practices and procedures to be used in the event of medical aid, serious injury, fire, explosion or other emergency situations.²¹ Enfinite also filed air dispersion modelling reports that predicted air quality impacts arising from a battery fire event.²²

49. Foothills County raised concerns about the adequacy of Enfinite's emergency response plan and the risks associated with the proposed sites having single access roads and insufficient water supplies to support a sustained battery fire response.²³

50. Foothills County emphasized its reliance on volunteer fire services²⁴ and that there are rural water limitations in the project area.²⁵ Foothills County acknowledged that trucked-in water supplies can supplement on-site reserves but stated that trucked-in water supplies cannot replace the reliability and scalability of a permanent water source, and further emphasized the additional risks associated with variable road conditions, weather, traffic and vehicle availability.

51. Foothills County further explained that it has longstanding provisions in its development permit process that require applicants to address water supply for firefighting and emphasized that this is not a new or project-specific requirement. It added that water supply issues are consistently part of the county's planning and safety framework applied to all commercial and industrial developments.²⁶

52. The FLNCC shared Foothills County's concerns with the adequacy of Enfinite's emergency response plan and Enfinite's proposed on-site water storage. The FLNCC also expressed concerns with the potential for contamination of runoff during a fire response, and risks of introducing contaminants to Frank Lake.²⁷

²¹ Exhibit 28906-X0004, AttachmentE_EmergencyResponsePlans.

²² Exhibit 28906-X0005, AttachmentF_AirQualityDispersionModellingandRiskAssessment; Exhibit 28906-X0164, Addendum to Attachment F to Application No. 28906-A001 (Air Quality Dispersion Modelling and Risk Assessment); and Exhibit 28906-X0211, 20250626 RWDI 2512213 REP AirQuality Laramide.

²³ Exhibit 28906-X0393, Argument, PDF page 6.

²⁴ Transcript, Volume 4, page 643, line 15.

²⁵ Exhibit 28906-X0320, Opening Statement, PDF page 2.

²⁶ Transcript, Volume 4, pages 643, lines 8-14.

²⁷ Transcript, Volume 4, page 651, lines 15-18 and page 682, lines 4-20.

53. ESRG was retained by Enfinite to provide opinions on the concerns raised by Foothills County with respect to fire safety and mitigation measures. ESRG also recommended practices for emergency response procedures. ESRG asserted that there were several design elements of the energy storage project that would mitigate the impacts in the event of an energy storage facility fire, which included:²⁸

- Incorporating cabinet spacing in the design that was “validated” by large-scale fire testing.
- A seven-metre gravel pad between any energy storage facility container and the fenceline, to act as a fire break.
- Tesla Megapack 2XL equipment selection for the energy storage facility that is designed to “safely consume itself” in the (unlikely) event of a thermal runaway failure. The Tesla Megapack 2XL equipment would also include non-combustible metallic enclosures.

54. With respect to water usage during an energy storage facility fire, ESRG stated that water fog streams may be used to cool adjacent exposures, but that defensive fire water use may not be required at all.

55. Enfinite made the following commitments²⁹ with respect to its emergency response plan and the county’s safety concerns:

- Ongoing collaboration with Foothills County for the purpose of developing the site-specific emergency response plan.
- Providing training for the local county fire departments.
- Implementing some on-site water storage if deemed appropriate by Foothills County and Enfinite’s consultants (approximately 24,000 to 30,000 gallons).
- Installation of thermal imaging cameras as part of its monitoring and fire detection systems.
- Continually updating the site-specific emergency response plan, including the addition of details relating to managing a potential chemical release relating to potential impacts to Frank Lake.
- Finalizing a site-specific hazard mitigation analysis.
- Regular on-site maintenance to remove overgrown vegetation from the vicinity of the energy storage facility equipment.
- Creating an opt-in notification system for residents within a 1.5-kilometre radius.

²⁸ Exhibit 28906-X0342, Opening Statement – ESRG, PDF pages 3 and 5.

²⁹ Exhibit 28906-X0372, Commitment List Post Hearing (1 October 2025), PDF pages 5 and 6.

56. The Commission finds that the level of detail provided in Enfinite's draft emergency response plan is appropriate for this stage of the project and meets the Rule 007 requirements. The emergency response plan outlines risks associated with energy storage projects and includes proposed fire risk mitigations and response procedures. The Commission expects emergency response plans to be evolving documents with frequent updates through consultation with local emergency services and other stakeholders prior to, and throughout, facility operations.

57. The Commission recognizes that ESRG has experience with development of standards for energy storage facilities, knowledge of energy storage facility failure modes and fire testing of energy storage facilities. The Commission finds the evidence from ESRG to be persuasive with respect to the technical aspects of energy storage facility fires and emergency response planning and that its evidence advanced the Commission's understanding of emergency response activities for energy storage facilities. However, the Commission also finds that Foothills County best understands its available emergency response resources, the county's own emergency response capabilities, and ultimately the county's ability to respond to, and sustain a response, during an emergency. The Commission notes that assessing emergency response planning is part of Foothills County's safety framework for permitting commercial and industrial developments.³⁰

58. Foothills County first stated concerns with emergency response during a conversation with Enfinite on October 17, 2023,³¹ and consistently expressed concerns with emergency response in subsequent conversations documented in Enfinite's consultation log and in filings made by Foothills County throughout this proceeding. As evidenced by the statements made by Foothills County in its statement of intent to participate,³² parties were in disagreement on the topic of emergency response at the time of Enfinite's filing of the energy storage project application. Despite ongoing consultation during the proceeding, and a stated interest during the hearing by both Enfinite and Foothills County to continue discussions regarding emergency response, both parties continued to have substantive disagreements.

59. The Commission emphasizes that AUC proceedings are not intended to substitute for consultation between the applicant and affected parties. As stated in Rule 007, it is paramount that effective communications take place between the applicant and all potentially affected persons including Indigenous groups, the public, local authorities, agencies, industry and government so that concerns may be raised, properly addressed, and if possible, resolved.³³

5 Conclusion

60. In accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, in addition to any other matters it may or must consider, the Commission must consider whether approval of the energy storage project is in the public interest having regard to the social and economic effects and the effects on the environment. In general, the Commission considers that the public interest will be largely met if an application complies with existing regulatory standards, and the project's public benefits outweigh its negative impacts, including effective mitigation of impacts.

³⁰ Transcript, Volume 4, page 643, lines 12-14.

³¹ Exhibit 28906-X0387, Appendix D - Updated Consultation Log (Foothills County), PDF page 1.

³² Exhibit 28906-X0039, Statement of intent to participate, PDF page 2.

³³ Rule 007: *Facility Applications*, PDF page 158.

61. As discussed in Section 4, the project's benefits do not outweigh the Commission's outstanding concerns about significant negative impacts related to the energy storage project's material non-compliance with municipal planning documents and land use policies considering the safety-related concerns expressed by Foothills County. As these negative impacts outweigh the energy storage project's benefits, the Commission has determined that it is not necessary to consider any of the project's other potential negative impacts.

62. Overall, the Commission finds that the energy storage project is not in the public interest and denies Application 28906-A001.

63. As the energy storage project is denied, the Commission finds that none of the other applications in this proceeding are necessary and also denies applications 28906-A002 to 28906-A006, which include:

- an application from Enfinite to construct and operate the Laramide 1172S Substation;
- an application from the AESO for the need to connect the Laramide Battery Energy Storage Facility;
- applications from Enfinite and AltaLink to construct, connect and jointly operate Transmission Line 1141L; and
- applications from AltaLink to alter its Foothills 237S Substation and connect the Laramide Battery Energy Storage Facility, by Transmission Line 1141L, to the Foothills 237S Substation.

6 Decision

64. For the reasons outlined in the decision, the Commission finds that approval of the applications is not in the public interest. In accordance with sections 13.01(1), 14, 15, 18, 19 and 21 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission denies applications 28906-A001, 28906-A003, 28906-A004, 28906-A005 and 28906-A006. In accordance with Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the Commission denies Application 28906-A002.

Dated on April 30, 2026.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Vera Slawinski
Panel Chair

(original signed by)

Cairns Price
Commission Member

Appendix 1 – Proceeding participants

Name of organization (abbreviation) Company name of counsel or representative
2569059 Alberta Inc. (Enfinite) Sean Smyth Kimberly Howard Riley Thackray
Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) Andrea Lamy
AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) Brenden Hunter Elizabeth Coyle Dale Johnston
Frank Lake North Concerned Citizens Group (FLNCC) Ifeoma Okoye Chinedu Kema Richard Secord
Foothills County Rick Saulnier Heather Hemingway
Alberta Wilderness Association Ruiping Luo
Frank Lake Bird and Biodiversity Group Amy Marcotte Ifeoma Okoye Richard Secord Chiamaka Obiadi

Alberta Utilities Commission

Commission panel

Vera Slawinski, Panel Chair

Cairns Price, Commission Member

Commission staff

Alyssa Marshall (Commission Counsel)

Sarah Rezazadeh (Articling Student)

Chad Bergeron

Allan Anderson

Joan Yu

Glenn Harasym

Appendix 2 – Oral hearing – registered appearances

Name of organization (abbreviation) Name of counsel or representative	Witnesses
2569059 Alberta Inc. (Enfinite) S. Smyth, McCarthy Tétrault LLP, counsel K. Howard, McCarthy Tétrault LLP, counsel R. Thackray, McCarthy Tétrault LLP, counsel	T. Smith L. Hinthner B. Dawson C. Ollson N. Petrakis A. Kupper A. Edeburn R. Desrosiers
AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) B. Hunter, Fasken Martineau Dumoulin LLP, counsel E. Coyle, counsel D. Johnston, counsel	P. McKenna
Frank Lake North Concerned Citizens Group (FLNCC) I. Okoye, Ackroyd LLP, counsel C. Kema, Ackroyd LLP, counsel	A. Weeks C. Irwin R. Irwin B. Harty T. Harty M. Polivka J. Binding J. Farquharson C. Tenszen
Foothills County R. Saulnier H. Hemingway	R. Saulnier H. Hemingway