

Public hearings are held before a panel of Commission members who are designated to make a decision about the application, or applications, being considered in a proceeding. AUC hearings are accessible to the public through a livestream broadcast or through an archived broadcast. Recorded oral hearings, oral argument or technical meetings are available to the public on the AUC's YouTube account until the close of the proceeding record.

In-person hearings may also be held in or near the area that may be affected by the proposed project. All hearings are transcribed by a court reporter. The hearing follows this outline of steps in a formal quasi-judicial process:

- 1. Opening remarks** – The chair of the Commission member panel begins the hearing by explaining the purpose of the hearing and introducing the other members of the hearing panel and AUC staff. All participants are asked to register following introductions.
- 2. Preliminary matters** – Procedural and legal matters, such as adjournment requests or the scheduling of a specific witness at a particular time, are raised for the panel's decision or direction. The chair of the panel may request that participants discuss these issues with AUC staff outside of the hearing to make efficient use of time.
- 3. Applicant presents its case** – The applicant's witnesses are sworn in under oath and the applicant, through their lawyer, summarizes its case.
- 4. Applicant is cross-examined** – Interveners are each given a turn to cross-examine the applicant's witnesses, followed by the AUC staff's lawyer and the Commission panel members. Once the questions are complete, the lawyer for the applicant may question the witnesses again to clarify answers to any questions that arose that require clarification because the witness's evidence is unclear or appears to be mistaken.
- 5. Interveners present their case** – Typically, following in the order that the participants registered appearances for the hearing, the interveners are each given a chance to present their case.
- 6. Interveners cross-examined** – Directly after presenting their case, interveners are cross-examined by the applicant's lawyer, other interveners who take a different position on the application, AUC staff and by the Commission panel members. Once the questions are complete, the lawyer for the intervener may question the witnesses again to clarify any evidence that is unclear or appears to be mistaken.
- 7. Rebuttal evidence by applicant** – The applicant may submit additional evidence to address new points raised by interveners in their oral evidence that the applicant could not have anticipated at the time its witnesses gave their evidence.
- 8. Final argument or summation** – After the evidentiary portion of the hearing is complete, each participant may provide an explanation of what he or she believes are the important aspects of the issues involved and what decisions they feel the Commission panel should make. This is the final opportunity to ensure that the Commission panel and all participants understand your position on the issues and the evidence. The applicant will give argument first, followed by the interveners in the order that they gave evidence. Finally, the applicant may respond to the interveners' arguments.
- 9. Close of the hearing** – The chair of the panel announces the hearing is complete and normally states that the decision of the panel and the reasons for the decision will be given at a later date. The written decision is typically issued no more than 90 days from the close of the hearing.

Hearings

A public hearing for facility applications is often held virtually or in person at the Calgary office. In-person hearings may also be held at hotels, community halls or other locations with appropriate space and access to phone and internet services near the area that may be affected by the proposed project. A typical hearing room layout consists of the following:

