

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Will my radio or television reception be affected by a transmission line?

Cable or satellite television is not affected by transmission lines, therefore reception problems are unlikely. We can't do anything about poor reception you might have had before the line was built, however, if you use an antenna for your television and experience reception problems they can usually be easily fixed. If you would like us to measure your television reception, or if you think you might be experiencing poor reception as a result of a transmission line, please let us know. Global Positioning Systems (GPS) should also not be affected by transmission facilities, but if you'd like us to come and check your system please give us a call.

How are nearby wire fences affected by a transmission line?

Electrical charges that can cause nuisance shocks can build up on fences parallel to a transmission line.

AltaLink will make sure your fences are safe to touch. Let us know if you put up new fences or gates near the line and we'll make sure they are safe and our access to a right-of-way is maintained. We can also protect nearby electric fences upon request.

How does AltaLink maintain the right-of-way?

Because trees can be a safety and reliability risk near transmission lines, AltaLink prefers to keep the right-of-way free of trees. This is done by mechanical (cutting) or chemical control (herbicide spraying).

However, if existing trees are of value and the landowner wants to keep them, when possible, we will trim them to ensure they don't grow too close to the wires. If you are planning to plant trees close to the right-of-way, please contact AltaLink for the best location and varieties to plant.

Weed control around the poles or towers is the responsibility of the landowner. The cost of weed control is one of the items included in the annual structure payments.

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can I plant crops under a transmission line?

In most agricultural areas, the land under the transmission line is available for cultivation by the landowner.

Can I burn brush or debris under the line?

Never start a fire under or near a transmission line because the smoke or hot air could create a conductive path from the line to the ground. The poles or towers could also be damaged by a brush fire. Smoke plumes from equipment exhaust is not a concern.

How close can my buildings be to the transmission line?

Buildings and structures (houses, garages, sheds, quonsets, light standards, antennas, masts, etc.) are NOT permitted on the transmission line right-of-way. Buildings and structures could also require additional setback from the edge of the right-of-way in order to maintain regulated safety standards.

The safe distance between buildings and transmission lines depends on the voltage of the line, the type of construction, building type and height, and location. If you want to erect a new building after the line is built, contact us and we will advise you of the distance requirements.

Electrical charges will not normally build up on most buildings close to lines because the plumbing, wiring or the frame usually grounds them. AltaLink will ground any metal buildings that could store an electrical charge.

What is EMF?

EMF is short for Electric and Magnetic Fields. These are invisible lines of force found everywhere there is electricity. For example, EMF exists around all household wiring, transmission lines and electrical appliances.

Biomedical research on the effects of EMF has been carried out for more than 30 years. Scientific panels and government organizations, including Health Canada, have reviewed these studies and most conclude that EMF from power lines do not harm humans, plants or animals. Based on the large amount of research over a number of decades, AltaLink believes the levels of EMF produced by its transmission lines will not affect your health or the health of plants or animals.

AltaLink realizes some people are concerned about power line EMF, and we treat these concerns very seriously. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us and we will provide more information.



In Alberta
sometimes it's necessary
for essential services, such as
power transmission lines
and towers, to be located on or near
someone's property.



ALTALINK

Information

1-866-595-3437 (toll free)

24 Hour Emergency Line

1-866-667-3400 (toll free)

ALTALINK

2611 3rd Avenue SE

Calgary, Alberta T2A 7W7

Corporate Offices: (403) 267-3400

www.altalink.ca

e-mail: goodneighbours@altalink.ca

As the largest owner and operator of transmission facilities in the province, we take our responsibilities seriously. Being a good neighbour is one of our most important goals.

This brochure is intended to help landowners understand how they may be affected by nearby transmission facilities.

If you have questions, please give us a call toll-free during work hours at **1-866-595-3437**. For emergencies, call our 24-hour line at 1-866-667-3400.

ALTALINK

ABOUT ALTALINK

AltaLink is an independent company that owns and operates approximately 11,800 kilometres of transmission lines and approximately 270 substations. We provide electric service to more than 85 per cent of Albertans and work to maintain the safest, most reliable transmission facilities possible.



PROVIDING
ELECTRIC SERVICE
TO MORE THAN
85%
OF ALBERTANS.

the role of TRANSMISSION

AltaLink's transmission system provides the vital high voltage link between Alberta's generation supply and the distribution systems that carry electricity directly to consumers.

See the diagram to the right.

The **Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)** is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the government of Alberta, with a mission to ensure that the delivery of Alberta's utility services take place in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest.

The **Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)** is the independent, not-for-profit entity responsible for the safe, reliable and economic planning and operation of the Alberta Interconnected Electric System.

Transmission Facility Owners (TFOs), like AltaLink, are regulated utility companies who own and operate portions of the province's transmission system in a specified service area.



GENERATORS	TRANSMISSION LINES	SUBSTATION	DISTRIBUTION	RETAILERS	YOU
ATCO TransAlta EPCOR Wind turbines Cogeneration plants	TRANSMISSION FACILITY OWNER (TFO) AltaLink ATCO ELECTRIC ENMAX POWER (Calgary) EPCOR (Edmonton)	TRANSMISSION FACILITY OWNER (TFO) AltaLink ATCO ELECTRIC ENMAX POWER (Calgary) EPCOR (Edmonton)	ATCO ELECTRIC FortisAlberta ENMAX POWER (Calgary) EPCOR (Edmonton) Rural Electrification Associations	Direct Energy ENMAX Energy (Calgary) EPCOR	

the cost of TRANSMISSION SERVICES

Albertans pay for the cost of our services through their electric bills. However the transmission charge is a small portion of that bill. Transmission costs are regulated in Alberta, and those costs must be approved by the AUC.

Here is summary of a typical electric service bill that you may receive from your retailer. The transmission component of the bill is highlighted.

Your Utilities Bill

Account # xxxxx
Date mo./yr.

John Doe
1234 Anywhere St.
Everywhere, AB.

Generator Energy Charge	XX.XX
Transmission Charge	X.XX
Distribution Charge	XX.XX
Service Charge	XX.XX
Total	XXX.XX

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can I put fuel in my vehicle while it is under a transmission line?

We don't recommend fueling vehicles under transmission lines. If you must fuel a vehicle under the line, make sure to ground both the fuel container and the vehicle so any sources of sparks are eliminated.

Can I operate my machinery safely near a transmission line?

Vehicles or equipment measuring up to 4.3 metres (14 feet) tall can be safely operated under a transmission line. Remember items such as antennas when measuring the height of your equipment. Never pass under a line with equipment that could contact the line. The greatest amount of clearance is near the poles or towers. The least amount of clearance is midway between the poles or towers. If you are unsure about clearance or have to move something that is too high, please contact us for assistance.

What happens if I park a vehicle under a transmission line?

It is best not to park any vehicle under a transmission line. It could build up a charge from the line and cause a nuisance shock when you touch the vehicle.

How can I tell the difference between a transmission line and a distribution line?

For the most part, transmission towers are larger and taller than distribution towers. Please refer to the sketch above. AltaLink owns and operates transmission lines, which are higher voltage than distribution lines.