

Electric system improvements near you

Blackspring Ridge I Wind Farm Connection

Connecting Greengate's Blackspring Ridge Wind Project to Alberta's electric system

DID YOU KNOW?

The average four-person family in Alberta today has 20 'instant-on' electronics such as laptops, DVD players, music device chargers and cell phone chargers. This is in addition to the other appliances necessary to run a home - fridges, stoves, microwaves, washers and dryers – all of which require a reliable supply of electricity.

You are receiving this newsletter because you are near the Blackspring Ridge I Wind Farm Connection project proposed near Carmangay and we want your input.

This **transmission** development is proposed to connect Greengate Power Corporation's Blackspring Ridge Wind Project to Alberta's electric system, providing Albertans with access to more wind-powered energy.

We want to provide you with:

- project details
- maps of the proposed project
- project schedule
- information about how you can provide your input

DEFINITION

Transmission

Transmission lines make up Alberta's electric highway, linking the places where power is generated to where power is used. Transmission lines transport large amounts of power over long distances across the province. The transmission system connects diverse sources of power generation including wind, high-efficiency coal, natural gas and more.

CONTACT US

1-877-267-1453 (toll free)

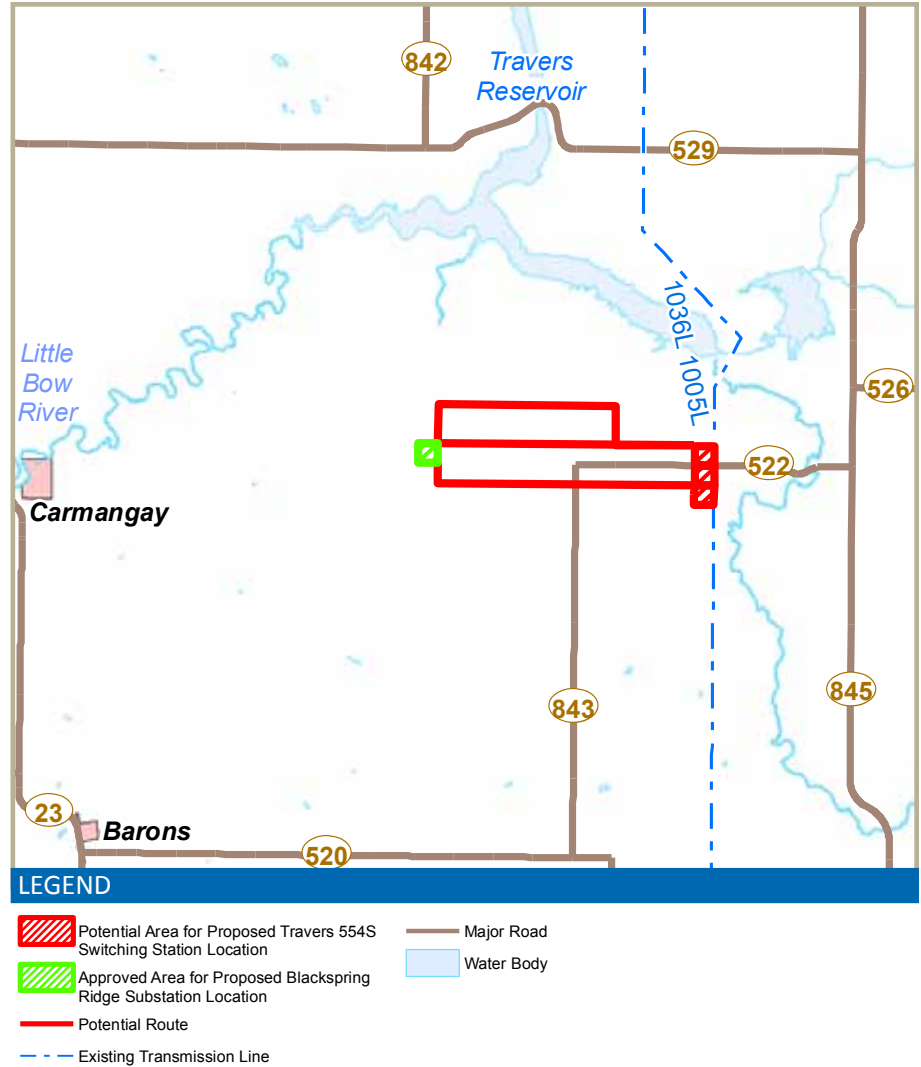
stakeholder.relations@altalink.ca

Visit us online at

www.altalink.ca/regionalprojects

WHO IS ALTALINK?

AltaLink's transmission system efficiently delivers electricity to 85 per cent of Albertans. Dedicated to meeting the growing need for electricity, AltaLink connects Albertans to renewable, reliable and low-cost power. With a commitment to community and environment, AltaLink is ensuring the transmission system will support Albertans' quality of life for years to come. Learn more at www.altalink.ca.



DEFINITION

Alberta Electric System Operator

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

Why is this project needed?

Greengate Power Corporation has requested a transmission interconnection for its approved Blackspring Ridge Wind Project. The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) has confirmed the need for the Blackspring Ridge I Wind Farm Connection.

This wind power project will provide up to 300 megawatts (MW) of additional wind power to the province's electric system. The majority of the costs associated with this project will be paid for by Greengate Power Corporation.

Project details

This proposed project includes:

- building a new [switching station](#), to be called Travers
- building approximately 12-15 kilometres (seven to nine miles) of new 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the Blacksprings Substation to the proposed switching station
- building a telecommunications tower within the switching station fence

AltaLink is responsible for the consultation and construction of the proposed transmission line and switching station. Greengate Power Corporation is responsible for the consultation and construction of the approved wind power facility and Blackspring Ridge Substation. If you have any questions regarding the approved wind power facility or substation, they can be directed to Greengate Power Corporation. Greengate's contact information is on the back of this newsletter.



DEFINITION

Switching Station

A switching station connects two or more transmission lines so power can be re-routed and transported across the province to where it's needed.

The proposed Travers switching station will look similar to the one pictured here.

New switching station

The proposed Travers switching station will be approximately 65 metres (213 feet) by 85 metres (278 feet). There are three potential locations for the switching station. The final switching station location will be determined using stakeholder feedback about the site location and potential routes for the transmission line. The proposed switching station will require an access road.

The maps included in this information package show the potential location of the proposed switching station.

The transmission structures will look similar to the one pictured here.



DEFINITION

Right-of-way

The right-of-way is a strip of land required for the construction and operation of a transmission line. A right-of-way refers to the physical space a transmission line encompasses including areas on either side of the line.

New transmission line

AltaLink is proposing to build approximately 12-15 kilometres (seven to nine miles) of new transmission line that will connect Greengate's Blackspring Ridge Wind Project to AltaLink's proposed Travers switching station and then onto Alberta's electric system.

The new transmission lines will be steel pole H-frame structures. The structures:

- will be approximately 20-26 metres (65-85 feet) high
- require a [right-of-way](#) of 40 metres (130 feet)
- may be supported with guy wires

ROUTE SELECTION

When identifying route options, AltaLink takes several factors into consideration in an effort to find routes with the lowest overall impact. Some of the factors we take into consideration include:

- agricultural
- residential
- environmental
- electrical
- cost
- visual
- special considerations

Please let us know what other factors are important to you so we can consider them when refining route options.

Telecommunications tower

As part of this project, AltaLink is proposing to install a [telecommunications tower](#). The tower will be located inside the proposed switching station fence area.

The tower will:

- be approximately 40 metres (132 feet) tall
- have a triangular base
- be self-supporting

The tower may be painted and have lighting to comply with Transport Canada's requirements.

The radio installation described in this notification will be installed and operated on an ongoing basis so as to comply with Health Canada's Safety Code 6, which defines safe levels of radio frequency (RF) exposure. To ensure the structural adequacy of the tower, the design and installation will follow industry standards and sound engineering practices.

DEFINITION

Telecommunications tower

A telecommunications tower transmits data to our system control centre, allowing us to monitor the operation of the electric system and ensure the safety and reliability of the system for our customers.



The proposed telecommunications tower will look similar to the one pictured here.

DEFINITION

Alberta Utilities Commission

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) ensures the fair and responsible delivery of Alberta’s utility services. AltaLink submits applications for new transmission projects to the AUC and the AUC reviews them in a public process.

DEFINITION

Needs Application

The AESO submits Needs Applications to the AUC for review. A Needs Application describes why a transmission project is required. The AUC may review a Needs Application at the same time it reviews a Facilities Application, or may review each application separately. The AUC must approve a Needs Application before construction can begin.

DEFINITION

Facilities Application

AltaLink submits Facilities Applications to the AUC for review. A Facilities Application describes how AltaLink proposes to meet the requirement for a transmission project. It includes routing details, results of the participant involvement program and technical details. Facilities Applications must be approved by the AUC before construction can begin.

Providing your input

Stakeholder input is critical to identifying the lowest overall impact solution for this project. You can provide your input in any of the following ways.

PARTICIPATING IN A ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATION

We will contact occupants, residents and landowners near the proposed transmission line and switching station locations to gather input through one-on-one consultations. During the one-on-one process we will document the information you provide and address any questions or concerns you may have about the project.

AltaLink is committed to sharing information about its projects and working with the public to ensure stakeholder input and concerns are heard and addressed. A summary of stakeholder comments and the commitments we make will be incorporated into the application we submit to the [Alberta Utilities Commission \(AUC\)](#).

CONTACTING US DIRECTLY

You can contact us by telephone, email, mail or through our website. Our contact information is on the front and back pages of this newsletter.

Next steps

The AESO has determined this transmission system development is needed and will file a [Needs Application](#) with the AUC. After AltaLink’s consultation process is complete we will file a [Facilities Application](#) with the AUC in the spring of 2012. The AUC will review both the Needs Application and the Facilities Application at the same time through a process in which stakeholders can participate.

We will notify stakeholders when we file the application and again once the AUC has reached a decision about the project. 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 Needs or Facilities Applications*.

Project schedule

Notify and consult with stakeholders	Summer – Fall 2011
File application with Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)	Winter 2011/2012
Start construction if project is approved	Summer 2012
Complete construction	Fall 2012 – Spring 2013*

*construction for this project will likely take four to six months. If interruptions are required due to weather or environmental conditions, construction may take longer.

Our commitment to the environment

At AltaLink, we are committed to the protection of our project areas. We strive to balance the effect of our operations while maintaining the safety and reliability of our electric system for our customers.

AltaLink and its contractors will follow all applicable Alberta Environment legislation and requirements, and will use appropriate techniques to protect water quality, soil, vegetation and wildlife habitat throughout any future construction process.

Electricity and you

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) are found everywhere electricity is used in our modern society – around household wiring, electrical appliances and power lines. Household items such as microwaves, alarm clocks, hair dryers, power tools and computers emit EMF.

National and international organizations such as Health Canada and the World Health Organization have been conducting EMF research for more than 30 years. Please refer to the brochure titled *A Dialogue on Electric and Magnetic Fields* for more information.

Compensation

We believe people with transmission facilities on their property deserve to be compensated fairly. We will contact stakeholders in the coming months to discuss details about compensation.

What to expect during construction

If the project is approved by the AUC, we expect the construction process to take approximately one year.

Depending on where you are in relation to the project, you may see or hear:

- noise and construction crews
- selective tree and vegetation clearing
- transmission structure construction
- wire stringing on the transmission structures
- constructing a new switching station

Obtaining access and carrying out activities on private property will be done in consultation with the landowner. Any noise associated with the construction or operation of the new facilities will comply with the AUC's Noise Control Rule 12 and other relevant provincial and municipal noise regulations and standards.

DID YOU KNOW?

We're active in protecting birds and have several programs in place including the first-of-its-kind GREENJACKET™ – a product that protects wildlife in substations and switching stations. And that's just the beginning. For more information, including our innovative recycling programs, please visit www.altalink.ca/environment.

INCLUDED IN THIS STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION PACKAGE

- Project maps
- AltaLink brochure: *A Dialogue on Electric & Magnetic Fields*
- AltaLink brochure: *Good Neighbours*
- AUC brochure: *Public Involvement in Needs or Facilities Applications*
- AESO Need Overview
- Industry Canada brochure: *Antenna Towers in Your Community*



More information

To learn more about the proposed project, please contact:

ALTALINK

1-877-267-1453 (toll free)

Email: stakeholder.relations@altalink.ca

To learn more about Alberta's electric system and the need for the project, please contact:

ALBERTA ELECTRIC SYSTEM OPERATOR (AESO)

1-888-866-2959

Email: stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca

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

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION (AUC)

780-427-4903

(You can call toll-free by dialing 310-0000 before the number)

Email: utilitiesconcerns@auc.ab.ca

To learn more about Greengate Power Corporation, please contact:

DAN TOCHER - VICE PRESIDENT, STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

403-514-0556 ext. 203

Email: dant@greengatepower.com

For general information relating to telecommunications systems, please contact:

INDUSTRY CANADA

Toll-free: 1-800-328-6189 (in Canada)

Website: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/antenna>

ALTALINK

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