

April 27, 2010

Dear Stakeholder:

UPDATE: Fidler Project Update: Preferred and Alternate Route Options and Substation Locations

Thank you for your ongoing participation and input regarding the proposed Fidler Substation and Transmission Line project. You are receiving this update because you are a stakeholder within 800 metres of one or more of the proposed transmission line routes or substation locations being considered for the project.

Preferred and alternate route options and substation locations

AltaLink has now identified its preferred and potential alternate transmission line routes and substation locations for the proposed Fidler project. AltaLink will be recommending the following preferred route and substation location in its Facilities Application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC):

Preferred route: Option 'D' to substation site 'B'
Preferred substation site: Option 'B' located at SE 23-7-29 W4M

AltaLink may also file the following alternate route and substation location in the Facilities Application:

Alternate route: Option 'A' to substation site 'A'
Alternate substation site: Option 'A' located at NW 22-7-29 W4M

Only one of the transmission route options and one substation will be built if approved by the AUC. Please refer to the enclosed maps that illustrate these preferred and alternate transmission line routes and substation sites. Previously considered transmission route options 'B' and 'C' have been rejected and will no longer be considered. Information about the preferred and alternate routes and substation locations as well as information about rejected routes can be found in this letter.

Preferred Route

The AUC will make the final decision about the substation location and the transmission line route option to be constructed. Transmission structures will be built on the land parcels located on the route approved by the AUC.

If you have land parcels on Option 'D' (preferred route) or Option 'A' (potential alternate route), we have enclosed Photo-Mosaic Strip Maps to illustrate the options in greater detail.

Rejected routes

Options 'B' and 'C', shown in 'pink' on the enclosed map, are no longer under consideration. Land parcels on these routes will not have transmission structures on them as part of the Fidler Substation and Transmission Line project.

The original proposed route options just north of the Goose Lake substation went around the Town of Pincher Creek's water treatment ponds (in 6-7-29 W4M) to the south and east. This route has been rejected based primarily on landowner feedback received during the consultation process and challenges avoiding local irrigation systems. All route options are now proposed to go around the water treatment ponds on the west and north boundary of the treatment facility.

Determining route options and substation locations with the lowest overall impact

AltaLink has identified the route options and substation locations with the lowest overall impact through route and site evaluations and our consultation program.

Some of the factors we took into consideration when identifying route options include:

- proximity of existing residences
- impacts on agricultural operations
- following existing linear disturbances
- other issues of environmental / archaeological concerns.

During the route selection process we attempt to avoid, in order of precedence:

- existing developments (such as residences)
- approved developments
- developments under formal consideration by the local planning authority
- planned developments

The preferred and alternate routes cross several wind farms planned throughout the area (planned wind farm areas are outlined in 'purple' on the attached map). The overall incremental visual impact of the transmission line will eventually be overwhelmed by the visual impacts of the larger wind turbines as they are installed over the next ten years or so.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our consultation process. We received valuable input at our open house and during our one-on-one consultations. We conducted approximately 41 one-on-one consultations with landowners, residents and

occupants in the project area. We also obtained input from approximately 24 local and regional agencies, groups and businesses during the consultation program.

Preferred transmission route

Transmission route Option 'D', shown in 'green' on the attached map, was selected as the preferred route option by carefully considering a number of routing criteria. The routing criteria included, for example:

- the proximity and number of residences in the vicinity of the routes
- stakeholder feedback
- options for crossing the Oldman River
- feasible substation locations
- ability to parallel other transmission lines or other linear disturbances
- impacts to irrigation and general agricultural operations
- potential environmental impacts
- setbacks from roads and rail lines
- avoidance of planned wind turbine locations
- avoidance of the Oldman Dam Provincial Recreation Area (PRA)
- visual impacts
- consideration of the area's future transmission and wind farm projects

A route comparison table (Table 1), showing the line length and number of residences within 800 metres of the preferred and potential alternate route options is below.

Table 1

Route Comparison Table - Preferred and Alternate 240 kV Route Options

	Route Option 'A' (Potential Alternate)	Route Option 'D' (Preferred)
Total Length	10.7 km	12.7 km
Residences within 150 m	0	0
Residences within 800 m	37	10

The preferred route (Option 'D') to substation site 'B' follows along the west and north boundaries of the Town of Pincher Creek's water treatment ponds, then goes east where it parallels Highway 3. The transmission line will be set back approximately 110 m from Highway 3 as requested by Alberta Transportation. The preferred route then deflects north and follows Range Road 291, crosses the Oldman River near the Summerview Bridge (and adjacent to an existing electrical distribution line) and continues north into the preferred Fidler substation site 'B'.

In addition to the proposed 240 kV route, a double circuit, 138 kV transmission line (steel, single pole structures), shown in 'orange' on the attached map, is proposed to exit the substation, follow north along Range Road 291, and end at the existing transmission line (*i.e.*, 893AL) located along Highway 785. The 138 kV transmission line is proposed to be within the road allowance or within AltaLink property for the entire route.

Potential Alternate Transmission Route

Transmission route Option 'A', shown in 'red' on the attached map, was selected as the potential alternate route based on the consideration of multiple routing criteria. The alternate transmission route is shorter than the preferred route, parallels existing transmission lines for much of its route and is generally considered to have less potential environmental impacts. The alternate route option, however, is unable to avoid crossing the Oldman Dam PRA.

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation informed AltaLink there would be challenges with obtaining any new land rights through the PRA. Additionally, there are an increased number of residences (largely seasonal) near the alternate route (see Table 1) and the route is considered somewhat less favorable when considering the area's future transmission and wind farm development plans.

Alternate route 'A' to substation site 'A' similarly follows the west and north boundaries of the Town of Pincher Creek's water treatment ponds (as does the preferred route), then is routed north along Highway 785. The route crosses the Oldman River near the Oldman River Dam, then parallels Highway 785 and an existing transmission line to Fidler substation site 'A'.

In addition to the proposed 240 kV line, a double circuit 138 kV transmission line (steel, single pole structures), shown in 'orange' on the attached map, is proposed to exit substation site 'A', cross Highway 785 and end at the existing transmission line located on the north side of the highway.

Fidler 312S Substation

The proposed Fidler substation sites (*i.e.*, preferred - Option 'B' and potential alternate - Option 'A') were similarly determined by considering a number of criteria. After identifying a suitable location for the substation site, we consulted with landowners near the area to gather input about potential substation sites. After collaborating with landowners, the substation sites were selected based on criteria such as:

- impacts to area residences
- potential environmental impacts

- consideration of future transmission and wind farm development plans in the area

We estimate the Fidler substation fenced area will be approximately 130 metres by 125 metres - leaving sufficient space for future expansion (see “Additional project information” regarding Crowsnest below).

We used the information we gathered from stakeholder consultation, site visits, satellite imagery, database searches, mapping and literature reviews when identifying the preferred and alternate route options and substation sites.

Additional project information

- Pre-construction field studies are planned to occur during the spring/summer of 2010 along the preferred and alternate route options. These field studies will be conducted to help identify any wetlands, listed wildlife species or unique habitats, rare plant/rare ecological communities, weed concerns or historical resources with the potential to be impacted by the project. We will develop issue-specific mitigation strategies based on the results of the field programs as needed.
- As part of the Fidler Substation and Transmission Line project, the existing 138 kV transmission line (893L), from the Oldman Dam substation to the Pincher Creek substation will be salvaged. While the salvage will include the removal of approximately 7 kilometres of transmission line conductors, the wood pole structures will largely remain in place as they are currently used by FortisAlberta for electrical distribution lines. This line is shown in 'yellow' on the attached map.
- The proposed project, if approved, also includes a transmission line upgrade, or reconfiguration, along segments of the existing 138 kV transmission line (893AL) between the existing Summerview substation and the existing Oldman Dam substation. This line is shown in 'purple' on the attached map between the two substations.
- As part of the larger area development, called the Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement (SATR), The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) has determined that future transmission expansion to the west (Crowsnest Pass area) will occur from the approved Fidler substation location. The extension of the transmission system (from the Fidler substation) to the Crowsnest Pass area is in the early planning stages. No proposed routes have been identified at this stage.

Opportunities for further consultation

During the consultation process in 2009/2010, some stakeholders indicated they would like the opportunity to meet with us again once we identified the preferred and alternate routes and substation locations.

If you are located along the preferred and alternate route options and substation locations, an AltaLink Community Consultation Agent will contact you and, if you wish, arrange a personal meeting to gather your input and provide any additional information you may request. We would be pleased to discuss the project with any other interested stakeholders as well.

Please do not hesitate to email us at siting.consultation@altalink.ca or call us at 1-877-267-1453 should you have any questions about the project, or if you wish to arrange a personal consultation with one of our Community Consultation Agents.

Please also find enclosed the AUC's brochure, *Public Involvement In Needs or Facilities Applications*, that describes the AUC's hearing process and how you can participate.

Thank you again for participating in this project.

Sincerely,



Erin Van Overloop
Senior Right-of-Way Planner

Enclosures:

All stakeholders:

- Photo-Mosaic Map of Preferred and potential Alternate Routes and Preferred and potential Alternate Substation Locations
- Cross Section Diagrams of typical 240kV and 138kV transmission structures to be used along the route
- AUC's pamphlet entitled *Public Involvement In Needs or Facilities Applications*

For stakeholders along the Preferred and Alternate routes:

- Photo-Mosaic Strip Maps of Preferred and potential Alternate Routes and Preferred and potential Alternate Substation Locations