



Irrigation systems near transmission lines

We understand irrigation is an essential part of farming in southern Alberta and you may be concerned about transmission lines near your irrigation system. We strive to minimize any impact on irrigation systems and will work with landowners to find solutions that result in minimal – if any – loss of irrigable land.

Some AltaLink projects in the Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement will use steel lattice structures, which can span up to 400 metres (1,300 feet) between structures. We will attempt to site these structures as far as possible from the pivot of the irrigation system to minimize impact to farming operations.

Below is a brief overview of three common irrigation systems and the impact our transmission structures may have. Please note that every irrigation system is unique and the following are only general guidelines.

Will the amount of irrigable land decrease if transmission structures are built on my property?

Standard Pivot (no corner system) – There will be no change in the amount of irrigable land.

Corner System – The amount of irrigable land typically will decrease by 0.10 of an acre per quarter section. The corner arm will have to ‘tuck in’ around two structures, which will be about five metres (16 feet) inside the property line.

Side Roll System – This amount will vary depending on the placement of the laterals and transmission structure locations. In situations where our structures prevent the laterals from moving to the last set on the edge of the field, the irrigated area lost would be 18 x 804 metres (60 x 2640 feet), which would mean a loss of 3.6 acres per quarter section. AltaLink is open to discussing ideas landowners have to reduce this number. It may be possible to use an alternate system to regain some of these acres.

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Generally, only minor modifications need to be made to an irrigation system that is near transmission structures. AltaLink will pay any modification costs required and will ensure any changes are completed by qualified professionals.

In some situations - particularly with side roll systems - there may be more labour required to complete an irrigation application. AltaLink is committed to compensating farmers at a reasonable rate for this extra labour.

Our goal is to put the system back to the same working order as it was before the transmission line was constructed. It is not the intention of AltaLink to have the landowner bear additional costs, and we are willing to compensate for reasonably foreseen costs. We cannot provide compensation for something that is only a possibility, or may be a result of normal wear and tear on the equipment.



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