

**MANAGEMENT'S  
DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS  
OF FINANCIAL CONDITION  
AND RESULTS OF  
OPERATIONS**

October 29, 2010

**ALTALINK**

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*This Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) reflects events known to us as of October 29, 2010. This MD&A is intended to provide you with an understanding of our business, our strategy, our performance, our expectations for the future, and how we manage risk and financial resources. Our Board of Directors approved this MD&A on October 29, 2010, based on the recommendation of our Audit Committee, which reviewed this MD&A in accordance with its terms of reference.*

*You should read this MD&A in conjunction with our legal advisory on Forward Looking Information, which we have included at the end of this MD&A, as well as our unaudited interim financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, our audited annual financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 (the Financial Statements) and the notes thereto, and our MD&As for the year ended December 31, 2009, three months ended March 31, 2010 and six months ended June 30, 2010.*

*We have prepared our unaudited interim financial statements for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), using the same accounting policies and procedures that we used to prepare our audited annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009.*

*Unless otherwise noted, references in this MD&A to "we", "us", "our", "Altalink" or "the Partnership" mean Altalink, L.P. and references to a "quarter" and "year" refer to the three-month period ended September 30, 2010 and twelve-month period ended December 31, 2009, respectively.*

*Additional information relating to our business including our Annual Information Form is available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).*

## Executive Summary

### Third quarter Highlights

For the three months ended September 30, 2010:

- We achieved before tax net income of \$13.4 million (three months ended September 30, 2009 - \$9.8 million);
- We incurred gross capital expenditures of \$113.8 million (three months ended September 30, 2009 - \$124.2 million);
- We reduced our workplace injury frequency rate from 1.34 to 0.32 compared to the same period in 2009;
- We filed facility applications for the Cassils to Bowmanton to Whitlea (CBW) and Heartland Region Transmission Development projects.

### Our Business

We are an electricity transmission facility owner, whose business is the ownership and operation of regulated electricity transmission facilities solely in the Province of Alberta. We are the largest transmission facility owner in Alberta's electricity industry, delivering electricity to approximately 85% of Alberta's population under a wide variety of operating conditions and continuously changing customer demands. Our transmission facilities comprise approximately half of the total kilometres in Alberta's high-voltage electricity transmission system.

We own and operate approximately 11,800 kilometres of 69kV to 500kV high-voltage transmission lines, most of which are overhead facilities. Our system includes approximately 270 substations.

For more details regarding our business please refer to the "Our Business" section of our MD&A for the year ended December 31, 2009.

## Our Partnership Structure

We are a limited partnership, formed under the laws of Alberta on July 3, 2001 pursuant to the Limited Partnership Agreement between AltaLink Management Ltd. (AML), as general partner, and AltaLink Investments, L.P. (AILP), as the sole limited partner. As general partner, AML manages the regulated electricity transmission facilities that we own and operate in the Province of Alberta.

AILP has one limited partner, AltaLink Holdings, L.P. (AHLP). AltaLink Investment Management Ltd. (AIML) is the general partner of both AILP and AHLP. SNC-Lavalin Inc. indirectly owns a 76.92% limited partnership interest in AHLP through subsidiaries and Macquarie Transmission Alberta Ltd. owns a 23.08% limited partnership interest in AHLP.

## Regulatory Environment

We are an electric utility regulated by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC), pursuant to the *Electric Utilities Act (Alberta) (EUA)*, the *Public Utilities Act (Alberta)*, the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act (Alberta)* and the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act (Alberta)*. Through various regulatory decisions, these statutes and their respective regulations impact our tariffs, rates, construction, operations and financing.

## Our Capability to Deliver Results

We have numerous core competencies and resources that enable us to achieve our corporate objectives. For more details regarding our capability to deliver results please refer to the "Our Capability to Deliver Results" section of our MD&A for the year ended December 31, 2009.

### **Financial strength**

We align our financing strategy with the regulated capital structure approved by the AUC and targets for our key financial metrics. We finance our operations and maintenance capital expenditures from operating cash flows. We intend to fund the growth in capital expenditures from the balance of our operating cash flows, additional borrowings under our capital markets platform, and equity contributions from our limited partner, AILP. Through their indirect ownership in AILP, SNC-Lavalin and Macquarie provide solid financial sponsorship and the capacity to contribute the additional equity needed to finance the capital investments we expect to make in the future.

### **Operational excellence**

We design and implement operational, maintenance and capital investment practices to fulfil our commitment to the safe, reliable and cost effective operation of our transmission business. To do so, we employ experienced people with the necessary expertise and knowledge.

### **Capital project execution**

In 2002, we entered into an exclusive 10-year contract with a wholly-owned subsidiary of SNC-Lavalin Inc. to provide engineering, procurement and construction services for our capital projects. SNC-Lavalin has significant global experience in the electricity industry including the planning, design and construction of approximately 110,000 kilometres of transmission and distribution lines and approximately 1,600 substations. This strategic outsourcing arrangement enhances our capability to deliver results to our customers by facilitating design and execution of our capital projects in a timely and cost-effective manner.

### **Organizational leadership and people**

Our leadership team's experience and expertise, combined with our employees' knowledge and dedication to "keeping the lights on" through operational excellence, enables us to maintain our financial stability. We have established a proven track record of reliability, safety and cost effectiveness that compares favourably with our peers and we align our long-term and short-term incentive pay with the needs of our customers.

***Environmental leadership***

All aspects of our business are subject to one or more levels of environmental regulation. We seek opportunities to provide environmental leadership through innovative practices and sound risk management. We employ our comprehensive environmental management system to manage the environmental risks and impacts related to our operations. Where possible, we reduce our environmental impact by using existing rights of way for new facilities and by applying new technologies. For example, high voltage direct current transmission lines require a significantly smaller footprint on the land.

***Stakeholder engagement***

We focus our engagement practices on providing our stakeholders with timely, easy to understand information about transmission projects. Our process is designed to gather stakeholder input to help us identify routes on our new projects with the lowest overall impact on land use and landowners.

**How We Measure Our Performance****Delivering Customer Value**

We use certain key measures to determine whether we are meeting our goals and the needs of our customers. Our performance has compared favourably against other transmission facility owners in Canada for reliability, safety and cost effectiveness since our inception.

***Reliability***

We operate our transmission system so as to minimize disruption of service to our customers. Nevertheless, severe weather and other unplanned events cause service disruptions to which we respond as quickly as possible. We have a strong track record, and continually strive to further reduce the duration of system outages for the benefit of our customers.

***Safety***

The safety of our employees, contractors and the public is one of our core values, with our ultimate goal being an accident-free workplace. We have implemented a Safety Management Initiative, looking at every aspect of our safety systems – from our safety practices and procedures to our leadership. For the first nine months of 2010, we significantly reduced our average injury frequency rate from 1.34 to 0.32 compared to the same period in 2009.

***Cost effectiveness***

Our goal is to provide Albertans with cost effective transmission service. We continue to seek business improvements across our organization while delivering reliable and safe transmission service to our customers.

**Financial and Operational Performance*****Revenue requirements for 2009 and 2010***

We estimate our transmission tariff revenue based on revenue requirements approved by the AUC taking into consideration our best estimates regarding future regulatory applications, such as the settlement of deferral amounts, reserves and other regulatory assets and liabilities. Subject to certain directives, the AUC recently approved our compliance filing to give effect to its earlier decisions on our 2009-2010 General Tariff Application and the 2009 Generic Cost of Capital. The AUC also approved our 2007-2008 deferral account reconciliation application as filed, including approval of all capital costs for projects completed in those years. Based on the recent AUC decision (2010-409) regarding our 2009-10 compliance filing, our tariff rates of \$279.5 million and \$287.6 million have been approved as filed for 2009 and 2010, respectively.

***Growth in regulated capital assets***

We measure growth in our regulated capital assets (both rate base and assets under construction) as one of the key indicators of future revenue streams. As a regulated utility, we earn most of our net income from allowed returns on equity invested in our regulated capital assets, which are the foundation for providing fair returns to our equity investors. We

calculate our allowed returns on equity by multiplying our mid-year investments in rate base and assets under construction by the equity ratio and rate of return approved by the AUC. Our operating cash flow relates primarily to the return on equity, recovery of deemed income taxes, and depreciation related to our rate base. We capitalize interest costs and return on equity attributed to our assets under construction. We do not receive cash flow related to our assets under construction until the projects are completed and added to our rate base.

Our capital expenditures for 2010 are forecast to be in the range of \$450.0 to \$550.0 million including approximately \$450.0 to \$500.0 million of additions to our rate base. Our capital program includes more than 600 capital replacement and upgrade projects and more than 30 direct assign expansion projects. Our actual 2010 capital program may vary significantly from our current forecast, depending on the timing of regulatory approvals, directions from the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO), and other factors beyond our control.

## Major Capital Projects

### Transmission Planning and Development

The increasing reliability risks of Alberta's aging transmission system, combined with limited capacity within the system to support the province's economic growth, requires the development of much needed transmission infrastructure. For more than 20 years, there has been limited expansion of the main backbone of the transmission grid in Alberta. To cope with these increased demands, we expect that the AESO will direct us and other Transmission Facility Owners (TFOs) to upgrade and expand the Alberta Interconnected Electrical System over the next several years to integrate renewable energy sources and enable industrial growth. The AESO has already directed us to proceed with facility applications related to several major projects contemplated within its long range plans.

The Government of Alberta issued the Transmission Amendment Regulation which, among other things, establishes processes for designation of projects as Critical Transmission Infrastructure (CTI), enables a competitive process for future CTI projects and allows transmission facility owners to recover pre-construction costs for CTI projects. There have been no material changes in processes related to ongoing requirements for facility applications, including specific routing for transmission facilities. We consult extensively with affected landowners and other stakeholders prior to proposing specific routes to the AUC for approval.

### System Expansion Plans

#### ***Transmission System Expansion Plans***

The AESO's *Transmission System Plan* was updated in June 2009 and identified a substantial number of existing and proposed transmission development projects in Alberta in the next 10 years to ensure a reliable supply of electricity. We expect to develop several of these transmission projects, as either or both of the AESO's need applications and our facility applications are approved by the AUC. In addition, there are transmission developments designated as critical transmission infrastructure for which we have been or may be directed to file facility applications. If the AUC approves our facility applications, we are responsible for constructing and operating the related transmission facilities. Please refer to our annual MD&A and Recent Developments in this MD&A for more information on our systems expansion plans and major capital projects.

The following table summarizes the current status of our major capital projects.

Project/ Description	Need Application	Facility Application (approved by AUC)	Status
<b>South West Project</b> Double circuit 240 kV transmission line and substations between Pincher Creek and Lethbridge to interconnect wind generation.	AUC approved 2005	Approved in 2009.	Scheduled for completion in 2010.
<b>Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement</b> Large-scale project to construct transmission lines and substations across southern Alberta to interconnect up to 2,700 MW of proposed wind generation projects.	AUC approved 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple applications required.</li> <li>• Four filed to date, one approved.</li> <li>• Awaiting approval for Cassils to Bowmanton to Whitla (CBW) applications (~\$760M).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved elements under construction.</li> <li>• Hearing for CBW expected in 2011.</li> </ul>
<b>Western Alberta Transmission Line</b> Reinforce system backbone between Edmonton and Calgary.	CTI designation in 2009 *	Filing expected in 2011.	Planning and consulting on proposed routes.
<b>Heartland Region Transmission Development</b> Double circuit 500kV transmission line between Ellerslie and new substation in Gibbons-Redwater area.	CTI designation in 2009 *	Filed in September, 2010.	Hearing expected in Q2, 2011.
<b>Southeast Alberta Transmission Development</b> Regional facilities to meet forecast customer load growth, restore the inter-tie to path rating and enable interconnection of proposed wind generation.	AUC approved 2008	Ten filed, nine approved in 2009/10.	Approved elements under construction.
<b>Keephills 3 Generation Interconnection</b> Interconnect expansion of coal-fired generation facilities at Keephills, west of Edmonton.	AUC approved 2008	Approved in 2009/10.	Approved elements under construction.
<b>Edmonton Region Transmission System Upgrade</b> Debottleneck 240 kV system for load growth and decommissioning of coal-fired generation.	AUC approved 2009	Five filed, two approved in 2010.	Approved elements under construction.
<b>Foothills Area Transmission Development</b> Expand and upgrade substations and transmission lines in the south Calgary region.	Filing expected in 2011	Directed by AESO to prepare applications.	Preparing for consultation.

\* Projects designated as Critical Transmission Infrastructure under *Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009*.

### **Additional regional area developments**

The AESO has identified the need to upgrade transmission facilities within several geographic regions of Alberta to meet forecast customer load requirements as well as to interconnect future generation projects. The order of magnitude as to the potential investment in transmission facilities in these regions is estimated at approximately \$1 billion.

We have received direction letters or requests for services from the AESO regarding proposed transmission developments in the Hanna, Red Deer, Yellowhead, Central-East and Athabasca regions. These activities include order of magnitude estimates for the AESO need applications, preliminary engineering to develop project proposals for the AESO, and the commencement of activities, including landowner consultation, required to submit facility applications to the AUC. We will be filing facility applications for these regional projects over the next two years.

### **Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

The following sections include certain financial metrics that are not defined under Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. For more details regarding our non-GAAP financial measures please refer to the "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" section of our MD&A for the year ended December 31, 2009.

## Financial Position

### Change in Property, Plant and Equipment

	Nine months ended	
	September 30, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(in millions of dollars)	
Opening balance, beginning of year	\$ 1,688.0	\$ 1,223.6
Net additions	314.3	239.3
Depreciation and other	(63.2)	(57.3)
Site restoration cost	—	131.4
Change in estimate – asset retirement obligations	—	86.6
Closing balance	\$ 1,939.1	\$ 1,623.6

The following table discusses significant changes, over \$10 million, in our balance sheet during the nine months ended September 30, 2010. Our financial statements include more detailed information regarding the changes in our property, plant and equipment.

	Increase/(Decrease) (\$ Millions)	Explanation
Regulatory assets, current	\$9.9	We increased our self insurance reserve by \$6.9 million for the recovery of restoration costs associated with the damage to several transmission lines as a result of the major snow storms in Southern Alberta in the second quarter of 2010.
Property, plant and equipment	251.1	We incurred \$338.0 million in gross construction costs for directly assigned transmission projects and capital replacement and upgrades on our existing facilities. Customer contributions, asset retirements and depreciation partly offset this amount.
Long-term debt, including current portion	202.1	We issued \$125.0 million of medium-term notes in March 2010 and increased borrowings under our commercial paper program and bank credit facilities by \$77.5 million to finance our capital expenditure program. As an offset to these, our net balance in deferred financing fees related to long-term debt increased by \$0.4 million.

### Liquidity

As at September 30, 2010, we had drawn \$0.8 million (December 31, 2009 – nil) under our operating line of credit and had \$124.8 million (December 31, 2009 - \$48.0 million) of commercial paper outstanding under our commercial paper program, leaving us with \$359.4 million (December 31, 2009 - \$437.0 million) of available liquidity under our bank credit facilities.



**Liquidity Ratios**<sup>1</sup>

	Nine months ended	
	September 30, 2010	September 30, 2009
Interest coverage:		
EBIT coverage <sup>2,3</sup>	2.35x	2.11x
EBITDA coverage <sup>2,4</sup>	4.06x	3.98x
FFO coverage <sup>2,5</sup>	3.05x	2.52x
FFO/debt <sup>6</sup>	14.85%	12.81%
Debt/total capitalization <sup>7</sup>	57.78%	60.85%

1. Refer to "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" for further information concerning the non-GAAP financial measures used in this table.
2. For the purposes of calculating the coverage ratios, interest expense excludes amortization of deferred financing fees on debt.
3. EBIT coverage - Net income before interest expense and income taxes (EBIT) divided by interest expense.
4. EBITDA coverage - Net income before interest expense, income taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) divided by interest expense.
5. FFO coverage - Funds from operations (FFO) divided by interest expense.
6. FFO/debt - Funds from operations for the last twelve months divided by short-term and long-term debt, excluding deferred financing fees.
7. Debt/total capitalization - Debt includes short-term and long-term debt, excluding deferred financing fees plus outstanding letters of credit divided by total capitalization (debt plus partners' equity). The AltaLink Master Trust Indenture contains a debt/total capitalization limit of 75%.

**Cash Flows**

	Three months ended	Three months ended	Nine months ended	Nine months ended
	September 30, 2010	September 30, 2009	September 30, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(in millions of dollars)			
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 8.3	\$ —
Cash flow from (used in)				
Operating activities	34.2	37.1	95.1	84.8
Investing activities	(99.0)	(77.3)	(312.9)	(176.3)
Financing activities	64.8	40.2	209.5	91.5
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —

**Operating activities**

For the three months ended September 30, 2010, cash flow from operating activities was comparable to the same period in 2009. For the nine months ended September 30, 2010, cash flow from operating activities increased by \$10.3 million compared to the same period in 2009, primarily due to higher net income, as explained on page 10 of this MD&A.

**Investing activities**

Our investing activities included gross capital expenditures of \$113.8 million (2009 - \$124.2 million) and \$338.0 million (2009 - \$264.8 million) for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively. The majority of current year expenditures relate to capital upgrade and replacement projects as well as the SouthWest Project, Edmonton Region Transmission System Upgrades, Keephills 3 Generation Interconnection, Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement, and Heartland Region Transmission Development.

### Financing activities

During the third quarter of 2010, we increased our combined commercial paper and bank loans by \$42.8 million (2009 - \$42.2 million), primarily to fund our capital construction program.

On a year-to-date basis, we issued \$125.0 million in senior debt in the first quarter and increased our commercial paper and bank loans by \$77.5 million. During the same period last year, we increased senior debt by \$102.6 million and reduced commercial paper by \$39.7 million.

We received \$29.3 million in equity contributions from AILP in the third quarter of 2010. No equity contributions were received from AILP during the first six months of 2010. During 2009, AILP contributed \$15.0 million of equity in the first quarter, \$27.5 million in the second quarter and \$4.0 million in the third quarter.

During 2010, we have distributed \$7.0 million per quarter to AILP, compared to \$5.7 million per quarter last year.

### Earnings Coverage

Twelve months ended  
September 30, 2010

Earnings-to-interest coverage on total Indebtedness <sup>1</sup> **2.33X<sup>2</sup>**

1. Earnings-to-interest coverage on total Indebtedness is a non-GAAP financial measure. As a result of distributing securities by way of a medium-term note program using the debt shelf procedures, we must include an updated earnings coverage ratio as an exhibit to our financial statements. The foregoing ratio has been adjusted to reflect the pro-forma effect of interest payable on the Series 2010-1 Notes issued in March 2010, as if such notes had been issued at the beginning of the 12-month period. For purposes of calculating the earnings coverage ratio noted, it has been assumed that the proceeds of such notes were used to repay outstanding commercial paper and bank loans of AltaLink, L.P.
2. AltaLink, L.P.'s pro forma interest requirements on all Indebtedness amounted to approximately \$52.2 million for the 12 months ended September 30, 2010. AltaLink, L.P.'s earnings before interest and income tax for the 12 months ended September 30, 2010 were approximately \$121.7 million, which is 2.33 times AltaLink, L.P.'s interest requirements on all Indebtedness for this period.

### Credit Ratings

Nine months ended  
September 30, 2010      September 30, 2009

#### Credit Ratings

DBRS – Commercial Paper<sup>1</sup>

R-1 (low)

R-1 (low)

DBRS – Senior Secured Bonds and Medium-Term Notes<sup>1</sup>

A

A

Standard & Poor's - Senior Secured Bonds and Medium-Term Notes<sup>2</sup>

A-

A-

1. On November 30, 2009 DBRS confirmed the above ratings with a stable trend.
2. On May 19, 2010, Standard & Poor's confirmed the above rating with a stable trend.

In the 2009-10 GTA Decision, the AUC demonstrated support for our credit ratings by: (i) directing the continued use of the future income tax method (this provides us with higher tariffs and cash flow to support our cash flow credit metrics during the construction of major transmission projects), (ii) allowing us to recover all costs incurred for the Genesee to Langdon 500kV project, and (iii) stating that, if necessary, we may apply for additional relief to sustain our cash flow credit metrics through non-traditional regulatory accounting measures such as the inclusion of Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) in rate base.

## Results of Operations

### Revenue

	Three months ended September 30, 2010	Three months ended September 30, 2009	Nine months ended September 30, 2010	Nine months ended September 30, 2009
	(in millions of dollars)			
Transmission tariff	\$ 72.6	\$ 53.6	\$ 200.7	\$ 166.1
Miscellaneous revenue	2.5	5.5	14.6	10.7
AFUDC equity	3.3	1.5	9.1	4.5

Our transmission tariff increased by \$19.0 million and \$34.6 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2009, primarily due to higher capital investments and system growth, and higher equity returns awarded in the GCOC decision in November, 2009. The GCOC decision increased our rate of return on common equity from 8.75% to 9.00% and our regulated equity ratio from 33% to 36%. In August 2010, the AUC approved our compliance filing to give effect to its earlier decisions on our 2009/10 GTA and the GCOC. All adjustments from this decision are reflected in our revenue and net income.

Our miscellaneous revenue decreased by \$3.0 million and increased by \$3.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2009. Miscellaneous revenue and operating expenses included billings of \$3.8 million and \$7.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and 2010, respectively, which were billed to another Transmission Facility Owner for their share of the Statoil Leismer facility costs.

We earn an increasing proportion of our revenues through the allowance for equity funds used during construction, which we capitalize to assets under construction. Due to the increase in our construction activity, our revenue from AFUDC equity increased by \$1.8 million and \$4.6 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2009.

### Net income

	Three months ended September 30, 2010	Three months ended September 30, 2009	Nine months ended September 30, 2010	Nine months ended September 30, 2009
	(in millions of dollars)			
	\$ 13.4	\$ 9.8	\$ 50.8	\$ 34.9

Our net income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased by \$3.6 million and \$15.9 million, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2009, primarily due to higher capital investments and system growth, as well as the effects of regulatory tariff decisions received in the past year.

### Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA<sup>1</sup>)

	Three months ended September 30, 2010	Three months ended September 30, 2009	Nine months ended September 30, 2010	Nine months ended September 30, 2009
	(in millions of dollars)			
	\$ 49.2	\$ 40.5	\$ 153.0	\$ 124.6

1. Refer to "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" for further information concerning the non-GAAP financial measures used in this MD&A.

Our EBITDA for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased by \$8.7 million and \$28.4 million, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2009. The reasons for this increase are similar to those for changes in our net income for the same period. Please refer to "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" for more information about how we calculate EBITDA.

**Operating expenses, including property taxes**

Three months ended September 30, 2010	Three months ended September 30, 2009	Nine months ended September 30, 2010	Nine months ended September 30, 2009
(in millions of dollars)			
\$ 32.8	\$ 22.1	\$ 81.6	\$ 66.3

Our operating expenses include salaries and wages, contracted manpower, general and administration costs, property taxes, and insurance. Our operating expenses for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 are higher than comparable periods in 2009, primarily due to inflation and system growth related to the significant volume of recently completed capital projects. In addition, transmission line repair costs caused by snow storms in Southern Alberta earlier in 2010 were charged to operations and corresponding revenue has been accrued to recover these costs through self-insurance reserves funded through transmission tariffs.

**Depreciation and accretion**

Three months ended September 30, 2010	Three months ended September 30, 2009	Nine months ended September 30, 2010	Nine months ended September 30, 2009
(in millions of dollars)			
\$ 21.9	\$ 19.3	\$ 63.2	\$ 57.3

We calculate depreciation on a straight-line basis using various rates ranging from 1.73% to 20.00% which are approved by the AUC. Compared with the same periods in 2009, depreciation for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 has increased due to capital projects that have been completed and added to our regulatory rate base in the past year.

**Interest and amortization of deferred financing fees**

Three months ended September 30, 2010	Three months ended September 30, 2009	Nine months ended September 30, 2010	Nine months ended September 30, 2009
(in millions of dollars)			
\$ 13.8	\$ 11.4	\$ 39.0	\$ 32.5

Our interest expense for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 increased by \$2.4 million and \$6.5 million, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2009. These changes are due to additional debt incurred to finance our capital expenditures. Our total debt at September 30, 2010 was \$125.1 million higher than a year earlier.

**Selected Financial Information**

Selected financial information from our most recent period is detailed below:

	Three months ended September 30, 2010	Three months ended September 30, 2009	Nine months ended September 30, 2010	Nine months ended September 30, 2009
Net income per unit (\$ per unit)	0.041	0.030	0.153	0.105
Funds generated from operations (\$ millions)	46.0	25.9	114.8	78.7
Distributions per unit (\$ per unit)	0.021	0.017	0.063	0.052
Total assets (\$ millions)	2,261.9	1,938.0	2,261.9	1,938.0
Long-term debt, excluding current portion (\$ millions) <sup>1</sup>	1,013.0	887.9	1,013.0	887.9

<sup>1</sup> The long-term debt balance is shown before deducting the deferred financing fees, which have been offset against this amount in the Financial Statements, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

**Summary of Quarterly Financial Information**

QUARTER ENDED	TOTAL REVENUE	NET INCOME	UNITS	NET INCOME
	(\$MILLIONS)	(\$MILLIONS)	OUTSTANDING	PER UNIT
			(MILLIONS)	(\$/UNIT)
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010	78.4	13.4	331.9	0.041
JUNE 30, 2010	77.8	20.3	331.9	0.061
MARCH 31, 2010	68.3	17.1	331.9	0.052
DECEMBER 31, 2009	76.4	21.7	331.9	0.065
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009	60.6	9.8	331.9	0.030
JUNE 30, 2009	61.4	13.0	331.9	0.039
MARCH 31, 2009	59.3	12.1	331.9	0.036
DECEMBER 31, 2008	59.6	8.5	331.9	0.026
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008	57.6	11.0	331.9	0.033
JUNE 30, 2008	58.5	9.6	331.9	0.029
MARCH 31, 2008	57.6	11.6	331.9	0.035
DECEMBER 31, 2007	52.0	8.0	331.9	0.024

**Risk Management****Risk Management**

Our transmission business is subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties, including those described below. You should carefully consider these risk factors and uncertainties in addition to the other information contained in this MD&A, the corresponding financial statements, our annual information form, press releases, material change reports and our other continuous disclosure documents.

**Risk Controls and Other Mitigating Measures**

We have instituted controls and other mitigating measures to manage the risks we face. Under our risk management program, we conduct annual risk evaluations to identify and assess our most significant risks and the strategies through which we manage them.

**Insurance**

We believe that our insurance program is adequate and prudent for our business risks. Our insurance coverage includes general liability, physical loss of or damage to property and boiler and machinery (including substations), directors' and officers' liability, fiduciary liability, employment practices liability, non-owned aircraft liability and vehicle liability. The Liability Protection Regulation limits our liability to direct loss or damage arising from our negligence, wilful misconduct or breach of contract. Direct loss or damage does not include loss of profits, loss of revenue, loss of production, loss of earnings, loss of contract or other indirect special or consequential loss or damage. During our general tariff applications, the AUC reviews the scope and costs of our insurance program. We can apply to the AUC to recover uninsured losses greater than \$100,000 through our self-insurance reserve, which is funded through transmission tariffs.

We do not carry commercial insurance against all of our business risks. In some cases, insurance premiums are too expensive or the coverage is not available at all. For example, we do not purchase insurance coverage against loss or damage to transmission lines, towers, poles, or physical damage to certain owned vehicles. Although we maintain liability insurance, including pollution liability, such insurance is subject to coverage limits as well as time-sensitive claims discovery and reporting provisions. Some of our insurance policies exclude coverage for damages resulting from environmental contamination.

## Risk Factors and Uncertainties

Despite our initiatives in managing risks, there can be no assurance that one or more of them will not adversely affect our business. Our results of operations, financial position and performance and, accordingly, the value of our outstanding securities, could be adversely affected if we are unable to adequately control or mitigate the effects of such risks on our business.

The following are the more significant items that have an impact on our financial position and results of operations. For more details regarding our risk factors and uncertainties please refer to the "Risk Factors and Uncertainties" section of our MD&A for the year ended December 31, 2009. Risk factors and uncertainties have not materially changed for the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

- Regulated operations
- Project execution risk
- Regulatory financial risk
- Reliability risk
- Restructuring of electricity industry
- Capital resources
- Labour relations
- Availability of people
- Environment, health and safety
- Electric and magnetic fields
- Annual impairment tests
- Competition
- Credit ratings

## Transactions with Related Parties

In the normal course of business, we enter into various transactions with AML, AILP, AIML and AHLP. We record these transactions at exchange values based on normal commercial rates. AML employs the people who provide administrative and operational services to our business. We have indemnified AML for all associated expenses and liabilities.

In 2002, we executed a ten-year contract under which a subsidiary of SNC-Lavalin Inc. (SNC-ATP) provides engineering, procurement and construction management services for our directly assigned capital projects. The AUC has reviewed and approved the terms and conditions of this contract in Decision 2003-061 and subsequent decisions, including Decision 2009-151 issued on October 2, 2009. We have incurred \$57.9 million and \$190.1 million for construction related services with SNC-ATP during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2010 respectively compared to \$59.6 million and \$107.9 million for the same periods in 2009. On September 30, 2010, our accounts payable and accrued liabilities included \$66.4 million owing to SNC-ATP under this agreement, compared to \$83.0 million at December 31, 2009.

As at September 30, 2010, we were indebted to AILP for \$85.0 million in principal and \$1.1 million of accrued interest under our Series 3 Subordinated Bridge Bond, which is due on November 1, 2012. We make quarterly interest payments of \$1.7 million to AILP at an annual interest rate of 8.0%.

## Legal Proceedings

We have not commenced and are not currently contemplating any material legal proceedings. We are not aware of any material legal proceedings that have been commenced or are being contemplated against us.

On June 5, 2009, we were served with an action alleging that the plaintiff and we had concluded a binding agreement to sell certain lands in Calgary, Alberta to the plaintiff. The final outcome of this matter is uncertain and there can be no assurance that this matter will be resolved in our favour. Even if this matter is not resolved in our favour, we do not expect the outcome to have a material adverse impact on our financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

## Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of our financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. The following are the more significant estimates that have an impact on our financial condition and the results of our operations:

- Key economic assumptions used to determine the fair value of residual cash flows;
- The allowance for doubtful accounts;
- The estimated useful lives of assets;
- The recoverability of intangible assets including estimates of future costs to retire physical assets, such as our asset retirement obligations and site restoration costs, or the recoverability of costs associated with the direct assigned capital deferral account for projects that have been delayed in the regulatory process;
- The recoverability of intangible assets with indefinite lives, such as goodwill;
- The accruals for payroll and other employee-related liabilities;
- Certain actuarial and economic assumptions used in determining defined benefit pension costs, accrued pension benefit obligations and pension plan assets; and
- The recovery and settlement of regulated assets and liabilities, including the related transmission tariff revenue impact arising from deferral and reserve accounts, interim tariffs and other matters awaiting regulatory decisions.

These critical accounting estimates are discussed more thoroughly in our annual MD&A.

## Accounting Changes

### Changes in Accounting Policies for 2010

There were no changes impacting the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

### Future Accounting Changes That May Impact Our Financial Statements

#### ***International financial reporting standards (IFRS)***

##### Transition to IFRS in Canada

Our first annual IFRS financial statements will be for the year ending December 31, 2011.

Staff Notice 52-320 of the Canadian Securities Administrators requires us to discuss in our interim and annual MD&A the elements, timing and status of our IFRS conversion plan. We refer you to detailed information in this regard that we have previously provided within our MD&As since the first quarter of 2008 as well as the following update:

Our IFRS conversion project consists of four phases:

- Phase 1 – Project initiation and initial assessment
- Phase 2 – Detailed assessment
- Phase 3 – Design
- Phase 4 – Execution

We have completed the first three phases and are currently in the last phase of the project. The Execution phase consists of executing the changes to the information systems and business processes, final approval of our IFRS accounting policies, developing final IFRS accounting policies and procedures and associated documentation, developing revised internal controls and disclosure controls as a result of implementing IFRS, embedding IFRS into business processes and the transfer of knowledge and training of the appropriate individuals. In addition, this last phase will result in an IFRS compliant January 1, 2010 opening IFRS Statement of Financial Position and IFRS compliant financial statements for all periods ending 2011 with comparative IFRS figures for 2010.

#### Accounting for Rate-regulated Activities under IFRS

IFRS currently does not provide specific guidance regarding accounting for rate-regulated activities. The IASB issued an exposure draft in July 2009 proposing guidance for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of rate-regulated activities. Although the IASB has since allowed transition relief for first-time adopters (IFRS 1 exemption for rate-regulated entities), the timing and ultimate outcome of the IASB's project on rate-regulated accounting remains uncertain.

Staff Notice 52-320 requires that we estimate the expected effects of the transition to IFRS on our financial statements. At this stage, we are unable to determine the impact that IFRS will have on the reporting of our financial position and results of operations. We expect that the implementation of IFRS would have no impact on our cash flows or regulated assets and liabilities as measured by the AUC. We are currently working together with our external auditors to determine if existing IFRS standards allow us to recognize our assets and liabilities that arise from rate-regulated activities. If these regulated assets and liabilities can be recognized under IFRS, we expect that there would be no material impact on our net income or balance sheet after the transition to IFRS. On the other hand, if we are unable to recognize some or all of our rate-regulated assets and liabilities until the AUC issues a final decision, we expect that our net income will differ materially from net income as reported under current Canadian GAAP. We expect that the most significant potential impacts will relate to differences between capital assets as measured using IFRS and the related rate base assets included in our regulatory rate base, particularly (i) the regulatory assets and liabilities described in Note 7 to our 2009 financial statements; (ii) allowances for equity and debt funds used during construction reported on our statements of net income; and (iii) gains or losses that arise when rate base assets are retired before they are fully depreciated in the rate base.

In September 2010, the Canadian Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) finalized its decision to allow qualifying entities with rate-regulated activities to adopt IFRS for the first time no later than January 1, 2012. This deferral is optional and applies to entities subject to cost-based regulation only and also to the consolidated financial statements of the parent companies of such entities. We have the option to take this one year deferral of first time adoption of IFRS, but have determined, at this time, that we will continue on our original timeline to adopt IFRS on January 1, 2011.

#### Impact on Information Systems

We currently have a significant IT initiative underway in anticipation of the implementation of IFRS on January 1, 2011. As a result of the continuing uncertainty of a final standard on rate-regulated activities, in order to meet financial reporting requirements in absence of guidance from the IASB, we are implementing an information system strategy that will include individual ledgers which will allow us to report financial information as required by our regulator and separately to report financial information under IFRS if there are material differences between them. The modifications to our information systems are scheduled to be implemented by the last quarter of 2010. This timing will allow us to test the IT modifications prior to going live in 2011.

#### IFRS 1

IFRS 1, *First-time adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards*, provides the framework for the first-time adoption of IFRS and outlines that, in general, an entity shall apply the principles under IFRS retrospectively and that adjustments arising on conversion to IFRS from other GAAP shall be recognized directly in retained earnings. However, IFRS 1 provides a number of mandatory exceptions which prohibit retrospective application of IFRS. We will be in compliance with all of these mandatory exceptions. In addition, IFRS 1 outlines a number of optional exemptions from retrospective application of certain IFRS. We anticipate electing the following IFRS 1 optional exemptions at the date of transition:



- Business combinations – we expect to select the business combinations exemption to avoid having to apply IFRS 3 - *Business Combinations* retrospectively to past business combinations. Accordingly, we will not restate past business combinations that took place prior to the transition date.
- Employee benefits – we expect to elect to recognize all cumulative actuarial gains and losses at the date of transition to IFRS.
- PP&E and intangible asset exemption for entities with rate-regulated activities – we expect to elect to use the carrying amount of all of our PP&E and intangible assets used in our rate-regulated activities as deemed cost at the date of transition to IFRS.

#### Impact on Reporting and Internal Controls

We are currently updating and will test all entity level, information technology, disclosure and business process controls to reflect changes arising from the conversion to IFRS. As accounting policies are finalized, we will make appropriate changes to internal control over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures. If we make any changes in accounting policies, we may need to add controls or procedures to address first time adoption as well as ongoing IFRS reporting requirements. Our internal audit group is currently reviewing any proposed new accounting treatment under IFRS.

#### Training and Communication

We are continuing to provide IFRS training for the audit committee, steering committee, and working teams and specific training for relevant accounting, finance and operational staff. We are continuing to provide in-depth training for appropriate staff and will continue to roll out such training once we have finalized accounting policies and procedures. Our communications team is represented on the working committee to ensure that stakeholder queries during the conversion to IFRS can be properly addressed.

The IASB has a number of on-going projects on its agenda in addition to its project on rate-regulated activities, which may result in changes to existing IFRS prior to our conversion to IFRS. Our IFRS team continues to assess new and amended accounting standards that the IASB issues during the conversion period and the potential impact of each on our financial statements. We will update the IFRS changeover plan to reflect any new issues that have an impact.

## Forward Looking Information

Prospective investors should be aware that this MD&A contains certain statements or disclosures that may constitute forward-looking information under applicable securities laws. All statements and disclosures, other than those of historical fact, which address activities, events, outcomes, results or developments that we anticipate or expect may or will occur in the future (in whole or in part) should be considered forward-looking information. In some cases, forward-looking information can be identified by terms such as "anticipate", "believe", "contemplate", "continue", "enable", "expect", "forecast", "future", "intend", "may", "plan", "potential", "will" or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking information presented in such statements or disclosures may, without limitation, relate to: applications to the AUC for approval of, among other things, our revenue requirements (including deferral and reserve accounts; capital structure and return-on-equity; financing plans; treatment of costs for applicable test periods including income tax, operating expenses, depreciation, capital costs for direct assigned projects and maintenance programs, financing costs related to long-term debt, and short-term borrowing and projected growth in our rate base and assets under construction); transmission system expansion forecasts; the anticipated direct assignment of transmission development projects to us from the AESO pursuant to approved need applications or, in the case of critical transmission infrastructure, our eligibility to submit facility applications pursuant to designations by the Government of Alberta or competitive bidding processes; the timing and development of transmission projects and the anticipated capital costs of such projects; business strategy, plans and objectives of management for future operations; forecast business results; and our anticipated financial performance or condition.

Various factors or assumptions are typically applied in drawing conclusions or making the forecasts or projections set out in forward-looking information. These factors and assumptions include, but are not limited to:

- No changes in the legislative and operating framework for Alberta's electricity market which are adverse to our business (see "*ALBERTA'S ELECTRICITY MARKET STRUCTURE*" and "*TRANSMISSION SYSTEM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT* –

*Provincial Energy Strategy*" and *"TRANSMISSION SYSTEM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – System Expansion Plans"* in our Annual Information Form (AIF);

- Decisions from the AUC concerning outstanding tariff and other applications which are consistent with past regulatory principles and are obtained in a timely manner (see *"THE TRANSMISSION BUSINESS - Revenue Tariffs"* and *"ALBERTA'S ELECTRICITY MARKET STRUCTURE"* in our AIF);
- Approved rate-of-return and deemed capital structures for our transmission business which are sufficient to foster a stable investment climate (see *"THE TRANSMISSION BUSINESS - Revenue Tariffs"* and *"ALBERTA'S ELECTRICITY MARKET STRUCTURE"* in our AIF);
- A stable competitive environment;
- Obtaining sufficient capital on acceptable terms to finance our transmission system expansion; and,
- No significant event occurring outside the ordinary course of business such as a natural disaster or other calamity.

These assumptions and factors are based on information currently available to us including information obtained by our business from third-party industry analysts. In some occurrences, material assumptions and factors are presented or discussed elsewhere in this document in connection with the statements or disclosure containing the forward-looking information. We caution prospective investors that the foregoing list of material factors and assumptions is not exhaustive. The forward-looking information in statements or disclosures in this MD&A is based (in whole or in part) on factors which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those contemplated (whether expressly or by implication) in the forward-looking information. These factors are based on information currently available to us including information obtained by our business from third-party industry analysts. Actual results may differ materially from those predicted by such forward-looking statements. While we do not know what impact any of these differences may have, our business, results of operations, financial condition and our credit stability may be materially adversely affected. Factors that could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from the results expressed or implied by forward-looking statements include, among other things:

- The risk associated with being subject to extensive regulation including risks associated with AUC action or inaction;
- The risk that transmission projects are not directly assigned to us by the AESO or that we are not designated for filing a facility application;
- The risk that we are not able to arrange sufficient cost effective financing to repay maturing debt and to fund capital expenditures and other obligations;
- The risk that system expansion plans are delayed;
- The risks that the actual costs of completing a transmission project significantly exceed estimated costs;
- The risks to our facilities posed by severe weather, other natural disasters or catastrophic events and our limited insurance coverage for losses resulting from these events;
- The potential for service disruptions and increased costs if we fail to maintain and improve our aging asset base; and
- The risks associated with forecasting our revenue requirements and the possibility that we could incur operational, maintenance or administrative costs above those included in our approved revenue requirement.

We caution investors that the above list of factors is not exclusive. Other factors which could cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those contemplated (whether expressly or by implication) in the forward-looking statements or other forward-looking information are disclosed in our publicly filed disclosure documents, including those found under *"RISK FACTORS"* in this document and in our Annual Information Form. Risk factors that could lead to such differences include, without limitation:

- Legislative and regulatory developments that could affect costs or revenues;
- The speed and degree of competition entering the market;

- Global capital markets activity;
- Timing and extent of changes in prevailing interest rates;
- Currency exchange rates;
- Inflation levels and general economic conditions in geographic areas where we operate;
- Results of financing efforts;
- Changes in counterparty risk; and
- The impact of accounting standards issued by Canadian standard setters.

All forward-looking information is given as of October 29, 2010. We are not obligated to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by applicable laws. Because of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, readers should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking information contained in this document is expressly qualified by this statement.

**ALTALINK**