

Electric system developments near you

Picture Butte to Etzikom Coulee Transmission Project

SPRING 2012 UPDATE

DID YOU KNOW?

Alberta is an importer of electricity. In 2011, Alberta imported nearly thirty times the amount of power it exported. Alberta depends on its transmission connections with British Columbia and Saskatchewan to meet its demand for electricity.

In November 2011 AltaLink identified preferred and alternate routes for the Picture Butte to Etzikom Coulee **Transmission Project**. Since that time we have gathered and incorporated further input from stakeholders regarding the refined routes.

After assessing this additional input, it is no longer clear the preferred route has a lower overall impact than the alternate. In light of this new information, we are considering designating our current alternate route as the preferred route, with the current preferred route becoming the alternate route.

To ensure we understand the potential impacts in the project area, we will be engaging again with stakeholders to collect input prior to filing our Facilities Application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC).

Further consultation along the orange highlighted portion of the preferred and alternate routes – from designation point D72 to G40 on the attached maps – will help us to determine the route with lower overall impact.

We understand your time is important and appreciate your cooperation and input as we move towards filing our application.

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

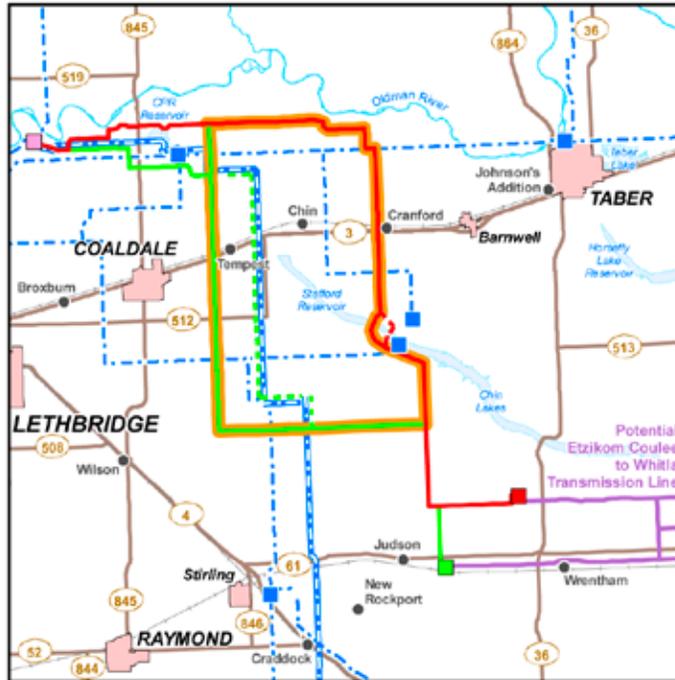
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Visit us online at

www.altalink.ca/projects

LEGEND	
■ Preferred Journault Substation	--- Existing Transmission Line
■ Alternate Journault Substation	--- Approved MATL Transmission Line
■ Approved Picture Butte Substation	--- Preferred and Alternate Area of Interest
■ Existing Substation	● Hamlet or Locality
--- Potential Transmission Line	--- Railway
--- Preferred	--- Road
--- Preferred Variant	■ Urban Area
--- Alternate	■ Water Body
--- Alternate Variant	
--- Other Transmission Line	



What we have learned

During consultation we have collected the following input that is influencing the potential change in route designation.

- Through additional discussions with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) and landowners in the area, we have a better understanding of the environmental and recreational impacts, as well as costs associated with the Stafford Reservoir crossing. The eastern reservoir crossing has not alleviated ASRD's concerns regarding the environmental impacts. The alternate route is preferred by ASRD because it does not cross the Stafford Reservoir.
- Residences were counted prior to identifying our preferred and alternate routes. Each rural residence counted as a single dwelling. Rural multiple dwelling units were also counted as a single dwelling. We have since re-evaluated how we consider rural multiple dwelling units. This has resulted in an increase of residences on the preferred route.
- Aerial spraying is an important consideration in the area we need to fully understand before filing our application. We have gathered additional information since identifying our preferred and alternate routes that has increased our knowledge of the potential impacts of the routes to aerial spraying. We will continue to collect information about aerial spraying from stakeholders and create a better understanding about potential impacts to aerial spraying on proposed routes.

Project schedule

AltaLink will communicate and consult with stakeholders throughout the project steps listed below.

Notify and consult with stakeholders	Summer 2012
File application with AUC	Summer 2012
Start construction if project is approved	Summer/Fall 2013

Although we attempt to follow the anticipated project schedule it is subject to change. We will continue to provide you with updated schedule information as the project progresses.

Routing changes

Since identifying our preferred and alternate routes, the following routing changes have been made:

- The route east of the Picture Butte Substation – from designation point D30 to D72 on the attached maps – was moved north to have less of the route paralleling Enbridge’s Montana-Alberta Tie-Line (MATL).
- The route north of the CPR Reservoir was selected because it has a lower overall impact than routing south of the reservoir.
- The route segment from D72 to E62 is again under consideration to connect the preferred route to the alternate route.

Next steps

We will now be contacting stakeholders along the orange highlighted portions of the preferred and alternate routes and route changes for further consultation. After consulting with stakeholders on the highlighted routing we will use the input gathered to finalize the preferred and alternate routes. After the consultation process is complete we will file an application with the AUC, which will describe our route selections. The AUC will review the application 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*.

How to provide your input

Stakeholder input is critical to identifying the best solution for this transmission project. You can provide your input by:

PARTICIPATE IN A ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATION

We will continue to contact occupants, residents and landowners who are on or directly adjacent to the proposed transmission line route options to gather their input. Through these discussions we will gather detailed information that will help us determine the best solution for this project.

CONTACT US DIRECTLY

You can also contact us by phone, e-mail, mail or through our website. Our contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

OUR TRANSMISSION LINES TRANSPORT THE POWER YOU USE EVERY DAY

AltaLink’s transmission system efficiently delivers electricity to 85% 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.



INCLUDED IN THIS INFORMATION PACKAGE:

- Project map
- AUC brochure:
Public Involvement in Needs or Facilities Applications

DEFINITION

Alberta Electric System Operator

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for the safe, reliable and economic planning and operation of the provincial transmission grid. For more information about why this project is needed, please visit www.aeso.ca. If you have any questions or concerns about the need for this project you may contact the AESO directly or you can make your concerns known to an AltaLink representative who will communicate them to the AESO on your behalf.

ALTALINK

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Calgary, Alberta T2A 7W7

Let's talk transmission

www.facebook.com/altalinktransmission 

www.twitter.com/altalink 

Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement

The Picture Butte to Etzikom Coulee Transmission Project is part of the Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement (SATR). The SATR includes many proposed projects in southern Alberta that will provide Albertans with access to new wind generated power.

Existing transmission lines and substations in the southern part of the province do not have the capacity to connect power generated from new wind farm projects. To connect this wind generated power to the electric grid, new transmission projects are being proposed to move the wind power from where it's generated to you.

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) filed the need for SATR with the AUC in December 2008. The AUC held a public hearing to review the need for these projects in 2009 and approved the need later that year.

More information

To learn more about the proposed project, please contact:

ALTALINK

1-877-269-5903 (toll-free)
Email: satrinfo@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 (toll-free)
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: consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca

