



February 2022

Electric system improvements near you

Wheatcrest Solar Project Connection

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.

You are receiving this newsletter because you are near the Wheatcrest Solar Project Connection, and we want your input.

To connect BluEarth Renewables Inc's (BluEarth) approved Wheatcrest Solar Project to the grid, AltaLink is proposing upgrades to its **transmission** system in the area.

Although AltaLink's project is required to facilitate the connection of BluEarth's project, it is a separate project. BluEarth will consult separately on their proposed transmission line. The Wheatcrest Solar Project is being developed by BER Wheatcrest Solar LP, a subsidiary of BluEarth. For more information about BluEarth, see their contact information on the back of this newsletter.

We are providing you with:

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

DEFINITION:

Transmission

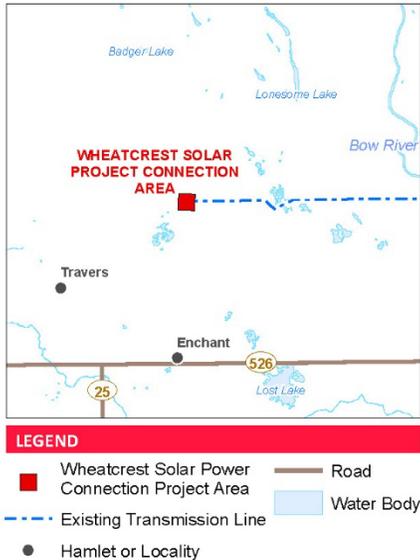
Transmission lines make up Alberta's electric highway, linking the places where power is generated to where power is used. Transmission lines transport large amounts of power over long distances across the province. The transmission system connects diverse sources of power generation including wind,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

CONTACT US

1-877-267-1453

stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca

www.altalink.ca/projects



Above: The new structure will look similar to the one pictured

Below: The telecom tower will look similar to the one pictured



Project details

AltaLink's project is located in the Municipal District of Taber, approximately 12 kilometres north of the Village of Enchant.

To connect the Wheatcrest Solar Project to the grid, AltaLink is proposing updates along an existing 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (called 763AL) and in the existing Enchant **Substation**. The proposed updates include:

- adding one new structure and modifying two adjacent structures on the 763AL transmission line located in NW-22-15-18 W4 and NE 22-15-18 W4
- installing buried **fiber optic cable** between the new structure and the Enchant Substation
- replacing the existing **telecommunications tower** within the Enchant Substation with a taller tower
- increasing the height of two other structures on the line by up to three metres (located in NW-20-15-17 W4) to ensure that a safe clearance distance can be maintained
 - following detailed engineering analysis, it may be determined that these structures need to be replaced instead

The new structure on 763AL will:

- be a wood or steel monopole structure
- be approximately 20 to 25 metres tall
- be located in road allowance

The proposed telecommunications tower will:

- be approximately 50 metres tall (including the antenna and lightning rod) and have a triangular base
- comply with Transport Canada's requirements regarding painting and lighting
- not be accessible to the public, as the structure will be inside the fenced area of an operating substation and only support AltaLink equipment at this time



Above: The existing Enchant Substation

Definitions

Substation

Substations are the connection points between power lines of varying voltages and contain equipment that controls and protects the flow of power. Substations include transformers that step down and step up the voltage so power can be transmitted through transmission lines or distributed to your community through distribution lines.

Telecommunications towers and fibre optic cable

Telecommunications towers and fibre optic cable transmit data to our system control centre. This allows us to monitor the operation of the electric system and ensure we provide safe and reliable power to our customers.

Providing your input

At this time, we are limiting in-person meetings and will be conducting the majority of meetings via telephone or electronic methods. If you'd like to provide input, you can also do so through our online feedback portal, found here: www.altalink.ca/projectfeedback.

As the situation regarding COVID-19 changes we will re-assess this approach. We will update you as the situation evolves. Our focus is ensuring the lights stay on, and that you have the electricity you need.

After our consultation and notification process is complete, we will file an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). The AUC ensures the fair and responsible delivery of Alberta's utility services and 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 *Participating in the AUC's independent review process*.

Anticipated project schedule

Notify and consult with stakeholders	February to March 2022
File application with Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)	May 2022
Start construction if project is approved	Fall 2022
Construction completed	Winter 2023

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

OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

If the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) approves this project, you may see or hear construction crews in the area. We have set strict standards by which we operate, including restricting work hours to reduce the impacts to local residents and businesses, ensuring safe construction practices and following environmental protection measures and appropriate environmental legislation. AltaLink believes that the environmental effects of this project will be negligible. This project is not located on federal lands, therefore the *Impact Assessment Act, 2019* does not apply. AltaLink's safety standards and practices are developed to meet or exceed government guidelines and codes to ensure that our facilities meet the requirements for public, employee and neighbouring facility safety.

Contact us

To learn more about the proposed project please contact:

ALTALINK

1-877-267-1453 (toll free)

Email: stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca

Website: www.altalink.ca/projects

To learn more about the Wheatcrest Solar project, please contact:

BLUEARTH RENEWABLES

1-844-214-2578

Email: projects@bluearth.ca

Website: <https://bluearthrenewables.com>

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

ALBERTA ELECTRIC SYSTEM OPERATOR

1-888-866-2959 (toll-free)

Email: stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca

The 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 refer to the AESO's Need Overview included with this package or visit www.aeso.ca. If you have any questions or concerns about the need for this project or the proposed transmission development to meet the need you may contact the AESO directly. You can make your questions or concerns known to a transmission facility owner representative who will collect your personal information for the purpose of addressing your questions and/or concerns to the AESO. This process may include disclosure of your personal information to the AESO.

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

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION (AUC)

780-427-4903 (toll-free by dialing 310-0000 before the number.)

E-mail: consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca

For general information relating to telecommunications systems, please contact:

INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANADA

1-800-267-9401 (toll-free in Canada)

Website: www.ic.gc.ca/towers

INCLUDED IN THIS INFORMATION PACKAGE:

- Project maps
- COVID-19 Letter
- Information about Electric and Magnetic Fields and Radio Frequency
- AUC brochure: *Participating in the AUC's independent review process*

PRIVACY COMMITMENT

AltaLink is committed to protecting your privacy. AltaLink will collect, use, and disclose personal information in accordance with AltaLink's Privacy Policy and the *Personal Information Protection Act* (Alberta). As part of the regulatory process for new transmission projects, AltaLink may provide your personal information to Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). For more information about how AltaLink protects your personal information, visit our website at www.altalink.ca/privacy or contact us directly via e-mail privacy@altalink.ca or phone at 1-877-267-6760.

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