



June 2022

Electric system improvements near you

879L Transmission Line Restoration

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.

We are starting to develop a new project in your area – the Vauxhall Area Transmission Development (VATD) project – and we want your input.

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) has identified the need for this development to meet the growing demand for electricity in the area. As part of the proposed development, modifications are required on a portion of AltaLink's existing 879L **transmission** line. To further explain this proposed project, this newsletter includes:

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

DEFINITION:

Transmission

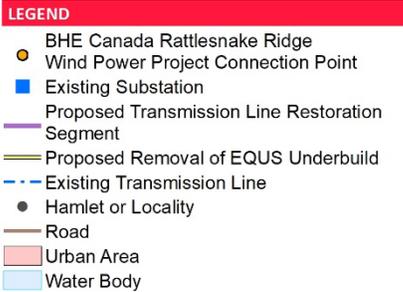
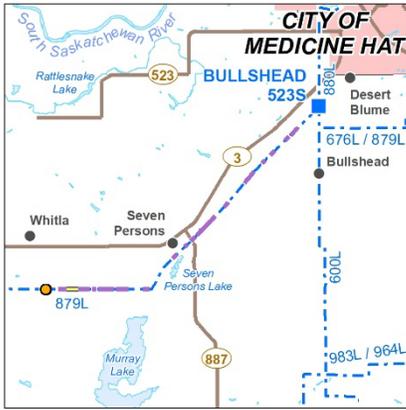
Transmission lines make up Alberta's electric highway, linking the places where power is generated to your community, where power is used. Transmission lines transport large amounts of power over long distances from power plants across the province. The transmission system connects diverse sources of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

Other work on the 879L transmission line

You may have received information about or have been involved in a separate project called the 879L Transmission Line Fire Risk Mitigation Rebuild. That was a separate project that AltaLink was working on as part of our regular maintenance program. We will be continuing with maintenance activities to mitigate fire risk on the line, including replacing components on the existing structures. This work will be completed at the same time as the 879L Transmission Line Restoration project.

CONTACT US

1-877-267-1453
stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca
www.altalink.ca/projects



Project details

The Vauxhall Area Transmission Development includes two separate projects:

- **879L Transmission Line Restoration:** Modifying and replacing select structures along the existing 879L transmission line in Cypress County
- **610L Transmission Line Replacement:** Building a new transmission line and salvaging a portion of an existing transmission line in the Municipal District of Taber

This package includes details about the **879L Transmission Line Restoration**. If you would like to learn more about the 610L Transmission Line Replacement, visit our website at www.altalink.ca/projects.

879L Transmission Line Restoration

AltaLink's existing 879L transmission line is a single circuit 138 kilovolt (kV) line, located southwest of the City of Medicine Hat. The line was originally constructed in 1960 and requires select structure modifications and replacements to restore the line to its designed capacity, as directed by the AESO.

The proposed structure modifications and replacements are on the portion of the 879L transmission line between AltaLink's Bullshead **Substation** (located in NE-4-12-6-W4) and the BHE Canada Rattlesnake Ridge Wind Power Project (located in SW-28-10-8-W4).

To meet the AESO's capacity requirements, we need to ensure that the existing line has sufficient clearance from the ground or other objects so it can operate safely and reliably. After assessing the project requirements and taking into consideration the remaining lifespan of the 879L line, we have determined that a more cost-effective solution to meet this need is to replace or modify select structures along the existing alignment.

As part of this restoration, modifications to a number of existing EQUUS distribution lines may also be required. If you have questions for EQUUS, please contact them at 1-888-565-5445.

Please see the attached maps for details and location information.

Proposed structures

The existing 879L transmission structures are primarily wooden monopole structures that are approximately 16 to 23 metres tall and spaced approximately 150 metres apart. The new structures will be:

- wood or steel monopole single circuit structures
- approximately 18-26 metres tall
- installed adjacent to the existing structures



The current structures are shown on the left, the new structures will look similar to the photo on the right.

DEFINITION:

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.

Access trails and construction workspace

As part of the project, access trails, access gates and construction workspace will be required. The proposed access trails can be seen on the maps included in the package. Where possible, we have tried to use existing trails that avoid steep ground, wet areas and other potential impacts. If you are aware of features that we have not identified, please let us know.

Construction workspace, in addition to the existing transmission line right-of-way, is required for the safe construction of the transmission line. We are proposing 15 metres of construction workspace on either side of the transmission line where structures are being replaced or modified. AltaLink will consult with all affected landowners regarding potential construction workspace and access trails.

AltaLink offers compensation based on fair market value for construction workspace and access trails at the time of acquisition which will be discussed on an individual basis with the landowner.

Environmental surveys

AltaLink will be conducting seasonal environmental surveys near the proposed structure modifications. Ground-based surveys on private land will only occur after landowner permission is received. When conducting all surveys, we work to minimize disruption to residences, area users and wildlife.

How to provide your input

We will contact landowners, residents, and occupants near the proposed project to gather input and address questions or concerns. Our priority is maintaining the health and safety of our employees, contractors, and the general public, while ensuring that we are able to continue to operate our system and keep the lights on for Albertans. We will follow any requested COVID-19 safety protocols for in-person meetings and accommodate your preferred meeting options, including over the phone, virtual or in-person. You can also provide input through our online feedback portal, found here: www.altalink.ca/projectfeedback.

AltaLink is committed to sharing information about its projects and working with the public to gather and respond to stakeholder input and concerns. A summary of stakeholder comments will be incorporated into the application we submit to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). We will notify stakeholders when we file the application and again once the AUC has reached a decision about the project.

Next steps

The AESO determined this transmission system development is needed and will file a Needs Identification Document with the AUC. After our consultation process is complete, we will file a Facilities Application with the AUC and it will be reviewed through a process in which stakeholders can participate. 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	June to August 2022
File application with Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)	September 2022
Start construction if project is approved	November 2023
Construction completed	April 2024

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.



Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

AltaLink recognizes that people may have concerns about exposure to EMF and we take those concerns seriously. Everyone in our society is exposed to power frequency EMF from many sources, including:

- power lines and other electrical facilities
- electrical appliances in your home
- building wiring

National and international organizations such as Health Canada and the World Health Organization (WHO) have been conducting and reviewing research about exposure to EMF for more than 40 years. Based on this research, these agencies have not recommended that the general public needs to take steps to limit their everyday exposure to EMF from high voltage transmission lines, including individuals that are located on the edge of a power line right-of-way.

If you have any questions about EMF, please contact us.

Website: www.altalink.ca/emf

Email: emfdialogue@altalink.ca

Toll-free phone number: 1-866-451-7817

Contact us

To learn more about the proposed project please contact:

ALTALINK

1-877-267-1453 (toll free)

E-mail: stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca

For more information visit us at www.altalink.ca/projects

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

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) ensures the fair and responsible delivery of Alberta's utility services. AltaLink submits applications for new transmission projects to the AUC and the AUC reviews them in a public process.

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)

E-mail: stakeholder.relations@aesoc.ca

The AESO is an independent, not-for-profit organization acting in the public interest of all Albertans. They plan Alberta's transmission system, which is made up of the transmission lines, substations and other related equipment that allow electricity to flow from where it is generated to where it is used.

INCLUDED IN THIS INFORMATION PACKAGE:

- Project maps
- AESO Need Overview
- AUC brochure: *Participating in the AUC's independent review process.*

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PROJECT

1. Visit altalink.ca/projects
2. Search for the project title
3. Click Subscribe to updates

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PRIVACY COMMITMENT

AltaLink is committed to protecting your privacy. Collected personal information will be protected under AltaLink's Privacy Policy and Alberta's Personal Information Protection Act. 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.