Environmental Evaluation

An Environmental Evaluation identifies environmental features within the project area through existing data and field surveys. Additional information is gathered from consultation with provincial and federal regulators, landowners and the public.

This information is used to assist in route development. Potential effects from the project are identified, so that mitigations can be developed to minimize or eliminate these effects.

Information within the Environmental Evaluation typically includes:

- wildlife and vegetation
- wetland, watercourse and groundwater assessments
- threatened and endangered species identification
- terrain and soil evaluations
- Wildlife permits are obtained from Environment and Sustainable Resource Development as required, prior to completing field surveys.

The Avian Power Line Interaction Committee

The Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) leads the electric utility industry in protecting avian resources while enhancing reliable energy delivery.

APLIC connects the utility industry, agencies, conservation groups, the public, and manufacturers of avian protection products to develop & provide educational resources, identify & fund research, develop & provide cost-effective management options, and serves as the focal point for avian issues.

AltaLink is an active member of APLIC and remains current with avian protection practices.

For more information on APLIC visit www.aplic.org

Osprey nesting platform

Did you Know?

Alberta's natural landscapes are home to many diverse animals, including more than 400 different species of birds. Through Altalink's Avian Protection Program we offer unique solutions for birds including constructing nesting platforms for the endangered ferruginous hawk, relocating osprey nests from power poles to safe nesting places and much more .
We're active in protecting wildlife and have several programs in place including the first-of-its-kind GREENJACKET – a product that protects wildlife from coming into contact with equipment in substations. And that's just the beginning. For more information, including our innovative recycling programs, please visit www.altalink.ca/environment.

Bird diverter installation

What does AltaLink use to reduce bird collisions?

Bird collisions can occur where a transmission line intersects waterfowl habitats, such as breeding and feeding areas. Birds most often collide with the overhead shield wire – a thin, uppermost wire that protects the system from lightning damage. These wires are often difficult for birds to see in low light conditions. We will identify important waterfowl habitat during the routing stage and avoid them whenever possible. When avoidance is not possible, visibility enhancing devices are used to reduce collision risk.

	**Bird flight diverters**	The diverter increases the visibility of the overhead shield wire, making it easier for birds to see and avoid.
	**Firefly bird markers**	These markers can be seen by birds in low light conditions and reflect both natural and ultraviolet light, allowing birds to adjust their flight path before coming into contact with the overhead shield wire.

Avian Protection Plan

AltaLink was the first Canadian utility to create an Avian Protection Plan (APP), which is a management system designed to reduce the impact our transmission facilities can have on birds. The goal of an APP is to reduce avian mortality while improving service reliability.

Installed bird diverters