

**Castle Rock Ridge to Chapel Rock Transmission Project:  
Interactive feedback sessions summary**

During our first round of consultation more than 500 people joined us at our interactive feedback sessions for the proposed Castle Rock Ridge to Chapel Rock Transmission Project. The feedback received and conversations with stakeholders were insightful, informative and extremely useful in helping us better understand the key issues. As we committed, this report summarizes the feedback we gathered and provides additional information to help answer some of the questions we heard. Thank you for your continued involvement.

**Agricultural Impact*****Impacts on agricultural operations and irrigated lands***

AltaLink strives to work with landowners to find solutions that minimize impacts on irrigation systems, irrigable land and farming operations. It is also important to note that landowners are compensated annually for the increased costs related to working around structures on agricultural land.

***Concerns with safety and farming around transmission structures***

The area where a transmission line is located must be kept clear of trees and other obstacles to ensure the safe operation of the line. This area is known as a right-of-way. Buildings and other structures can be built right up to the edge of the right-of-way.

Farm equipment measuring up to six metres (20 feet) tall can be safely operated under the proposed structures. Note that existing powerlines may only allow farm equipment up to 4.5 metres (15 feet) to safely operate. We will work with landowners to minimize impacts on farming or discuss any clearance requirements needed.

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) should not be affected by the proposed transmission line. We encourage you to contact us with the specific details of any GPS concerns you may have and we will work with you to investigate and mitigate any potential GPS interference caused by our facilities.

**Electric and Magnetic Fields*****Concerns about Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF) effects***

Research into possible adverse health effects from exposure to EMF has been conducted extensively for more than 40 years. Health Canada and the World Health Organization, among other agencies, have reviewed this EMF research and concluded there are no known adverse health effects to humans from low-level exposure to extremely low frequency EMF.

AltaLink's electrical effects specialists and consultation staff will follow up with stakeholders and will be available to discuss any EMF related concerns throughout the project. We can also provide EMF information such as expected changes in EMF levels with the proposed project.

If you would like more information about EMF, we can provide reliable scientific sources that have evaluated the potential impact of EMF on human health.

## Environment

### ***Concerns with native grasslands, endangered species and sensitive wildlife habitats in and around the project area***

AltaLink's preliminary route options included consideration of environmental data from the provincial and federal government. Extensive environmental surveys will be conducted in the project area prior to filing our facility application the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC).

AltaLink will incorporate information from the Miistakis report that the Livingstone Landowner Group has agreed to provide to AltaLink. This new information will help develop reasoned and informed decisions regarding environmental concerns, which we take very seriously.

The environmental evaluation for this project will consider the environmental effects of each of the proposed routes, describe the potential impacts of the transmission line and substation and set out necessary mitigation measures for the construction and operation of the line. Some examples of wildlife mitigations used successfully in the past are avoidance through routing and tower placement, raptor nesting platforms, setback distances for species at risk (wildlife and vegetation) and spanning wetlands and watercourses where possible. They may also include restrictions on the timing of construction activities, placing structures in non-sensitive areas, and flagging setback distances during construction. As each project has unique environmental factors, specific mitigation plans are developed to reduce the impacts. Details of the mitigation plans are provided in our facility application and can be viewed by the public once the application is filed with the AUC.

## Noise

### ***Potential for increased noise from the proposed lines and substation***

AltaLink must be compliant with the AUC Rule 012 noise requirement of 40 dBA at the most impacted residence. We will take a more stringent approach by meeting this requirement at the right-of-way edge for the proposed transmission lines for this project. For more information regarding AUC Rule 012, please visit [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca).

### ***Questions about noise from our 1201L, an existing 500kV transmission, particularly when it is windy***

AltaLink must be compliant with the AUC Rule 012 noise requirement of 40 dBA at the most impacted residence. We believe the noise that can sometimes be heard emanating from the 1201L transmission line is caused by the wind blowing on the tightly strung wires, causing them to be plucked, similar to plucking a guitar string. This is a very site specific issue.

In April 2015, we will be using a planned outage on the 1201L transmission line to install sensors and confirm whether our theory is correct. Should this theory prove to be true, we will then install additional spacer dampers on the wires during a planned outage in August 2015. We believe that these extra spacer dampers will eliminate the noise.

The proposed project is less likely to produce this type of noise because the type of conductors will be different than what is on 1201L.

## Property Values

### ***Impacts on property value***

AltaLink continues to share property value studies with those who request it. Research has shown that transmission lines have a small or no discernible impact on property values and that, where an impact has

been found, it tends to diminish with distance from the line and over time.

### **Routing/Siting**

#### ***Request to follow existing linear disturbances***

Our refined routes for the second round of consultation consider the feedback we received, including various routing suggestions. Where possible, the siting team looked at following existing infrastructure. Some factors taken into account as we refined the potential route options include the residential, environmental, visual, agricultural, and electrical impacts of the proposed line and substation. As a regulated utility, we must also consider the cost of the solution to Alberta ratepayers.

#### ***Use of underground transmission***

Landowners would like us to consider underground in areas of high visual value. As a result of this feedback we are evaluating the use of underground in these areas in an effort to further mitigate potential impacts to viewscales. We will keep you informed as we continue to work on a potential underground solution. Please note that the AUC would have to approve the use of underground in each circumstance.

### **Visual Impact**

#### ***Viewscape and visual impact***

Photo representations of the proposed transmission lines and structure types were shared at the interactive feedback sessions and included with information packages. AltaLink is prepared to work with landowners to reduce the visual impact of specific tower locations from their residences by moving towers along the right-of-way to the extent practical.

### **Project need**

#### ***Concerns regarding the need for this project***

The need for this project has been determined by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) and approved by the AUC. For more information regarding the need, please visit [www.aeso.ca](http://www.aeso.ca).

If you would like any additional information, please call us toll free at 1-877-267-5973 or visit our website at <http://www.altalink.ca/projects/crrcr>.

The Castle Rock Ridge to Chapel Rock Project team thanks you for your valuable feedback and comments.

Sincerely,



Kevin Thorvaldson  
Manager, Stakeholder Engagement