

February 1, 2024

## **799L Transmission Line Rebuild – Project update**

Thank you for your ongoing participation in the 799L Transmission Line Rebuild. In October 2023, AltaLink began consulting with stakeholders on the proposed project. We would like to provide you with a project update.

### **Project background**

AltaLink is proposing to rebuild its existing 799L transmission line between Entwistle and Whitecourt. Portions of this line, built in 1964, have reached the end of their lifecycle and need to be rebuilt to improve the safe and reliable operation of the line for years to come.

Additionally, the 799L transmission line was identified in AltaLink's wildfire mitigation plan as a top ignition-causing line. Our wildfire mitigation plan includes strengthening our system and making proactive safety improvements so that it is less likely to contribute to wildfires. The proposed rebuild, along with other work on the 799L transmission line, will address the risks identified in the wildfire mitigation plan.

### **Update on proposed routes**

After discussions with stakeholders and additional engineering, AltaLink has identified a preferred route and an alternate route segment for the proposed 799L Transmission Line Rebuild.

#### ***Preferred route (point designations A1 to A100, B1 to B80, C1 to C40, D1 to D100, E1 to E20)***

AltaLink's preferred route mainly follows the existing route, with minor adjustments in two locations to address eroding slopes along the Pembina River. This is shown on the included maps in red and yellow. This route minimizes new disturbances and impacts to stakeholders.

#### ***Alternate route segment (point designations B10 to B25 to B30)***

AltaLink has evaluated and will submit to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) an alternate route segment suggested by stakeholders during our consultation program. When compared to the preferred route, this segment:

- parallels the west side of Highway 22 for approximately half of its length
- is primarily located in road allowance, minimizing potential agricultural effects
- has higher potential residential impacts
- is approximately 1.1 km longer
- has a higher estimated cost

The alternate route is shown on the included maps in green.

#### ***Route removed from consideration (point designation D10 to D50)***

AltaLink has removed the potential relocation to road allowance along Range Road 75 from consideration as it has more potential residential and visual effects for stakeholders.

The removed route is shown on the included maps in grey and white. If your property is located only near this removed route, you may no longer receive information from us about this project. Please contact us if you have any questions or wish to stay informed about the proposed rebuild.

**Proposed additional right-of-way width less than anticipated**

We have determined, after additional engineering, that a total right-of-way width of approximately 20 metres, instead of 25 metres, will be required for this project. We will discuss any additional right-of-way requirements with affected landowners.

Additional easements for vegetation control may be required where vegetation adjacent to the right-of-way can be a danger to the line. Permanent access agreements will be requested for off-right-of-way access trails that are required for construction and for future line maintenance.

Additional right-of-way will allow AltaLink to remove trees and other vegetation that pose a potential fire risk, ensure safe electrical clearances and setbacks, and safely complete future maintenance on the transmission line.

**Most proposed structures will be made of steel**

In October, we advised you that the proposed structures for the rebuilt line may be made of wood, steel, or composite (fibreglass). AltaLink has determined that the proposed structures will be primarily made of steel, with wood used in some locations, based on the engineering requirements and structure types. The steel structures will look similar to the photo to the right.



**Vehicles and equipment up to 6.1 metres tall can safely pass under transmission line**

Several stakeholders have asked for clarification about the height of the line and the safe height for vehicles or equipment passing under the line on the proposed rebuild.

Where the proposed transmission line crosses fields (including on farms), the maximum vehicle or equipment height able to safely move underneath the conductor (wire) is 6.1 metres (20 feet).

**Next steps**

After we complete our consultation with landowners, we will file a Facility Application with the AUC and it will be reviewed through a public process in which stakeholders can participate. We will notify stakeholders when we file the application.

**Anticipated project schedule**

<b>Notify and consult with stakeholders</b>	October 2023 to February 2024
<b>File application with AUC</b>	March 2024
<b>Start construction if project is approved</b>	October 2024
<b>Complete construction</b>	December 2025

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

**Contact us**

We are available to address any questions or concerns you may have. Please contact us at stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca or 1-877-267-1453. You can also view more information about the project at <http://www.altalink.ca/projects>.

Sincerely,

Kris Gladue  
Manager, Stakeholder Engagement