



April 2022

NEWSLETTER **TO THE COMMUNITY**

**Vauxhall Area Transmission
Development:
610L Transmission Line Replacement**



**ELECTRIC
SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENTS
IN YOUR AREA**

You are receiving this newsletter because you are near the Vauxhall Area Transmission Development (VATD) and we want your input.



Vauxhall Area Transmission Development (VATD)

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

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) has identified the need for this project to meet the growing demands for electricity in the area. As part of the proposed development, AltaLink’s existing 610L **transmission** line needs to be replaced to increase its capacity and ensure it can deliver safe and reliable electricity for years to come.

To further explain this project, this newsletter includes:

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

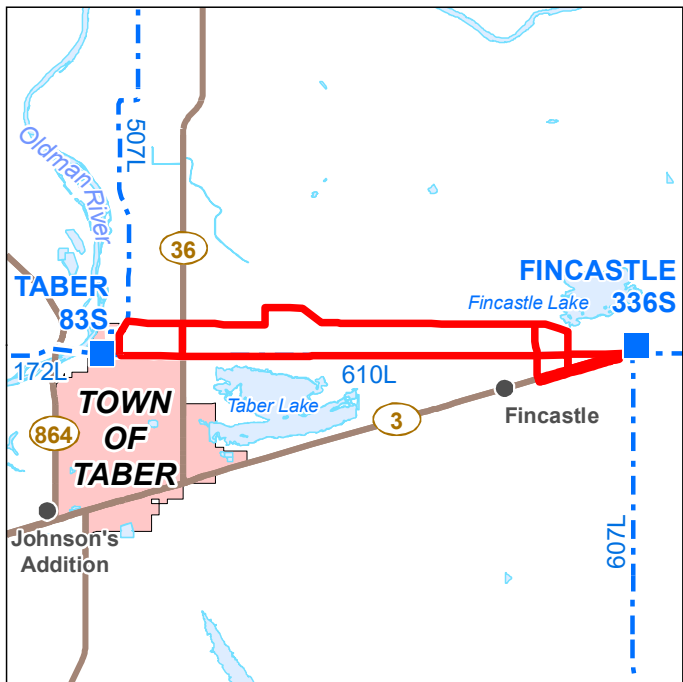
In order to upgrade the transmission line, we need to replace most of it with a new line. Depending on final routing, AltaLink transmission lines and FortisAlberta distribution lines could be located on both sides of Township Road 102. If you have questions for FortisAlberta, please call FortisAlberta at 403-310-WIRE (9479).



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.



LEGEND

■ Existing Substation	Road
— Proposed Transmission Line	Urban Area
- - - Existing Transmission Line	Water Body
● Hamlet or Locality	

Please note: The red lines on the map represent the two routes being considered. If the project is approved, only one of the routes will be built. Please refer to the enclosed maps for a more detailed view of where lines may be located in your area.



Project details

The Vauxhall Area Transmission Development includes two projects:

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

This package includes details about the **610L Transmission Line Replacement**. Information about the 879L Transmission Line Restoration will be available on our website at www.altalink.ca/projects at a later date.

610L TRANSMISSION LINE REPLACEMENT

AltaLink's existing 610L transmission line is a single circuit 138 **kilovolt (kV)** transmission line. The line was originally constructed in 1960 and needs to be upgraded and replaced to meet growing demand and ensure that it continues to deliver safe and reliable electricity for years to come.

This proposed 610L Transmission Line Replacement includes:

- building approximately 14-17 kilometres of new transmission line between AltaLink's Taber **Substation** (located in SE-18-10-16-W4) and the Fincastle Substation (located in SW-15-10-15-W4) to replace the existing 610L transmission line
- building approximately 620 metres of temporary transmission line to minimize impacts and maintain service during construction

DEFINITIONS

Kilovolt (kV)

A kilovolt is equal to one thousand volts and is commonly used when describing transmission and distribution lines. AltaLink's transmission lines range from 69 kV (69,000 volts) to 500 kV (500,000 volts). Light bulbs typically range from 120 to 300 volts.

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.

Presently, the AESO is planning to remove the existing 610L transmission line between the Fincastle and Taber Substations once the new transmission line is constructed and in service. However, if the existing 610L transmission line is identified by the AESO as an efficient connection option for future new generation, the AESO may consider keeping the existing 610L transmission line in service.

If the AESO decides not to keep the existing transmission line in service, we will salvage the majority of the existing line that cannot be reused for the replacement line.

Where the existing transmission line connects to each substation, we are proposing to use the existing alignment and some of the existing structures, where possible, in these specific areas. To accommodate this work and minimize the potential for outages during construction, a temporary transmission line will need to be built outside of the Taber Substation.



PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTES

AltaLink takes several factors into consideration in an effort to find a route with low overall environmental, social and economic effects. In addition to stakeholder input we also consider agricultural, residential, environmental, visual and other potential impacts as well as cost.

There are two routes being considered for the replacement transmission line. If the project is approved, only one of the routes will be built. Please refer to the detailed photo map (DP1), detail base map (DB1), and strip maps (SM) included in this package to see the proposed routes.

PROPOSED STRUCTURES

The existing 610L transmission structures are primarily single circuit wooden monopole structures that are approximately 14-25 metres tall and spaced approximately 120 to 150 metres apart.

The proposed structures for the new line will be either wood or steel monopole structures and will:

- be approximately 14-25 meters tall
- be spaced approximately 125 to 200 metres apart
- require a **right-of-way** of 20 metres when located on private property or 10 metres when located in road allowance

Guy wires may be required to support angle or corner structures along the transmission line. An area of approximately 20x35 metres at 90 degree turns or 12x35 metres at smaller deflections will be needed to accommodate the guy wire boxes. See the strip maps included in your package for the location of guy wire boxes.

DEFINITIONS

Right-of-Way

The right-of-way is a strip of land required for the construction and safe operation of a transmission line. A right-of-way refers to the physical space a transmission line encompasses including areas on either side of the line. The majority of the right-of-way can still be used by the landowner. Buildings cannot be placed on the right-of-way, but can be built up to the edge of the right-of-way.



Existing structures



Proposed structures



RIGHT-OF-WAY, ACCESS TRAILS AND CONSTRUCTION WORKSPACE

To build the replacement transmission line, access trails, access gates and construction workspace will be required. Where possible, we've 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 transmission line right-of-way, is required for the safe construction of the transmission line. The requirements for this construction workspace vary depending on the location:

- Where the transmission line is proposed on property, AltaLink may require 10 metres of construction workspace on either side of the right-of-way.
- Where the transmission line is proposed in road allowance, AltaLink may require an additional 10 metres of construction workspace beyond the right-of-way, on the property side.
- At some angles, additional workspace of approximately 45x120 metres may be required to string the new transmission line.

The proposed access trails and additional workspace can be seen on the maps included in the package.

AltaLink will consult with all affected landowners regarding potential construction workspace and access trails. AltaLink offers fair market value for land easements at the time of acquisition which will be discussed on an individual basis with the landowner.

In order to ensure the safety and reliability of the transmission line, AltaLink will manage vegetation along the proposed transmission line right-of-way prior to construction. This will include removal of non-compatible vegetation along the right-of-way.

Environmental Surveys

AltaLink will be conducting seasonal environmental surveys along the proposed transmission line routes. 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

Stakeholder input is important to identifying a low overall impact route for this project. You can provide your input in the following ways.

PARTICIPATE IN A ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATION

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.

CONTACT US DIRECTLY

You can contact us by telephone, email, mail or through our website. Our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

DEFINITION

Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)

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.

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 email at privacy@altalink.ca or phone at **1-877-267-6760**.



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*.

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 on 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:

visit: www.altalink.ca/emf

email: emfdialogue@altalink.ca

phone: 1-866-451-7817 (toll-free)

ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

Notify and consult with stakeholders

April to June 2022

File application with Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)

September 2022

Start construction if project is approved

September 2023

Construction completed

July 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.

DEFINITION

Needs Identification Document

The AESO submits Need Identification Documents (NIDs) to the AUC for review and approval. A NID describes why a transmission project is required. The AUC must approve a NID before construction can begin.

Facilities Application

AltaLink submits Facilities Applications to the AUC for review. A Facilities Application describes how AltaLink proposes to meet the requirements for a transmission project. It includes routing details, results of the participant involvement program and technical details. Facilities Applications must be approved by the AUC before construction can begin.

CONTACT US

To learn more about the proposed project, please contact:

ALTALINK

1-877-267-1453 (toll-free)

Email: 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 310-0000 before the number)

Email: 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)

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 Information for Stakeholders 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.

INCLUDED IN THIS INFORMATION PACKAGE:

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

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1. Visit altalink.ca/projects
2. Search for the project title
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