

September 15, 2022

## **Vauxhall Area Transmission Development – 610L Transmission Line Replacement Project update**

Thank you for your ongoing participation in the Vauxhall Area Transmission Development (VATD) – 610L Transmission Line Replacement. We began to consult and notify with stakeholders on this proposed project in April 2022 and want to provide you with an update.

With the input we have received from stakeholders, along with the information gathered through ongoing field studies and engineering, we have identified preferred and alternate transmission line routes that we will include in the application that we file with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for this project. We have also made route adjustments in certain areas and removed other routes from further consideration.

### **Project background**

If approved, the 610L Transmission Line Replacement involves:

- building approximately 14 to 17 kilometres of new transmission line between AltaLink's Taber Substation (located in SE-18-10-16-W4) and 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 avoid outages and maintain service during construction activities

### **Updated transmission line routes**

The routes are shown on the Detail Photo Map (DP1), Detailed Base Map (DB1) and Strip Maps included in this package. Routes no longer under consideration are shown in grey on the DP1 and DB1 maps.

### ***Preferred route (shown in red)***

AltaLink's preferred route parallels Township Road 102/80 Avenue on the south side of the road allowance of the existing 610L transmission line. When compared to the alternate route, it:

- Has lower agricultural impacts (including irrigation pivots and aerial spray operations)
- Has a similar number of residences within 150 metres that would be closer to a transmission line than they are today
- Has fewer residences within 800 metres of the proposed transmission line that would be closer to a transmission line than they are today
- Has lower environmental impacts

### ***Alternate route (shown in green):***

AltaLink's alternate route is located primarily along quarter lines or future road allowance (once Highway 3 has been twinned). When compared to the preferred route, it:

- Has a similar number of residences within 150 metres that would be closer to a transmission line than they are today
- Has more residences within 800 metres of the proposed transmission line that would be closer to a transmission line than they are today
- Has lower impacts to shelterbelts near residences
- Is approximately two kilometres longer

**Proposed structures: Reducing right-of-way to address stakeholder concerns**

Based on feedback received during consultation, we are proposing different structures along sections of the preferred and alternate routes to reduce the right-of-way that is required. This addresses site-specific stakeholder concerns and will minimize impacts to shelterbelts near residences by reducing the amount of tree clearing that is required. Please refer to the notes section on the strip mosaic maps for the specific locations where these structures are being proposed.

The proposed structures in these specific areas will look similar to the one pictured on the right and will:

- be wood or steel monopole
- be approximately 14 to 25 metres tall
- be spaced approximately 100 metres apart
- require a right-of-way of approximately two metres on private property when located along the preferred route, and approximately 13 metres when located along the alternate route

**Update on the existing 610L transmission line**

In our previous information package, we indicated that if the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) determined the existing line would be an efficient connection option for future generation, portions of the existing 610L transmission line may stay in place. AltaLink has been informed that, at this time, the AESO does not anticipate any future use of the existing 610L transmission line, but the existing line needs to remain energized until construction of the new 610L transmission line is complete. As a result, once the new line is complete, we expect that the existing line will be decommissioned and salvaged. AltaLink intends to submit an application for the salvage of the existing 610L transmission line during the construction of the new line.

FortisAlberta currently has a distribution line underbuilt on the existing 610L transmission line. AltaLink is continuing to work with FortisAlberta to assess options for the reconfiguration of its distribution line in anticipation of the existing 610L transmission line being salvaged.

**Next steps**

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*.

We plan to file our application before the end of 2022 and will notify you once it has been filed. If the project is approved, construction is expected to begin in September 2023. While we believe all of the remaining routes and route options are viable, only one route will be constructed, if approved by the AUC.

**Contact us**

We are available to address any questions or concerns you may have. Please contact us at 1-877-267-1453 (toll-free) or [stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca](mailto:stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca). Further information about this project and maps are available at [altalink.ca/projects](http://altalink.ca/projects).

Sincerely,  
Kris Gladue  
Manager, Stakeholder Engagement