

April 17, 2024

799L Transmission Line Rebuild – Notice of application filing and project update

Thank you for your ongoing participation in the 799L Transmission Line Rebuild project. We submitted an application for the project to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on April 5, 2024. Below are several project updates that have occurred since we last updated you and an outline of the next steps in the AUC process.

Project updates

In our October 2023 newsletter, we stated that the project involved rebuilding approximately 40 kilometres of the 77-kilometre transmission line. Please note that the project actually involves rebuilding approximately 50 kilometres. The length of the rebuild was accurately shown and described in AltaLink's mapping provided with the newsletter, and stakeholders were consulted based on the accurate information during consultation.

Additional overhead optical ground wire (OPGW) required

In addition to installing OPGW on the 799L transmission line between Entwistle Substation and South Mayerthorpe Substation, AltaLink has determined that OPGW is also required between the South Mayerthorpe Substation and Sagitawah Substation and will replace the existing overhead shield wire with OPGW. The OPGW looks similar to the existing overhead shield wire.

OPGW provides lightning protection to the transmission line and is part of a telecommunication network that allows AltaLink to monitor, control, protect, and restore the electric system.

Proposed additional right-of-way (point designation B55 to B58)

AltaLink will require additional right-of-way of up to 26 metres between designation points B55 to B58, shown on strip mosaic map 9 included with this letter.

There will be H-frame structures used along this segment, which requires longer spans between the structures and a wider right-of-way.

Clarification on access trail

The project update sent in February 2024 did not include an access trail west of Highway 751. This access trail was shown in the original information package sent in October 2023.

AltaLink has consulted with impacted stakeholders about these changes. Please see the maps included with this letter showing the proposed locations of the access trail.

Next steps

The AUC will review the application and can approve, approve with conditions, or deny the project. The AUC may also host a hearing regarding the project. To learn more about the AUC process and how you can become involved, please visit www.auc.ab.ca.

The application

The application can be viewed on the AUC's website at www.auc.ab.ca.

To access the application, click on the 'eFiling System Login' button on the top of the page and log in to your eFiling account. If you do not have an account, select 'New Account' and follow the steps onscreen. Please note any questions or concerns regarding account creation and management should be directed towards the AUC at info@auc.ab.ca

Once your account has been created and you have successfully logged in, enter '28957' into the 'Go to...' search bar on the top of the page to locate the application. Alternatively, you can navigate to 'Find', click 'Proceedings' and enter '799L' into the 'Description' search bar.

If you have any issues accessing the application, please contact us at the details below and we will send a copy of the application to you.

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.

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. Further information about this project and maps are available at <https://www.altalink.ca/project/799l-transmission-line-rebuild>.

Sincerely,

Kris Gladue
Manager, Stakeholder Engagement