



October 2023

NEWSLETTER **TO THE COMMUNITY**

799L Transmission Line Rebuild

**ELECTRIC
SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENTS
IN YOUR AREA**

You are receiving this newsletter because you are near the proposed 799L Transmission Line Rebuild, and we want your input.



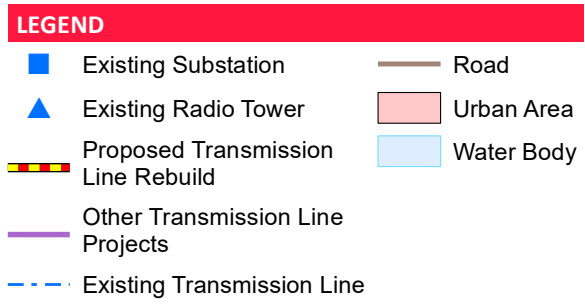
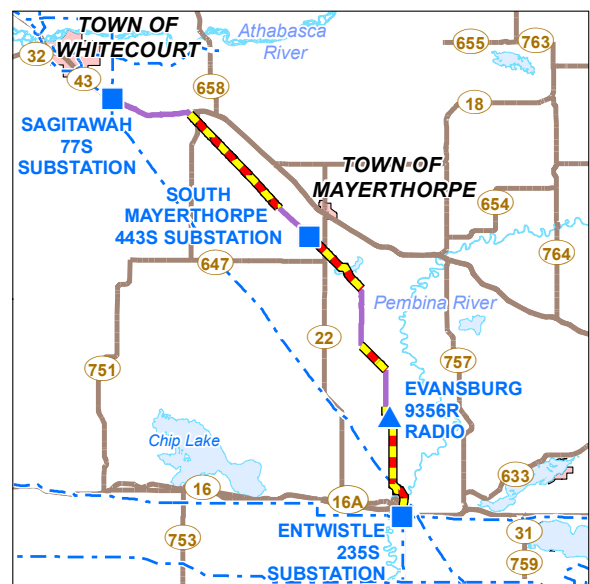
799L Transmission Line Rebuild

AltaLink’s existing 799L **transmission** line is a single **circuit** 138 **kilovolt (kV)** line constructed in 1964. Portions of the line 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.

Wildfires are increasing in frequency and severity, and AltaLink is working to proactively upgrade our assets. While there is no immediate risk to public safety, we are strengthening the system, increasing inspections, and addressing potential issues earlier.

We want your input as part of our project planning. This newsletter will help you understand what we are proposing to do, and where and what the proposed structures may look like. We have also included maps of the project area.



DEFINITIONS

Transmission

Transmission lines are 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 generation.

Circuit

A circuit is three wires. Transmission line structures can be single or double circuit, and this affects how much electricity the structure carries. Single circuit transmission lines have three wires strung along the structures. A double circuit transmission line has six wires and carries double the amount of electricity.

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.



Project details

The existing 799L transmission line is located between the Sagitawah **Substation**, approximately six kilometres southeast of Whitecourt, and Entwistle. This proposed project involves rebuilding approximately 40 kilometres of the 77-kilometre transmission line.

AltaLink is considering rebuilding the transmission line along the existing alignment for most of the project. We are currently considering relocating two sections of the line.

The rebuilt line will meet current safety and reliability standards. The existing line will be removed and salvaged.



DEFINITION

Substation
Substations are the connection points between power lines of varying voltages and contain equipment that controls and protects the flow of power.

OTHER WORK ON THE 799L TRANSMISSION LINE	
AltaLink is completing additional work on the 799L transmission line (shown in purple on the included maps) in the area.	
<p>PROJECT NAME 799L Transmission Line Component Replacement</p>	<p>PROJECT NAME 799L Transmission Line Road Allowance Rebuild</p>
<p>DESCRIPTION Some sections of the 799L transmission line require the replacement of some existing hardware and structures to mitigate fire risk.</p>	<p>DESCRIPTION Some sections of the 799L transmission line are currently located within road allowance. AltaLink plans to rebuild the transmission line along the same alignment.</p>
<p>STATUS Construction planned for January 2024</p>	<p>STATUS Construction planned for April 2024</p>



Transmission structures

The existing 799L structures are mostly wood monopole structures. They are between 13 and 28 metres tall and spaced approximately 165 metres apart.

The proposed structures for the rebuilt line:

- may be made of wood, steel or composite (fibreglass)
- will primarily be monopole structures
- will be between 15 and 30 metres tall and spaced approximately 165 metres apart
- may require special structure types, including H-frame structures, based on the location and engineering requirements
- may require guy wires for corner or angle structures



Please note: All dimensions are approximate and subject to change with detailed engineering. Special structure types may be taller than the heights listed here.

Optical ground wire (OPGW)

AltaLink is proposing to install overhead optical ground wire (OPGW) on the 799L transmission line between Entwistle Substation and South Mayerthorpe Substation.

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 transmission line routes

AltaLink is considering rebuilding most of the transmission line along the existing alignment. There are some sections where we are considering alternate routes for the transmission line rebuild.

We consider environmental, social, economic, residential, agricultural, visual impacts, and stakeholder feedback to select low-impact route options. At this time, two potential alternate route segments have been identified:

POINT DESIGNATION D10 TO D50

- shifts the alignment approximately 0.3 kilometres from mid-field to the road allowance
- is similar in length and reduces agricultural impacts

POINT DESIGNATION D70 TO D80

- is located along the south side of the Pembina River
- avoids eroding slopes along the river bank

Right-of-way requirements

Along the 799L transmission line, additional **right-of-way** will be required. This 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 facilitate future maintenance on the transmission line. We will contact landowners to discuss right-of-way requirements.

Most of our current right-of-way crossing private land is approximately 12 metres, which does not meet current safety operation standards. Additional right-of-way may be required in these locations to bring the total width up to 25 metres. If more right-of-way is needed based on engineering requirements, we will discuss this with impacted landowners.

Where the 799L transmission line is located within one metre of the road allowance, a right-of-way of up to 10 metres is required on the properties adjacent to the road allowance.

AltaLink offers fair market value for any land it acquires for its rights-of-way. A certified appraiser will complete a land value appraisal. Requests for permanent access will be discussed individually with the landowner.

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 may still be used. Buildings cannot be placed on the right-of-way, but may be built up to the edge of the right-of-way.

Danger trees

A danger tree is a healthy tree that is tall enough to have the potential to fall and make contact with the line, both on and off the right-of-way.

Hazard trees

A hazard tree is a defective tree that is at imminent risk of falling on the line, both on and off the right-of-way, and must be immediately removed.



Vegetation management

Along the 799L transmission line, **danger trees** and **hazard trees** may need to be removed. The removal of trees is intended to reduce the number of outages and the potential fire hazard that could result from tree contacts with the line.

AltaLink crews will survey the area to determine what vegetation may need to be trimmed or removed. Some of the vegetation may be on private property. We will discuss potential vegetation management with impacted landowners.

Access trails and construction workspace

To facilitate the rebuild, access trails, access gates and construction workspace will be required. The proposed access trails can be seen on the maps included in this package.

We have tried to use existing trails that avoid steep ground, wet areas and other potential impacts. If you are aware of features we haven't 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.

AltaLink may need construction workspace up to 80 metres long for conductor stringing behind some corner structures.

AltaLink will consult with all affected stakeholders regarding potential construction workspace and access trails.

Ongoing survey work

ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS

AltaLink may conduct seasonal environmental surveys along the transmission line route and access trails for the proposed transmission line rebuild. When conducting all surveys, we work to minimize disruption to residences, area users, and wildlife. An AltaLink representative will contact you to request location access if required.

GEOTECHNICAL SURVEYS

AltaLink will conduct geotechnical drilling to perform soil investigation at various locations within the project area as required. An AltaLink representative will contact you to request location access if required.

Electric and magnetic fields (EMF)

We understand that people may have concerns about exposure to EMF and we take those concerns seriously. Everyone is exposed to power frequency EMF from many sources, including power lines, building wiring, or appliances in your home.

Health Canada, the World Health Organization, and other agencies have not recommended that the general public needs to take steps to limit their everyday exposure to EMF from high voltage transmission lines. This includes people that live near the edge of a transmission line right-of-way.

If you have any questions about EMF, please contact us:

Website: www.altalink.ca/emf

Email: emfdialogue@altalink.ca

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



How to provide your input

Stakeholder input is important to us. You can provide your input in any of the following ways.

PARTICIPATE IN A ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATION

We will contact all occupants and residents who are within 100 metres of the proposed transmission line rebuild to gather input through one-on-one consultations. We will document information you provide and respond to any questions or concerns you may have about the project.

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)**.

CONTACT US DIRECTLY

You can contact us by telephone, email or mail. 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.

Next steps

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

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 to consider facility applications*.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

Notify and consult with stakeholders

October 2023 to January 2024

File application with AUC

February 2024

Start construction if project is approved

October 2024

Complete construction

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.

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 the 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.

CONTACT US

To learn more about the proposed project, please contact:

ALTALINK

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

Email: stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca

AltaLink's transmission system efficiently delivers electricity to 85 per cent of Albertans. Dedicated to meeting the growing need for electricity, AltaLink connects Albertans to renewable, reliable and low-cost power. With a commitment to community and environment, AltaLink is ensuring the transmission system will support Albertans' quality of life for years to come. Learn more at www.altalink.ca.

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 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.

INCLUDED IN THIS INFORMATION PACKAGE:

- Project maps
- *Understanding vegetation management*
- *Clubroot management in your area*
- **AUC brochure:**
Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PROJECT

1. Visit altalink.ca/projects
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3. Click **Subscribe to updates**

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