



AltaLink Management Ltd.

Alterations to Southeast Alberta
240-kV Transmission Line 924L

February 5, 2010



ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Decision 2010-063: AltaLink Management Ltd.

Alterations to Southeast Alberta 240-kV Transmission Line 924L

Application No. 1605402

Proceeding ID. 315

February 5, 2010

Published by

Alberta Utilities Commission

Fifth Avenue Place, 4th Floor, 425 - 1 Street SW

Calgary, Alberta

T2P 3L8

Telephone: (403) 592-8845

Fax: (403) 592-4406

Web site: www.auc.ab.ca

1 INTRODUCTION

1. AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) filed a letter of enquiry with the Alberta Utilities Commission (the Commission) on August 27, 2009, pursuant to section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation* requesting an approval to increase the thermal capacity of the section of the existing 240-kV Transmission Line 924L between Langdon 102S substation and Milo Junction (Project). Langdon 102S substation is located in LSD 11 of Section 16, Township 23, Range 27, West of the 4th Meridian and Milo Junction is located in LSD 11, Section 13, Township 18, Range 21, West of the 4th Meridian. The letter of enquiry was registered as Application No. 1605402 and Proceeding ID. 315 (Application).

2. AltaLink is the holder of Permit and Licence No. U2002-832 for 240-kV Transmission Line 924L (Transmission Line) connecting Langdon 102S substation to North Lethbridge 370S substation located in LSD 3 of Section 18, Township 9, Range 21, West of the 4th Meridian.

3. AltaLink stated that the Alberta Electric System Operator (the AESO) filed Need Application No. 1545328 (Need Application) with the EUB on November 7, 2007. The Need Application was approved in Need Approval No. U2008-232, issued on July 7, 2008. Subsequently, the AESO directed AltaLink to complete the work in accordance with Need Approval No. U2008-232. The proposed Project is part of the work identified in this Need Approval.

4. AltaLink specified that it proposed the following alterations to the Transmission Line:

- Replace the conductor on the river crossing span between structures 53 and 54;
- Upgrade the jumpers on all corner (QQ) structures and one transposition structure between Langdon 102S substation and Milo Junction; and
- Replace all other span conductors (i.e. 2 x 477 kmil) identified as having a rating below 100 degrees Celsius with those that are rated 100 degrees Celsius.

5. AltaLink stated that there would be no incremental visual or environmental impacts as a result of the proposed modifications. Furthermore, AltaLink indicated that it would notify landowners, at the river crossing location, the QQ tower locations, and the transposition structure location prior to construction.

6. AltaLink estimated the total cost of the Project to the system to be \$351,000. AltaLink proposed a Project start date of March 15, 2010, with an anticipated completion date of April 1, 2010.

2 COMMISSION FINDINGS

7. The Commission considered the Application in light of section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation* which states:

11 A person proposing minor alterations to a power plant, transmission line or distribution system may submit a letter of enquiry to the Board [Commission] requesting approval of the proposal without a formal, detailed application if, in the Board's [Commission's] opinion,

- (a) the proposal is of a minor nature,
- (b) no other person is directly affected by the proposal, and
- (c) no adverse environmental impact will be caused by the proposed alterations.

8. As the Application was filed as a letter of enquiry, the Commission did not give notice of the Application as no person appeared to be directly affected by the proposed alterations.

9. The Commission notes that the alterations are proposed for the existing Transmission Line and are required to upgrade conductors and jumpers on the Transmission Line. As described by AltaLink, the proposed alterations do not result in incremental environmental and visual impacts as no new structures will be erected or existing ones replaced. Furthermore, the Commission notes that the cost estimate for the proposed alterations is \$351,000. Based on these facts, the Commission finds that the proposed alterations are minor in nature and will not result in any impacts on any person or on the environment. As a result, the Application meets the criteria set out in section 11 cited above.

10. In addition, the Commission is satisfied that the Application meets the need identified in the AESO's Need Approval No. U2008-232.

11. As the proposed alterations are to increase the thermal capacity of the Transmission Line, the Commission finds that the proposed alterations are in the public interest.

3 DECISION

12. Pursuant to section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the Application and grants the Enquiry Approval set out in Appendix 1 – Transmission Line – Enquiry E2010-5 – February 5, 2010 to AltaLink Management Ltd. (the Appendix will be distributed separately).

Dated in Calgary, Alberta on February 5, 2010.

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

(original signed by)

Thomas McGee
Commissioner