



AltaLink Management Ltd.

Transmission Line Relocations at
City of Red Deer Ring Road

March 3, 2010



ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Decision 2010-098: AltaLink Management Ltd.

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Application No. 1605794

Proceeding ID. 456

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**ALTALINK MANAGEMENT LTD.
TRANSMISSION LINE RELOCATIONS
AT CITY OF RED DEER RING ROAD**

**Decision 2010-098
Application No. 1605794
Proceeding ID. 456**

1 INTRODUCTION

1. AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) filed a Letter of Enquiry with the Alberta Utilities Commission (the Commission) on January 15, 2010, for approval to relocate two sections of the existing 138-kV double-circuit transmission lines 768L and 778L (Project) pursuant to section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*. The line sections are located respectively in the East half of Section 33, Township 38, Range 27, West of the 4th Meridian and the Southwest quarter of Section 34, Township 38, Range 27, West of the 4th Meridian. The Letter of Enquiry was registered as Application No. 1605794 and Proceeding ID. 456 (Enquiry Application).
2. AltaLink is the holder of Permit and Licence No. U2002-729 for transmission line 768L and Permit and Licence No. U2002-735 for transmission line 778L (Transmission Lines). The Transmission Lines connect North Red Deer 217S substation to Gaetz 87S substation. North Red Deer 217S substation is located in the North half of Section 33, Township 38, Range 27, West of the 4th Meridian, and Gaetz 87S substation is located in LSD 15 of Section 25, Township 38, Range 27, West of the 4th Meridian.
3. On November 3, 2009, the City of Red Deer (City) filed a letter with AltaLink requesting that AltaLink relocate two sections of the Transmission Lines in order for the City to commence grading activities in preparation for the City's Ring Road construction in northeast Red Deer.
4. AltaLink specified that the Project consists of salvaging ten existing wood structures and installing eleven new wood structures at new locations. AltaLink submitted that the height of four new structures would be nearly identical to that of the existing ones, while the other new structures would be approximately three metres taller to provide adequate vertical clearance in various situations without uplifting the insulators used for attaching conductors to the structures.
5. AltaLink stated that while all new structures of the Transmission Lines would be within the City's road right-of-way, four relocated line structures (i.e. STR 51, STR 52, STR 39A, and STR 40) would be outside the road right-of-way but remain within existing transmission line easements on lands owned by the City.
6. AltaLink also stated that no significant environmental impact would result from the Project. AltaLink also submitted a zoning map of the Project area provided by the City, illustrating that the line sections to be relocated are surrounded by lands zoned as industrial. Furthermore, AltaLink notified all landowners within 800 metres of the two sections of the Transmission Lines and received no objections.

7. The estimated total cost of the Project submitted by AltaLink is \$750,000 (+20%/-10%). The customer contribution for the Project has been estimated to be \$300,000 while the remaining cost would be covered under AltaLink's Capital Replacement and Upgrade Budget.
8. AltaLink submitted that the Project is minor in nature, and that new Permit and Licenses would not be required to be issued.

2 FINDINGS

9. The Commission considered the Enquiry Application in light of section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation* which provides:

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.

10. The Commission has reviewed the Application and concurs that Project will have no significant environmental impacts. The Commission finds that the Project would have minimal physical or visual impacts given that the surrounding areas are predominately industrial with no residences nearby. Accordingly, the Commission finds that no person is directly and adversely affected by the Project, and since there are no objections, the Commission finds that the Project is in the public interest.

11. Having considered all of the evidence before it, the Commission finds the Project to be minor in nature and that the Enquiry Application meets the criteria set out in section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation* cited above.

3 DECISION

12. Pursuant to section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*, the Commission approves the Enquiry Application and grants the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Transmission Lines – Enquiry E2010-8 – March 3, 2010, to AltaLink to relocate two sections of the Transmission Lines (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated March 3, 2010.

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

(original signed by)

N. Allen Maydonik, Q.C.
Commissioner