



ATCO Electric Ltd.

Realignment of 144-kV Transmission Line 7L34

March 16, 2010



ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Decision 2010-110: ATCO Electric Ltd.

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Application No. 1605935

Proceeding ID. 516

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**ATCO ELECTRIC LTD.
REALIGNMENT OF 144-KV
TRANSMISSION LINE 7L34**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1. On June 18, 2009, the Alberta Utilities Commission (Commission) issued Permit and Licence No. U2009-172 to ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) for the construction and operation of 144-kV transmission line 7L34 (Transmission Line) from Goodfare 815S substation (Goodfare substation) to the Updike 886S substation (Updike substation), both located in the Grande Prairie area.

2. On February 24, 2010, ATCO filed Application No. 1605935 as a Letter of Enquiry (Enquiry Application) with the Commission requesting approval to realign a portion of the Transmission Line (the Project) pursuant to section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*.

3. The Goodfare substation is located in LSD 13 of Section 34, Township 72, Range 11, West of the 6th Meridian, in the Goodfare area. The Updike substation is located in LSD 8 of Section 18, Township 74, Range 12, West of the 6th Meridian in the Lymburn area.

4. The current approved alignment of the Transmission Line is in the same location as the existing distribution lines, which will require relocation of the distribution lines to accommodate construction and operation of the approved Transmission Line. ATCO proposed to adjust the alignment for a portion of the Transmission Line to avoid the cost of moving the existing distribution lines close to the Goodfare substation. ATCO submitted that the costs to move the existing distribution lines near the Goodfare substation would be significant if the current approved alignment of the Transmission Line was utilized.

5. ATCO proposed to realign approximately 170 metres (m) of the Transmission Line from the Goodfare substation to a point on the Transmission Line, Node P3 (Node P3). Node P3 is located at the Northwest corner of Section 33, Township 72, Range 11, West of the 6th Meridian. The locations of the Goodfare substation and Updike substation would not change. The alignment of the Transmission Line from the Updike substation to Node P3 would not change, and would remain the same as approved in Permit and Licence No. U2009-172.

6. The alignment of the Transmission Line from the Goodfare substation to Node P3 is currently approved to run west from the Goodfare substation for 52 m, then north for 60 m (0.6 m within the west boundary of Range Road 113), and then west (0.6 m within the south boundary of Township Road 730) to Node P3. ATCO proposes to adjust the alignment of the Transmission Line so that it would instead run west from the Goodfare substation for approximately 170 m, then head north for 60 m, then head west again to connect to Node P3.

7. ATCO submitted that it consulted with the directly affected landowner and obtained a signed right-of-way agreement from the landowner. ATCO submitted that there are no other

persons directly affected by the proposal and also noted that it consulted with the County of Grande Prairie which confirmed no objections to the proposed realignment. In addition, ATCO submitted that the proposed realignment would have no adverse environmental impact and estimated that there would be no increase in capital costs for the construction of the Transmission Line.

2 FINDINGS

8. 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.

9. The Commission has reviewed the Enquiry Application and concurs that the Project will have no significant environmental impacts. In addition, the Commission notes that ATCO has obtained the consent of the affected landowner, and finds that no other person is directly affected by the Project, and since there are no objections, the Commission finds that the Project is in the public interest.

10. 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

11. Pursuant to section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*, the Commission approves the Enquiry Application and grants the approval as set out in Appendix 1 – Transmission Line – Enquiry E2010-9 – March 16, 2010 to ATCO for the realignment of the Transmission Line (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on March 16, 2010.

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

(original signed by)

N. Allen Maydonik, Q.C.
Commissioner