

March 10, 2009

AUC APPROVES ALTALINK PINCHER CREEK TO LETHBRIDGE 240 KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Calgary, Alberta... Alberta's independent utilities regulator has approved an application by AltaLink Management Ltd. to build an approximately 100-km, 240-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Pincher Creek and Lethbridge.

Construction of the line and related substations will facilitate development of renewable wind-powered electricity generation in southwest Alberta while reinforcing important transmission capacity in the region. The cost of the line is an estimated \$133 million.

In its Decision 2009-028, the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) concluded AltaLink's proposal was in the public interest, bearing in mind social, environmental and economic considerations, and met the need identified by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO). The application, finalized in July, 2008, is the most substantial transmission facilities proposal the AUC has considered since being established January 1, 2008.

The AUC has required AltaLink to follow a route, utilize certain types of towers, and to investigate consolidation of lines along a portion of the route to minimize the line's impact on landowners while respecting landowners' wishes.

The decision followed a series of AUC information sessions in Pincher Creek and Lethbridge in June, 2008, a pre-hearing meeting in Lethbridge in July, 2008 and a 10-day public hearing in Lethbridge in December, 2008. It also followed extensive written submissions from AltaLink and interveners.

The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the Province of Alberta. As part of its mandate the commission has jurisdiction over the siting of facilities including electric transmission facilities, electric power plants and natural gas transmission pipelines.

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