



Alberta Electric System Operator

Need Identification Document Application to
Alter Cold Creek 602S Substation

AltaLink Management Ltd.

Application to Alter Cold Creek 602S Substation

March 4, 2010

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Decision 2010-099:

Alberta Electric System Operator

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Application No. 1605538

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Application No. 1605606

Proceeding ID. 373

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ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Calgary Alberta

**ALBERTA ELECTRIC SYSTEM OPERATOR
NEED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT APPLICATION
TO ALTER COLD CREEK 602S SUBSTATION**

**Decision 2010-099
Application No. 1605538
Proceeding ID 373**

**ALTALINK MANAGEMENT LTD.
APPLICATION TO ALTER COLD CREEK 602S SUBSTATION**

**Application No. 1605606
Proceeding ID 373**

1 INTRODUCTION

1. The Alberta Electric System Operator (the AESO) filed, pursuant to section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, a Need Identification Document (NID) Application on October 19, 2009, with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) requesting an approval of the need to alter the existing Cold Creek 602S substation (Substation). The proposed alterations would address capacity issues as a result of increased load in the Hinton area. The AESO directed AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink), pursuant to section 35 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, to submit a facility proposal to the Commission. The AESO requested the applications be considered jointly, pursuant to section 15.4 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*. The Commission registered the AESO application as Application No. 1605538.

2. On November 5, 2009, AltaLink filed its facility proposal with the Commission for approval to alter and operate the Substation pursuant to sections 14 and 15 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*. The Substation is located in Legal subdivision 2, Section 2, Township 51, Range 25, West of the 5th Meridian. The Commission registered this application as Application No. 1605606.

3. The Commission combined Applications No. 1605538 and No.1605606 under Proceeding ID. 373 as requested by the AESO. The Commission issued a Notice of Application regarding Proceeding ID. 373 on February 3, 2010. The deadline for filing submissions to the Commission was Wednesday, February 24, 2010. No submissions were received by the deadline date.

2 DISCUSSION

4. The AESO indicated that electric power for the Town of Hinton and the surrounding rural area is supplied from the Substation. The existing transformation equipment at the Substation as well as the distribution system that is supplied from the Substation does not have adequate capacity to serve the growing load in the area.

5. As directed by the AESO, AltaLink proposed to replace the two existing 138/25-kV, 15/20/25-MVA transformers with two 138/25-kV, 25/33/42-MVA transformers, remove the existing 25-kV, 4.8 MVAR capacitor bank and install a new 25-kV feeder and associated substation equipment at the Substation. AltaLink applied for a permit and licence to operate the

Substation with the proposed upgrades. AltaLink is also proposing to extend the 138-kV bus and to relocate the termination point of 138-kV transmission line 847L.

6. AltaLink stated that all work proposed would occur within the existing fenced Substation and no fence expansion is required to accommodate these additions.

7. AltaLink explained that it consulted with all landowners having property directly adjacent to the Substation and notified all occupants, residents, and landowners within 800 metres of the Substation. It received no objections.

8. Also, AltaLink prepared and filed a noise impact assessment respecting the proposed transformer replacement. The noise impact assessment was subsequently revised in response to the Commission's information request. AltaLink stated that it will perform audible noise measurements of the Substation equipment after it is installed to confirm that applicable noise requirements are met. If problems are encountered in the future related to noise being produced by the Substation equipment, AltaLink will mitigate it as required by *AUC Rule 12 - Noise Control*.

9. In summary, AltaLink stated that on completion of the proposed alterations the Substation would contain:

- two (2) 138/25-kV 25/33/42-MVA LTC transformers;
- three (3) 138-kV circuit breakers;
- associated substation equipment; and
- an enclosure surrounded by a chain-link fence.

10. AltaLink submitted that the Substation alterations will cost \$7,219,000 (+20/-10%) with \$443,000 allocated as system cost and \$6,776,000 allocated as customer cost.

3 FINDINGS

11. The Commission notes that the AESO's NID Application No. 1605538 was filed concurrently with AltaLink's Application No. 1605606 and that the AESO directed AltaLink to alter the Substation as described above.

12. The Commission notes that no interested person responded to the Notice of Application. As a result, no person contended that the assessment of need to alter the Substation was technically deficient or not in the public interest.

13. Pursuant to section 38 of the *Transmission Regulation*, the Commission considers the AESO's assessment of the need to alter the Substation to be correct as the AESO has determined that the Substation does not have adequate capacity to serve the growing load in the area.

14. The Commission has reviewed the applications and notes that alterations to the existing Substation will be constructed within lands owned by AltaLink and within the existing fenced substation area. Therefore, the Commission finds the proposed alterations will not result in any additional impacts on the environment.

15. The Commission took into account the Noise Impact Assessment for the proposed alterations meet the requirements of *AUC Rule 012 - Noise Control*.
16. The Commission further notes AltaLink's statements that it consulted with landowners adjacent to the Substation, notified other landowners, occupants and residents with 800 metres of the Substation and that no parties objected to the alterations at the Substation. Further, the Commission noted that no submissions were received in response to the Commission's Notice of Application.
17. The Commission notes that the proposed change to transmission line 847L will be minor in nature and that no change is needed to its current permit and licence (Permit and Licence No. U2002-785) for 847L.
18. Based on the above-mentioned information, the Commission finds that the proposed alterations will not result in any direct and adverse impacts on residents in the vicinity of the Substation.
19. The Commission accepts that the subject facility application to alter the Substation as proposed by AltaLink satisfies the need as directed by the AESO to provide adequate capacity to serve the growing load in the area.
20. The Commission is of the opinion that the AltaLink's application to alter the Substation is in the public interest.

4 DECISION

21. Pursuant to section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act* and section 38 of the *Transmission Regulation*, the Commission approves Application No. 1605538 and grants the approval sent out in Appendix 1 – Need Identification Document Approval No. U2010-91 – March 4, 2010 to the AESO regarding the need to alter the Substation (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).
22. Pursuant to sections 14 and 15 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves Application No. 1605606 and grants the approval set out in Appendix 2 – Substation Permit and Licence No. U2010-92 – March 4, 2010 to AltaLink to alter and operate the Substation (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated March 4, 2010.

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

(original signed by)

N. Allen Maydonik, Q.C.
Commissioner