



Alberta Electric System Operator and AltaLink Management Ltd.

**Castle Rock Ridge 205S and Transmission Line Development
Needs Identification Document Application
and Facility Application**

November 1, 2011

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2011-439: Alberta Electric System Operator and AltaLink Management Ltd.
Castle Rock Ridge 205S Substation and Transmission Line Development
Needs Identification Document Application and Facility Application
Application Nos. 1606460 and 1606668
Proceeding ID No. 778

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1 Introduction

1. The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) filed Application No. 1606460 with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval of the Needs Identification Document (NID) for the construction of a new 240-kilovolt (kV) substation, designated as Castle Rock Ridge 205S (the substation) and a new 240-kV double-circuit transmission line (the transmission line) near Pincher Creek, Alberta (the project). This application was registered on August 13, 2010 as Application No. 1606460. An amendment to the NID was registered on August 4, 2011.

2. Pursuant to Section 35 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the AESO directed AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) to submit a facility proposal to the Commission to meet the need identified in the NID application and identified in NID Approval No. [U2011-115](#)¹ for the Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement.

3. On October 15, 2010, AltaLink filed Application No. 1606668 (facility application) with the AUC seeking approval to construct and operate the substation and the transmission line. An amendment to the facility application was registered on August 5, 2011.

4. In its application, AltaLink stated that the proposed Castle Rock Ridge 205S substation would be located in LSD 7 of Section 14, Township 7, Range 30, west of the Fourth Meridian. In addition, the proposed 240-kV double-circuit transmission line, 1071L/1072L, would be approximately nine kilometres in length and would connect the proposed Castle Rock Ridge 205S substation with the existing Goose Lake 103S substation.

5. The facility application also requested approval to expand the Goose Lake 103S substation by the addition of five 240-kV circuit breakers. The Goose Lake 103S substation is located in LSD 5 of Section 36, Township 6, Range 30, west of the Fourth Meridian.

6. Both the AESO and AltaLink requested that the Commission consider the NID application and the facility application jointly, pursuant to Section 15.4 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.

7. On September 19, 2011, the Commission issued information requests to the AESO. The AESO responded to the information requests on September 26, 2011.

¹ Approval No. U2011-115: Appendix 2 to Decision 2011-102, Alberta Electric System Operator, Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement, Application Nos 1606564 and 1606526, Proceeding ID No. 748, June 7, 2011.

8. On September 26, 2011, the Commission issued information requests to AltaLink. On September 29, 2011, AltaLink responded to the information requests.
9. The Commission deemed both the NID application and the facility application to be complete on October 3, 2011.
10. The Commission issued a notice of applications on October 12, 2011 to occupants, residents, and landowners located within 800 metres of the proposed substation and right-of-way of the transmission line. In its notice, the Commission advised that it would consider the AESO's NID application and AltaLink's facility application jointly as Proceeding ID No. 778.
11. The notice directed any person who had concerns or objections with one or both of the applications to file a submission with the Commission by October 24, 2011. The Commission received four submissions in support of the project from interested parties in response to the notice of applications.
12. As no objections or concerns were received respecting the applications, the Commission has determined that no further process is required. Therefore, the Commission has made a decision on the applications without a hearing, in accordance with Section 9 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

2 Decision

13. The Commission has reviewed the NID application in light of the mandatory principles and matters it is required to consider pursuant to Section 38 of the *Transmission Regulation*. No party has satisfied the Commission that the AESO's assessment of the need to expand and enhance the transmission system in the Pincher Creek area is technically deficient or is not in the public interest. As a result, pursuant to Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the Commission approves the NID for the project and will issue its reasons for its decision shortly.
14. The Commission has reviewed and considered the facility application and finds that the facility application is in the public interest pursuant to Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*. As a result, pursuant to sections 14, 15 and 19 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, the Commission approves the facility application. The Commission will issue its reasons for its decision shortly.
15. The Commission grants the AESO the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Needs Identification Document – Approval No. U2011-385 – November 1, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).
16. The Commission grants AltaLink the approval set out in Appendix 2 – Approval No. U2011-386 – November 1, 2011, to construct and operate the Castle Rock Ridge 205S substation (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).
17. The Commission grants AltaLink the approval set out in Appendix 3 – Approval No. U2011-387 – November 1, 2011, to construct and operate the 240-kV transmission line 1071L from Castle Rock Ridge 205S substation to Goose Lake 103S substation (Appendix 3 will be distributed separately.)

18. The Commission grants AltaLink the approval set out in Appendix 4 – Approval No. U2011-388 – November 1, 2011, to construct and operate the 240-kV transmission line 1072L from Castle Rock Ridge 205S substation to Goose Lake 103S substation (Appendix 4 will be distributed separately.)

19. The Commission grants AltaLink the approval set out in Appendix 5 – Approval No. U2011-389 – November 1, 2011, for alterations to Goose Lake 103S substation (Appendix 5 will be distributed separately.)

Dated on November 1, 2011.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Mark Kolesar
Commission Member