

July 17, 2017

Decision 22777-D01-2017

AltaLink Management Ltd.
2611 Third Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alta. T2A 7W7

Attention: Eóin Cooke
Vice President, System Projects

Red Deer Area Transmission Development – Salvage of Transmission Line 80L and Associated Facilities
Proceeding 22777
Applications 22777-A001 and 22777-A002

Letter of enquiry approval

1. AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) filed applications 22777-A001 and 22777-A002 with the Alberta Utilities Commission requesting approval to complete salvage work on transmission line 80L and at Red Deer 63S Substation (the project) as part of the Red Deer Area Transmission Development.
2. Approval is required for the project under Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*.
3. Pursuant to Approval 22025-D02-2017,¹ AltaLink has approval to discontinue the operation of transmission line 80L from Red Deer 63S Substation to Innisfail 214S Substation and to salvage an approximately two-kilometre portion of the transmission line immediately north of Innisfail 214S Substation. AltaLink is now applying to salvage the remaining approximately 23-kilometre portion of transmission line 80L from Red Deer 63S Substation to Innisfail 214S Substation.
4. Pursuant to Permit and Licence 20891-D07-2015,² AltaLink has approval to operate the Red Deer 63S Substation. AltaLink is now also applying to alter the Red Deer 63S Substation by salvaging one 138-kilovolt circuit breaker and associated equipment.

¹ Decommission and Salvage Approval 22025-D02-2017, Proceeding 22025, Application 22025-A003, April 24, 2017.

² Substation Permit and Licence 20891-D07-2015, Proceeding 20891, Application 20891-A007, October 22, 2015.

5. Pursuant to Approval U2012-187,³ the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) received approval for the Red Deer Area Transmission Development needs identification document, which included the salvage of transmission line 80L. Further, on May 2, 2013, the AESO directed AltaLink to apply for the salvage of transmission line 80L between Red Deer 63S Substation and Innisfail 214S Substation.
6. AltaLink considers the project to have low potential for stakeholder impacts. AltaLink conducted a participant involvement program for the project as part of the Red Deer Area Transmission Development. Further, in November 2016, AltaLink notified stakeholders with project-specific information related to the salvage components. AltaLink stated that no stakeholder identified any concerns regarding the project, and that it is not aware of any outstanding stakeholder concerns.
7. AltaLink stated that no fluid-filled equipment containing polychlorinated biphenyls would be removed at the Red Deer 63S Substation as a part of the project and it expected no site contamination to be encountered. AltaLink retained CH2M Hill Energy Canada, Ltd. to prepare an environmental evaluation of the project. CH2M Hill Energy Canada, Ltd. stated that if mitigation measures in AltaLink's Environmental Specifications and Requirements are implemented, additional site-specific mitigation is developed and implemented, as appropriate, and the applicable regulatory approvals and conditions are adhered to, the potential adverse effects associated with the project are considered not significant.
8. On April 3, 2017, AltaLink received *Historical Resources Act* approval for the project from Alberta Culture and Tourism.
9. The total cost for the project is approximately \$3,586,000 (within + 20 per cent/ -10 per cent accuracy) and is to be allocated from AltaLink's salvage account.
10. AltaLink scheduled project construction to begin in January 2018. Salvage activities would occur over two construction seasons, and are expected to take approximately 15 months.
11. AltaLink has provided information respecting the need, nature, extent, land affected, land ownership and the timing of the project, in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*. AltaLink also stated that the potential adverse environmental effects associated with the project are not significant.
12. Based upon the information provided, AltaLink has demonstrated that the proposal is of a minor nature, no other person is directly and adversely affected by the proposal and no significant adverse environmental impact will be caused by the project, thereby meeting the requirements of Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*.

³ Needs Identification Document Approval U2012-187 (Errata), Proceeding 1368, Application 1607507, June 19, 2012.

13. The Commission approves the applications. In approving the applications, however, the Commission makes no determination regarding the regulatory treatment of the costs of the assets to be removed, retired or abandoned pursuant to the application, the costs incurred in carrying out these activities, or the associated rate implications. Approval 22777-D02-2017 and Permit and Licence 22777-D03-2017 are attached.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Wade Vienneau
Executive Director, Facilities Division
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

Attachments