

August 10, 2017

Decision 22856-D01-2017

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

Attention: Patrick McKenna
Director, Integrated Projects

**Telecommunications Tower Salvage at East Calgary 5S,
Edson 58S and Peace Butte 404S Substations
Proceeding 22856
Applications 22856-A001 to 22856-A003**

Letter of enquiry approval

1. AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) filed a letter of enquiry on August 2, 2017, with the Alberta Utilities Commission to salvage three telecommunications towers at three sites, located at the East Calgary 5S, Edson 58S and Peace Butte 404S substations (the projects). The proposed work is in relation to facilities previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in permits and licences U2014-359,¹ 20830-D02-2015,² and U2008-312.³ Approval is required for this work under Section 21 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act* and sections 11 and 12 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*.
2. The East Calgary 5S Substation has two self-supported steel lattice telecommunications towers, one 24 metres tall and the other 46 metres tall. AltaLink stated that the radio antennas at the 24-metre tall telecommunications tower are no longer required. Additionally, the telecommunications systems at the Edson 58S and Peace Butte 404S substations have been upgraded using fibre optic cable and the existing self-supporting steel lattice telecommunications towers are no longer required at each substation. AltaLink planned to salvage the telecommunications towers that are no longer needed.
3. The East Calgary 5S and Edson 58S substations are located on land owned by AltaLink in the city of Calgary and the town of Edson in Yellowhead County, respectively, and the Peace Butte 404S Substation is located on land leased by AltaLink within Cypress County.
4. AltaLink notified or consulted with all occupants, residents, and landowners on or within 100 metres of the substation site boundary of each of the substations. AltaLink indicated that no stakeholders expressed any concerns regarding the projects. AltaLink also consulted with Industry Canada to determine if any approvals were necessary for the scope of the projects.

¹ Substation Permit and Licence U2014-359, Proceeding 3343, Application 1610738, August 5, 2014.

² Substation Permit and Licence 20830-D02-2015, Proceeding 20830, Application 20830-A001, September 28, 2015.

³ Substation Permit and Licence U2008-312, Application 1583059, October 22, 2008.

Industry Canada indicated that the scope of work did not require AltaLink to follow its processes or receive its approval. As there would be no impact to Crown land and no Aboriginal-owned lands are located within 800 metres of the substations, AltaLink did not implement a consultation program specific to First Nations or Métis.

5. AltaLink stated the projects would comply with Alberta Environment and Parks' R&R/11-03, *Environmental Protection Guidelines for Electric Transmission Lines*, and that the salvage work would occur within the existing substation fenced boundaries. AltaLink notified Alberta Environment and Parks of the projects and received no concerns. The project areas for the East Calgary 5S, Edson 58S and Peace Butte 404S substations are within areas of industrial land use, agricultural land use and native prairie land use, respectively. AltaLink also indicated that salvage activities for the projects would be scheduled outside of the migratory bird restricted activity period of April 15 to August 25. In general, the projects would produce minimal environmental impacts on land use, wildlife, soils, vegetation, and surface or groundwater.

6. On October 8, 2014, AltaLink received *Historical Resources Act* approval from Alberta Culture and Tourism for all proposed projects and works within existing substation fencelines, including the salvage of telecommunications towers within substations.

7. The cost of the projects is \$312,000 (within +10 to +30 per cent/-10 to -20 per cent accuracy) and is part of AltaLink's Capital Replacement and Upgrades Program. AltaLink stated construction of the projects is planned to commence on October 1, 2017, and expected to take approximately 30 days at each site.

8. AltaLink has provided information respecting the need, nature, extent, land affected, land ownership and the timing of the work, in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*. AltaLink has also stated that no adverse environmental impact will be caused by the proposed work.

9. 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 adverse environmental impact will be caused by the proposed alterations, thereby meeting the requirements of Section 11 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation*.

10. The Commission approves the application. The Commission grants permits and licences for the East Calgary 5S and Edson 58S substations to reflect the removal of the telecommunications towers and alteration to the substations. The Commission grants an approval for the decommission and salvage of the telecommunications tower at the Peace Butte 404S Substation. An amendment to the permit and licence for the Peace Butte 404S Substation is not required.

11. Permits and licences 22856-D02-2017 and 22856-D03-2017, and Approval 22856-D04-2017 are attached.

12. In approving the application, 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.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

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

Attachments