

May 16, 2024

799L Transmission Line Road Allowance Rebuild – Project update

In November 2023, you may have received a letter about the need for additional right-of-way, temporary construction workspace, and access trails on or near your property for our proposed 799L Transmission Line Road Allowance Rebuild project. We would like to provide you with an update about the work planned in your area.

Project background

AltaLink is proposing to rebuild its existing 799L transmission line between Entwistle and Whitecourt. Portions of this line, built in 1964, have reached the end of their lifecycle and need to be rebuilt to improve the safe and reliable operation of the line for years to come.

Additionally, the 799L transmission line was identified in AltaLink's wildfire mitigation plan as a top ignition-causing line. Our wildfire mitigation plan includes strengthening our system and making proactive safety improvements so that it is less likely to contribute to wildfires. The proposed rebuild, along with other work on the 799L transmission line, will address the risks identified in the wildfire mitigation plan.

What to expect for transmission structures

In order to meet current Alberta Utility Code requirements, AltaLink has determined that all structures in this area must be replaced. In some locations, additional structures will be required. Planned structure locations have been identified and staked.

The existing structures are wooden monopoles that are between 17 and 20 metres in height and spaced approximately 160 metres apart. The new structures will be:

- Wooden monopoles
- Between 19 and 24 metres in height
- Spaced approximately 140 metres apart
- Similar in appearance to the photo to the right

Some structures may require guy wires, including corner or angle structures where the direction of the line changes.

Where structure locations are changing, we will be speaking with directly affected landowners. Staking has been completed and we will continue to work with landowners on proposed structure locations.

Overhead optical ground wire required

AltaLink is proposing to install overhead optical ground wire (OPGW) on the 799L transmission line road allowance rebuild sections between Entwistle Substation and South Mayerthorpe Substation. OPGW looks similar to the overhead shield wire on the existing structures. OPGW provides lightning protection to the transmission line and is part of a telecommunication network that allows AltaLink to monitor, control, protect, and restore the electric system.



Right-of-way requirements and temporary construction workspace

A right-of-way is a strip of land required for the construction and safe operation of a transmission line. Where the 799L transmission line is located within one metre of the road allowance, AltaLink is requesting a right-of-way of up to 10 metres on the property adjacent to the road allowance. This additional right-of-way will allow AltaLink to safely complete construction and assist with future maintenance activities.

AltaLink offers fair market value for any land it acquires for its rights-of-way.

Easements for vegetation control may be required where vegetation adjacent to the right-of-way can be a danger to the transmission line.

Access agreements will be requested for off-right-of-way access trails that are required for construction and for future line maintenance.

Maximum vehicle and equipment height for passing under transmission line

Several area residents have asked for clarification about the height of the line and the safe height for vehicles or equipment passing under the line.

Where the transmission line is adjacent to fields (including on farms), the maximum vehicle or equipment height able to safely move underneath the conductor (wire) is 6.1 metres (20 feet) near approaches and 5.3 metres (17 feet) at the lowest point of the conductor (midpoint between two structures).

Next steps

AltaLink will contact stakeholders to discuss the project and respond to questions and concerns you may have. We will also discuss proposed right-of-way, construction workspace, access, or vegetation control easements where applicable.

The work is currently planned to begin in July 2024 along these portions of the 799L transmission line. We will provide you with an update closer to that time letting you know the construction schedule and what to expect during construction.

This work is separate from the other activities proposed on the 799L transmission line.

Contact us

We are available to address any questions or concerns you may have. Please contact us at stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca or 1-877-267-1453. You can also view more information about the project at <http://www.altalink.ca/projects>.

Sincerely,

Kris Gladue

Manager, Stakeholder Engagement