## OPERATION OF REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS NEAR ALTALINK'S FACILITIES

The use of devices known as remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), or drones, has been rapidly increasing recreationally and commercially. AltaLink is concerned about the potential impact of these devices on our facilities, the reliability of the electrical system, and public safety. Because of the risk of damage to electrical equipment, AltaLink requests that RPAS are not used near our facilities.

## **MAINTAINING A SAFE DISTANCE**

AltaLink uses RPAS and helicopters to inspect our transmission lines and substations and must ensure the safety of aircraft crews performing this work. Both operate in very close proximity to our facilities under very strict operational controls. These inspections can occur any time during daylight hours. AltaLink's RPAS are specially designed to prevent loss of control, and the pilots are certified to fly in proximity to transmission facilities.

Accordingly, AltaLink recommends against any RPAS operations within 60 metres of our facilities to avoid collisions with aircraft or contact with our facilities.

## **OWNER/OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITY**

Operation of RPAS near AltaLink facilities is done at the risk of the user. RPAS owners/operators have full responsibility to ensure their RPAS device is suitable for its intended use and pilots shall follow all federal government regulations (registration and certification) as required by Transport Canada.

Note that recreational RPAS are generally not designed to be fully functional in proximity to our facilities, so users operating a RPAS device near our facilities could experience loss of control.

The following links provide some of the federal government requirements for prospective RPAS operators:

- Drone safety (Transport Canada)
- Flying your drone safely and legally (Transport Canada)
- <u>New rules for flying drones in Canada (NAV CANADA)</u>

