

1. Introduction

From March 2024 to September 2024, the AESO conducted a Participant Involvement Program (PIP) for the *Transmission Enhancements in the Town of Fox Creek area Needs Identification Document*. The AESO directed the legal owner of transmission facilities (TFO), in this case AltaLink Management Ltd., (AltaLink) in its capacity as general partner of AltaLink L.P., to assist the AESO in providing notification as part of the AESO's PIP.

The AESO's PIP is designed to notify Stakeholders and Indigenous groups in the area where the AESO has reasonably determined that facilities could be installed to implement the AESO's preferred option to respond to the request for system access service.

The AESO's PIP has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 7.1.2, NID12 and Appendix A2 of the current Alberta Utilities Commission (Commission) Rule 007 (AUC Rule 007), effective March 28, 2024.

2. Stakeholder and Indigenous Group Notification

The AESO developed a one-page AESO Need Overview document with the purpose of notifying Stakeholders and Indigenous groups of the following items:

- a description of the need for development;
- a description of the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request;
- identification of the general area where facilities could be installed to implement the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request;
- the AESO's contact information, including telephone, email and website, for further information; and
- the AESO's next steps.

A copy of the Need Overview was posted to the AESO website at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/transmission-enhancements-in-the-town-of-fox-creek-area-2630/> and a notice was published in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter on March 27, 2024. Copies of the Need Overview posting and the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter notice have been included as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. The Need Overview was also included with the TFO's project-specific information package that was distributed to Stakeholders and Indigenous groups, as further described in Section 2.1.

2.1 Stakeholders and Indigenous Groups Notified in the TFO's PIP

The TFO has advised the AESO that its PIP included notification within 800 metres of the proposed transmission line right-of-way within 200 metres of the existing right-of-way boundary, as well as within 800 metres of the proposed substation and proposed switching station site boundary as recommended by the Commission in Appendix A1 of AUC Rule 007.¹

¹ AltaLink has identified its facility application to be of the type: *Overhead transmission line and new substation development – rural or industrial setting; Minor transmission line replacements within the original right-of-way – rural and industrial; Decommission and Salvage -transmission facilities; and Fibre Installation where a direct and adverse effect may occur*, as categorized in AUC Rule 007, Appendix A1, Section 5.

The TFO notified a total of approximately 81 Stakeholders, of which 12 were classified as private or individual landowners. The other 56 notified Stakeholders and the 13 notified Indigenous groups are listed below:

- A.B. Hollingworth and Son Construction Ltd.
- Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women
- Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
- Alberta Forestry and Parks
- Alberta Transportation
- Alexander First Nation
- Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
- Alliance Pipeline Ltd.
- Alphabow Energy Ltd.
- ANC Timber
- Aseniwuche Winewak Nation
- Avid Energy Services
- Blue Ridge Lumber Inc.
- Blue Sky Resources Ltd.
- Canadian Natural Resources Limited
- Canfor Forest Products Inc.
- Cenovus Energy Inc
- Chevron Canada Limited
- Conocophillips Canada Resources Corp
- Crescent Point Energy Corp
- D.J. Catering Ltd.
- Driftpile Cree Nation
- East Prairie Metis Settlement
- Enoch Cree Nation #440
- Fisheries And Oceans Canada
- FortisAlberta Inc.
- HWN Energy Ltd.
- Hydrogeological Consultants Ltd.
- Jade Oilfield Maintenance Company Ltd.
- Journey Energy Inc.
- Kehewin Cree Nation
- Kiwetinohk Energy Corp.
- Lac Ste. Anne Metis Community Association
- Lake Excavating Limited
- Municipal District of Greenview No. 16
- Nav Canada
- Nova Gas Transmission Ltd.
- Oak Resources Ltd.
- Orphan Well Association
- Outlier Resources Ltd.
- Ovintiv Canada ULC
- Pablo Creek Holdings Ltd.
- Paramount Resources Ltd.
- Paul First Nation
- Pembina Pipeline Corporation
- Peyto Exploration & Development Corp.
- PGI Processing ULC
- Point Loma Resources Ltd.
- Prairie Provident Resources Canada Ltd.
- Rogers Communications Inc.
- ROK Resources Inc.
- Sinopec Canada Energy Ltd.
- Source Energy Services Canadian Logistics LP GP Ltd.
- Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation
- Sucker Creek First Nation
- Swan River First Nation
- TAQA North Ltd.
- Telus Communications
- Tourmaline Oil Corp.
- Transalta Corporation
- Transport Canada – Navigation Protection Program
- Transport Canada
- Vanrena Resources Ltd.
- Wapiti Gravel Suppliers, A Division of NPA Ltd.
- Whitecap Energy ULC.
- Whitefish Lake Indian Reserve #128
- Woodlands County
- Yellowhead County
- Yoho Resources Inc.

Attachment 3 includes the TFO's project letter, which was included with the AESO Need Overview that was distributed to the Stakeholders and Indigenous groups described above between March 19, 2024 and June 11, 2024. The TFO's project newsletter and the AESO Need Overview were also posted on the TFO's project-specific webpage at <http://www.altalink.ca/project/berland-river-transmission-connection/Connection-AltaLink> on March 21, 2024. The TFO's project letter included the AESO's contact

information, a reference to the AESO Need Overview, and an invitation to contact the TFO or the AESO for additional information.

3. Filing Notification

Most recently, the AESO notified Stakeholders of its intention to submit the NID to the Commission by way of a posting to the AESO website at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/transmission-enhancements-in-the-town-of-fox-creek-area-2630/> and a publishing notice in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter on September 18, 2024. Copies of the AESO website posting and the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter notice have been included as Attachments 4 and 5, respectively.

4. Responding to Questions and Concerns

To ensure that Stakeholders and Indigenous groups had the opportunity to provide feedback, the AESO provided Stakeholders and Indigenous groups with AESO contact information, including a dedicated, toll-free telephone line (1-888-866-2959) and a dedicated email address (stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca). The AESO Need Overview included this contact information, along with the AESO's mailing address (2500, 330 5th Ave. SW, Calgary) and website address (www.aeso.ca), and a privacy statement that described how the AESO is committed to protecting Stakeholders' privacy.

As directed by the AESO, the TFO was prepared to direct any Stakeholder questions addressed to the AESO, or questions regarding the AESO Need Overview, to the AESO.

5. Questions and Concerns Raised

The TFO has advised the AESO that none of the Stakeholders notified by the TFO identified any concerns or objections regarding the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request or the need for development.

The AESO has not received any indication of concerns or objections about the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request or the need for development.

6. List of Attachments

- Attachment 1 – AESO Need Overview (March 2024)
- Attachment 2 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Need Overview Notice (March 27, 2024)
- Attachment 3 – TFO's Project Newsletter – Berland River Transmission Connection (March 2024)
- Attachment 4 – AESO Public Notification of NID Filing Website Posting (September 2024)
- Attachment 5 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter NID Filing Notice (September 18, 2024)

Attachment 1 – AESO Need Overview (March 2024)

Need for Transmission Enhancements in the Town of Fox Creek area

Nova Gas Transmission Ltd. (Nova Gas) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to serve a new demand for electricity in the Town of Fox Creek area. Nova Gas' request can be met by the following solution:

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Add a substation, designated as Pine Creek 328S, including three 138 kilovolt (kV) circuit breakers, to be connected to the existing 138 kV transmission line 685L using an in-and-out configuration.
- Add a substation, designated as Berland River 1182S, including one 138/25 kV transformer and three 138 kV circuit breakers.
- Add one 138 kV transmission line to connect the proposed Berland River 1182S substation to the proposed Pine Creek 328S substation using a radial configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

NEXT STEPS

- In mid 2024, the AESO may consider the need for this project for approval under section 501.3 of the ISO rules, *Abbreviated Needs Approval Process (ANAP Rule)*, or apply to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of the need.
- The AESO will notify stakeholders via the AESO's website at www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects prior to the project being considered under the ANAP Rule or prior to filing a needs identification document (NID) application with the AUC.

The following organizations have key roles and responsibilities in providing access to the transmission system:

THE AESO

- Must plan the transmission system and enable access to it for generators and other qualified customers.
- Can approve eligible projects through the ANAP Rule and for non-eligible projects, the AESO will prepare and submit a NID to the AUC for approval.

ALTALINK

- Is the transmission facility owner in town of Fox Creek area.
- Is responsible for detailed siting and routing, constructing, operating, and maintaining the transmission facilities.
- Is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its transmission facilities applications.

WHO IS THE AESO?

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) plans and operates Alberta's electricity grid and wholesale electricity market safely, reliably and in the public interest of all Albertans. We are a not-for-profit organization with no financial interest or investment of any kind in the power industry.

We appreciate your views, both on the need for transmission system development and proposed transmission plans.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us directly.

CONTACT US

Alberta Electric System Operator

AESO Stakeholder Relations
stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca
 1-888-866-2959

2500, 330-5th Avenue SW
 Calgary, AB T2P 0L4
 Phone: 403-539-2450

www.aeso.ca | [@theaeso](https://x.com/theaeso)

Attachment 2 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Need Overview Notice (March 27, 2024)



GRID

Need Overview | Transmission Enhancements in the Town of Fox Creek Area

Nova Gas Transmission Ltd. (Nova Gas) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to serve a new demand for electricity in the Town of Fox Creek area. Nova Gas' request can be met by the following solution:

- Add a substation, designated as Pine Creek 328S, including three 138 kilovolt (kV) circuit breakers, to be connected to the existing 138 kV transmission line 685L using an in-and-out configuration.
- Add a substation, designated as Berland River 1182S, including one 138/25 kV transformer and three 138 kV circuit breakers.
- Add one 138 kV transmission line to connect the proposed Berland River 1182S substation to the proposed Pine Creek 328S substation using a radial configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

The AESO has posted a Need Overview for this project on its website. Please [click here](#) to view the document or visit the AESO website at www.aeso.ca and follow the path: Grid >Transmission Projects > Transmission Enhancements in the Town of Fox Creek area (2630).

**Attachment 3 – TFO’s Project Newsletter – Berland River Transmission Connection
(March 2024)**

March 2024

PROJECT UPDATE TO THE COMMUNITY



Berland River Transmission Connection

Project background

Thank you for your ongoing participation in the Berland River Transmission Connection. In September 2023, AltaLink began consulting with stakeholders on the proposed project. We would like to provide you with an update.

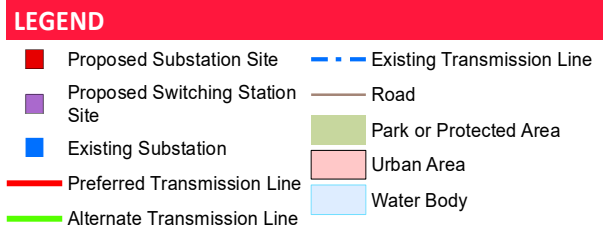
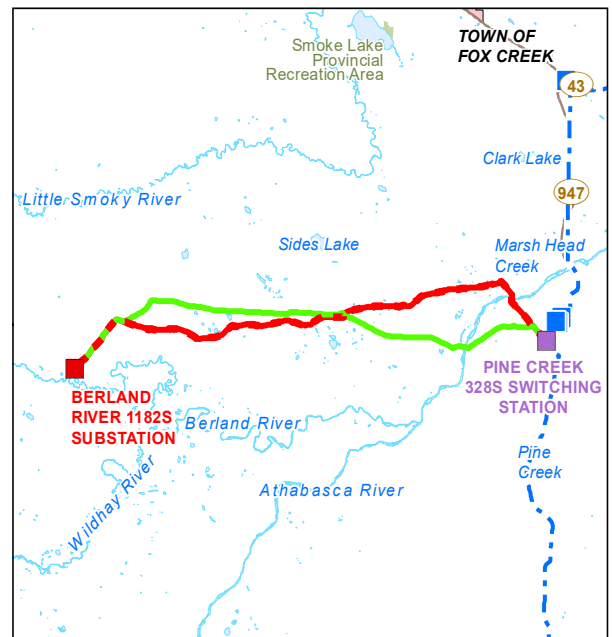
AltaLink is proposing changes to its **transmission** system to connect the TC Energy Berland River Project to the grid. AltaLink's proposed project is located approximately 25 kilometres south of the Town of Fox Creek.

AltaLink's proposed project includes:

- building a new **substation** (called Berland River)
- constructing approximately 55 to 60 kilometres of new 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line
- building a new 138 kV **switching station** (called Pine Creek)
- installing approximately three kilometres of new fibre optic cable

Although AltaLink's project is required to facilitate the connection of TC Energy's project, it is a separate project.

For more information about TC Energy, see their contact information on the back of this newsletter.



ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE			
<p>Notify and consult with stakeholders</p> <p>September 2023 to August 2024</p>	<p>File application with Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)</p> <p>August 2024</p>	<p>Start construction if project is approved</p> <p>February 2025</p>	<p>Complete construction</p> <p>Early 2026</p>

Update on proposed transmission line routes

AltaLink is considering multiple routes for the proposed transmission line. We consider cost, environmental, social, economic, residential, agricultural, and visual impacts, as well as stakeholder feedback to select low-impact route options. A preferred and alternate route have been identified:

PREFERRED ROUTE (SHOWN IN RED ON THE MAP)

- primarily follows the ANC Haul Road
- avoids more environmentally sensitive areas
- provides better access points for future maintenance
- is approximately 60 kilometres in length

ALTERNATE ROUTE (SHOWN IN GREEN ON THE MAP)

- follows more pipeline corridors
- is approximately 57 kilometres in length

Because the preferred and alternate routes cross, there is the potential that part of the preferred route could be combined with the alternate route. Please refer to the maps included in this package for more information.

Proposed right-of-way width less than anticipated

Initially, we advised you that we would need a **right-of-way** width of up to 35 metres. After additional engineering, we have determined that we will only require 30 metres.

A wider right-of-way will be required in certain locations, such as the crossing of the Athabasca River. These areas are shown on the included maps.

This right-of-way will allow AltaLink to remove trees and other vegetation that pose a potential fire risk, ensure safe electrical clearances and setbacks, and facilitate future maintenance on the transmission line.

Changes to existing transmission line

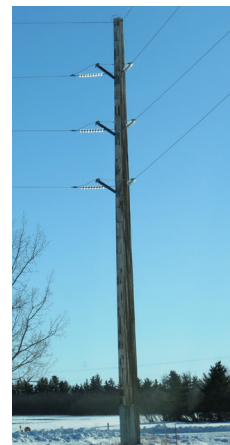
After additional engineering, AltaLink has identified a need to make changes to the existing 714L transmission line near where it connects to the existing Benbow Substation.

We are proposing to add two new monopole structures, and remove an existing structure called an airbreak.

The proposed structures will:

- be made of wood or steel
- be between 17 and 20 metres tall
- look similar to the photo to the right

AltaLink is also proposing to add a new circuit breaker at the Benbow Substation.



DEFINITIONS

Transmission

Transmission lines make up Alberta's electric highway, linking the places where power is generated to where power is used. Transmission lines transport large amounts of power across the province. The transmission system connects sources of power generation.

Substation

Substations are the connection points between power lines of varying voltages and contain equipment that controls and protects the flow of power. Substations include transformers that step down and step up the voltage so power can be transmitted through transmission lines or distributed to your community through distribution lines.

Switching station

Switching stations connect two or more transmission lines to re-route and transport power across the province to where it's needed.

Right-of-Way

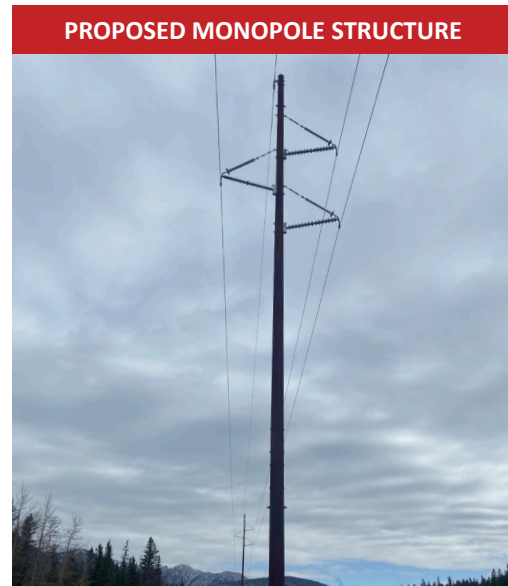
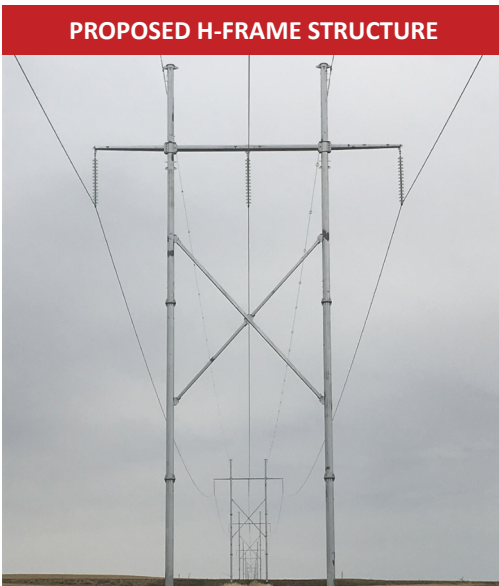
The right-of-way is a strip of land required for the construction and safe operation of a transmission line. A right-of-way refers to the physical space a transmission line encompasses including areas on either side of the line. The majority of the right-of-way may still be used. Buildings cannot be placed on the right-of-way, but may be built up to the edge of the right-of-way.

Update on proposed structure types

In September, we advised you that the proposed structures for the proposed transmission line would be primarily H-frame structures. AltaLink has now determined that the proposed structures may be either H-frame or monopole structures.

The proposed structures on the new transmission line:

- will be made of steel
- will be between 14 and 25 metres tall for H-frame structures, and between 20 and 30 metres tall for monopole structures
- may require special structure types or taller structures based on the location and engineering requirements
- will require guy wires in specific locations (including at corner or angle structures)



Please note: All dimensions are approximate and subject to change with detailed engineering. Special structure types may be taller than the heights listed here.

Telecommunications tower no longer needed

AltaLink previously proposed constructing a telecommunications tower existing Fox Creek Substation. After further engineering, we have determined that this telecommunications tower is no longer required.

How to provide your input

Stakeholder input is important to us.

We will contact all stakeholders who are within 100 metres of the proposed transmission line project to gather input through one-on-one consultations. We will document information you provide and respond to any questions or concerns you may have about the project.

AltaLink is committed to sharing information about its projects and working with the public to gather and respond to stakeholder input and concerns. A summary of stakeholder comments will be incorporated into the application we submit to the [Alberta Utilities Commission \(AUC\)](#).

DEFINITION

Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) ensures the fair and responsible delivery of Alberta's utility services. AltaLink submits applications for new transmission projects to the AUC, and the AUC reviews them in a public process.

CONTACT US

To learn more about the proposed project, please contact:

ALTALINK

1-877-267-1453 (toll-free)

Email: stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca

AltaLink's transmission system efficiently delivers electricity to 85 per cent of Albertans. Dedicated to meeting the growing need for electricity, AltaLink connects Albertans to renewable, reliable and low-cost power. With a commitment to community and environment, AltaLink is ensuring the transmission system will support Albertans' quality of life for years to come. Learn more at www.altalink.ca.

To learn more about the TC Energy project, please contact:

TC Energy

1-855-895-8754

E-mail: public_affairs_ca@tcenergy.com

Website: TCEnergy.com

To learn more about the application and review process, please contact:

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION (AUC)

780-427-4903 (toll-free 310-0000 before the number)

Email: consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca

To learn more about Alberta's electric system and the need for the project, please contact:

Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)

1-888-866-2959

Email: stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca

The AESO is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for the safe, reliable, and economic planning and operation of the provincial transmission grid. For more information about why this project is needed, please refer to the AESO's Need Overview included with this package or visit www.aeso.ca. If you have any questions or concerns about the need for this project or the proposed transmission development to meet the need you may contact the AESO directly. You can make your questions or concerns known to an AltaLink representative who will collect your personal information for the purpose of addressing your questions and/or concerns to the AESO. This process may include disclosure of your personal information to the AESO.

INCLUDED IN THIS INFORMATION PACKAGE:

- Project maps
- AESO need overview
- AUC brochure:
Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PROJECT

1. Visit altalink.ca/projects
2. Search for the project title
3. Click **Subscribe to updates**

LET'S TALK TRANSMISSION

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 www.twitter.com/altalink

AltaLink is committed to protecting your privacy. AltaLink will collect, use, and disclose personal information in accordance with AltaLink's Privacy Policy and the *Personal Information Protection Act (Alberta)*. As part of the regulatory process for new transmission projects, AltaLink may provide your personal information to the AUC.

For more information about how AltaLink protects your personal information, visit our website at www.altalink.ca/privacy or contact us directly via email at privacy@altalink.ca or phone at 1-877-267-6760.

Attachment 4 – AESO Public Notification of NID Filing Website Posting (September 2024)

Transmission Enhancements in the Town of Fox Creek area (2630)

Notice of Filing

The AESO intends to file the Transmission Enhancements in the Town of Fox Creek area Needs Identification Document (NID) application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on or after Oct. 3, 2024.

Attachment 5 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter NID Filing Notice (September 18, 2024)



GRID

Notice of Filing | Transmission Enhancements in the Town of Fox Creek Area

NGTL Limited Partnership (NGTL) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its Berland River compressor station in the Town of Fox Creek area. NGTL's request can be met by the following solution:

- Add a substation, designated as Pine Creek 328S, including three 138 kilovolt (kV) circuit breakers, to be connected to the existing 138 kV transmission line 685L using an in-and-out configuration.
- Add a substation, designated as Berland River 1182S, including one 138/25 kV transformer, two 138 kV 13.5 MVar filter banks, and three 138 kV circuit breakers.
- Add one 138 kV transmission line to connect the proposed Berland River 1182S substation to the proposed Pine Creek 328S substation using a radial configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

The AESO intends to file the Transmission Enhancements in the Town of Fox Creek Area Needs Identification Document (NID) application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on or after October 3, 2024.

[Click here](#) to view the project page and all the relevant documents, including the NID application once it is filed with the AUC, or visit www.aeso.ca and follow the path: Grid > Transmission-Projects > Transmission Enhancements in the Town of Fox Creek area (P2630).