

June 4, 2013

Don Popowich Director, Facilities Alberta Utilities Commission Fifth Avenue Place 4th Floor, 425 – 1st Street SW Calgary, Alberta T2P 3L8

Dear Mr. Popowich:

Re: Application to the Alberta Utilities Commission to Amend the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development (NW FMM NID) Approval No. U2012-271 (NW FMM NID Approval)

1. Pursuant to the *Electric Utilities Act*, S.A. 2003, c. E-5.1 (EUA) and the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, S.A. 2007, c. A-37.2 (AUCA), the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is applying to the Alberta Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval of certain amendments to the NW FMM NID Approval, as more particularly described below (Application).

Application Organization

- 2. This Application is organized in the following manner:
 - Background
 - The NW FMM NID Approval
 - Description of the Proposed Amendments
 - Rationale for the Proposed Amendments
 - Engineering Studies
 - Information Regarding Commission Rule 007, Section 6.1 NID12
 - Cost Estimates
 - Participant Involvement Program (PIP)
 - Request to Combine the Application with the Facility Proposal
 - Request for Approval

Background

3. On November 9, 2011, the AESO applied to the Commission for approval of the NW FMM NID.



- 4. In the NW FMM NID, the AESO explained that the need for transmission is driven by the forecast load growth associated with oil sands development. The AESO identified the need for a 240 kV looped system to supply growing loads in the area.
- 5. While the NW FMM NID described the need for one circuit (designated 9L95) between Birchwood Creek 960S and Ells River 2079S, it included double-circuit towers that would enable the addition of a second circuit in the future. The NW FMM NID did not seek approval of the need for this second circuit, which would have been the subject of a future need application by the AESO.
- 6. On June 18, 2012, the Commission approved the NW FMM NID in *Decision 2012-167* and Approval No. U2012-271.

The NW FMM NID Approval

7. The NW FMM NID Approval includes the following developments (Approved Developments):

Phase one, to be completed by the third quarter of 2013, shall consist of the following activities:

- Construct a new 240-kV switching substation, designated as NW FMM South, located south of existing Dover 888S substation and near existing 240-kV transmission line 9L57, such that the proposed NW FMM South substation would be connected to the existing transmission line by an in/out configuration.
- Construct a new 240-kV switching substation, designated as NW FMM North, located west of existing 240-kV double-circuit transmission line 9L08/9L09.
- Construct approximately 50 kilometres of new double-circuit 240-kV transmission line to connect the proposed NW FMM North substation to the existing transmission line 9L08 by using an in/out configuration.
- Other associated facilities as more particularly described in the application.

Phase two, to be completed by the second quarter of 2015, shall consist of the following activities:

- Construct approximately 80 kilometres of new 240-kV transmission line using doublecircuit structures, with a conductor on only one side, connecting the proposed NW FMM South substation with the proposed NW FMM North substation.
- Other associated facilities as more particularly described in the application.

¹ NW FMM NID, Section 2.2, page 3-7.



Description of the Proposed Amendments

- 8. The AESO proposes to amend the NW FMM NID Approval as follows:
 - (a) Construct the approved 9L95 transmission line (the 240 kV transmission line between "NW FMM South" and "NW FMM North")² using single-circuit structures instead of the approved double-circuit structures, with a conductor on only one side.
 - (b) Remove the dates and phases contained within the NW FMM NID Approval to allow the AESO and ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) to bring the development's components in service in a feasible sequence that most effectively meets the need.
 - (c) Remove the estimated line lengths in the NW FMM NID Approval since they have been superseded by more detailed information in ATCO's facility proposal.
- 9. More specifically, the AESO is requesting that the NW FMM NID Approval be replaced in its entirety with the following (Amended Developments):³
 - Construct a new 240-kV switching substation, designated as Birchwood Creek 960S, located south of existing Dover 888S substation and near existing 240-kV transmission line 9L57, such that the proposed Birchwood Creek 960S substation would be connected to the existing transmission line by an in/out configuration.
 - Construct a new 240-kV switching substation, designated as Ells River 2079S, located west of existing 240-kV double-circuit transmission line 9L08/9L09.
 - Construct a new 240-kV transmission line using single-circuit structures, connecting the proposed Birchwood Creek 960S substation with the proposed Ells River 2079S substation.
 - Construct a new double-circuit 240-kV transmission line to connect the proposed Ells River 2079S substation to the existing transmission line 9L08 by using an in/out configuration.
 - Other associated facilities as more particularly described in the application.

Rationale for the Proposed Amendments

Single-Circuit Structures for the 240 kV Transmission Line Between Birchwood Creek 960S and Ells River 2079S

10. Prior to October 19, 2012, ATCO advised the AESO of potential construction challenges for the approved 9L08/9L76 transmission line that would prevent its completion by the originally intended 2013 in-service date. On October 19, 2012, ATCO sent the AESO a letter indicating

² NW FMM South has now been designated Birchwood Creek 970S. NW FMM North is now been designated Ells River 2079S.

³ For ease of reference, the amendment changes are shown in bold.



that the approved 9L08/9L76 transmission line could not be completed until 2015 due to ungulate zone restrictions, winter access road construction and the interaction with the potential to relocate the existing Joslyn 849S substation, which ATCO is undertaking separately. The ATCO letter is included as Appendix A.

- 11. Notwithstanding the above, there are two proposed connections that rely upon the Ells River 2079S substation being in-service before 2015. In consideration of these proposed connections, ATCO proposed to the AESO to advance the approved 9L95 transmission line between Birchwood Creek 960S and Ells River 2079S to bring the Ells River 2079S substation into service prior to 2015. ATCO proposed that by routing 9L95 along an existing roadway, construction risks could be mitigated and construction could therefore be completed in one winter construction period, which, depending on approval timelines, could bring the Ells River 2079S substation into service in 2014. An ATCO letter to the AESO dated April 12, 2013, included as Appendix B, documents this proposal.
- 12. In consideration of ATCO's proposed route for 9L95, the AESO has concluded that an amendment to the NW FMM NID Approval is necessary because ATCO's proposed routing for this transmission line does not lend itself to the addition of a future second circuit, as previously planned and as described in the NW FMM NID Approval. Specifically, the AESO has determined that while loads to be connected to 9L95 in the near term are appropriately served by 9L95, future loads that are anticipated to develop to the west of 9L95 may be better served by developing future transmission capacity west of 9L95, rather than on the same corridor. Thus, the provision for a second circuit to be added to the same tower structures utilized by 9L95 is no longer required.
- 13. The AESO, then, is applying to amend the NW FMM NID Approval to specify the utilization of single-circuit structures for the 240 kV transmission line 9L95 between Birchwood Creek 960S and Ells River 2079S. This does not change the transmission capacity approved in NW FMM NID Approval. When future development in the area is expected to exceed the capacity of the single-circuit line, the need for a second circuit between these two substations will be prepared and filed at the appropriate time.

Changes to the Development Sequence

14. As described above in Paragraphs 8-11, the in-service dates of each transmission component of the NW FMM NID Approval have changed due to: (1) construction challenges, and (2) the AESO's decision to change the development sequence of the NW FMM NID Approval to achieve a 2014 in-service date for the Ells River 2079S switching station. Table 1 shows the current anticipated development sequence.



Table 1 – NW FMM Development Sequence Comparison

	In-Service Date		
	Sequence in	Current Anticipated	
Component	NW FMM NID	Development	
	Approval	Sequence	
A new 240 kV switching substation, designated as Birchwood Creek	Q2 2013	Q4 2014	
960S	Q2 2013	Q4 2014	
A new 240 kV switching substation, designated as Ells River 2079S	Q2 2013	Q4 2014 ⁴	
A new double-circuit 240 kV transmission line to connect the	Q2 2013 Q2 2015		
proposed Ells River 2079S to the existing transmission line 9L08			
A new 240 kV transmission line using single-circuit structures			
connecting the proposed Birchwood Creek 960S with the proposed	Q2 2015	Q4 2014 ⁴	
Ells River 2079S			

15. The AESO is proposing to amend the NW FMM Approval to remove reference to phases and inservice dates as these have both changed since the approval was issued. Such reference to phases and in-service dates is no longer relevant to the NW FMM NID Approval because ATCO will be filing its associated facility proposal at the same time as the AESO's Application.

Changes to the Line Lengths

16. The estimated line lengths used in the NW FMM Approval have been superseded by more detailed information, which will be available in ATCO's facility proposal (to be filed at the same time as the AESO's Application). The AESO is therefore proposing to amend the NW FMM Approval to remove the line lengths.⁵

Engineering Studies

17. The AESO determined that no new transmission system studies are required to support this Application because the Amended Developments are electrically identical to the Approved Developments. Note that individual connection assessments will be performed for the connections to Ells River 2079S that are planned to come into service for 2014. These assessments will consider whether interim operational measures will be imposed on the connecting facilities prior to completion of all components of the proposed development in 2015.

⁴ ATCO is expected to coordinate the in-service date of these developments to coincide with the first customer connection requiring these developments.

⁵ ATCO's most recent line length estimates for the in-and-out to Birchwood Creek 960S, 9L95, and the in-and-out to Ells River 2079S are approximately 1 km, 65 km and 68 km, respectively.

⁶ The originally proposed double-circuit, conductor on only one side is electrically identical to the amended development proposal for a single-circuit line.



Information Regarding Commission Rule 007, Section 6.1 - NID12

18. The AESO has been advised that ATCO's facility proposal will address the major provisions in Commission Rule 007, Section 6.1 – NID12 (Appendix C). In consideration of that fact, and as the filing of this Application is combined with ATCO's facility proposal, the AESO has not undertaken a separate assessment of the sort contemplated in Rule 007, Section 6.1 – NID12.

Cost Estimates

19. ATCO has re-estimated the cost of the Approved Developments to be in the order of \$450 million (+20/-10%). ATCO has estimated the cost of the Amended Developments to be in the order of \$370 million (+20/-10%). The primary reason for the Amended Development's lower cost is the change from double-circuit structures to single-circuit structures for the 9L95 line. A copy of the ATCO estimates for the Approved Developments and Amended Developments are included as Appendices D and E, respectively.

Participant Involvement Program (PIP)

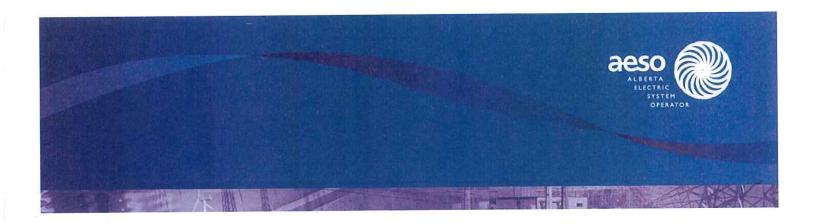
20. In March 2013, ATCO and the AESO provided information regarding the Amended Developments to potentially affected stakeholders. A description of the information provided to stakeholders, and the means by which information was provided, is included as Appendix F. The AESO has received no indication of concern from any party about the Amended Developments.

Request to Combine the Application with the Facility Proposal

- 21. Pursuant to subsection 35(1) of the EUA, the AESO has directed ATCO to prepare a transmission facility proposal to meet the need identified in the NW FMM NID. The AESO understands that ATCO's facility proposal will be filed shortly. The AESO requests, and expects ATCO will also request, that this Application be combined with the facility proposal for consideration by the Commission in a single process.
- 22. While it is believed that this Application and the facility proposal will be materially consistent, the AESO respectfully requests that in its consideration of both, the Commission be mindful of the fact that the documents have been prepared separately and for different purposes. The purpose of this Application is to obtain Commission approval to amend the NW FMM NID Approval as described herein. In contrast, the facility proposal will contain more detailed engineering and designs for the proposed transmission development and seek approval for the construction and

⁷ The NID-level cost estimates for the Approved Developments provided in the NW FMM NID were \$180 M (\$2014) plus \$190 M (\$2015) (+/- 30% accuracy). As part of its preparation of associated Facility Application, ATCO re-estimated the cost of the Approved Developments to a higher level of accuracy, to be in the order of \$450 M (+20/-10%).

⁸ In addition, the AESO notes that such a request is consistent with the principles contemplated by section 15.4 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. H-16 and section 6 of Commission Rule 007.



operation of specific facilities approved in the NW FMM NID Approval and amended accordingly herein. 9

Request for Approval

23. Having regard to:

- the relevant provisions of the EUA and the AUCA;
- the transmission responsibilities of the AESO as set out in the EUA and the *Transmission Regulation*;
- information obtained from the AESO's PIP;
- estimated costs;
- the AESO's long-term transmission system plans;
- and the facts as outlined in the Application,

it is the conclusion of the AESO that its assessment of the Amended Developments is technically complete and that the Amended Developments are in the public interest. In consideration of these factors, the AESO requests that the Commission approve the Application as described herein.

Please address all correspondence concerning this application to:

David Michaud Manager, Regulatory Services david.michaud@aeso.ca 403-539-2471 Nicole Weigel NID Filings Coordinator nicole.weigel@aeso.ca 403-539-2948

Yours very truly,

Doyle Sullivan, P. Eng.

Director, Regulatory Services

⁹ The AESO understands that ATCO intends to file one facility proposal relating to this Application to be titled North West Fort McMurray Transmission Development.



List of Appendices

Appendix A – ATCO Letter of October 19, 2012

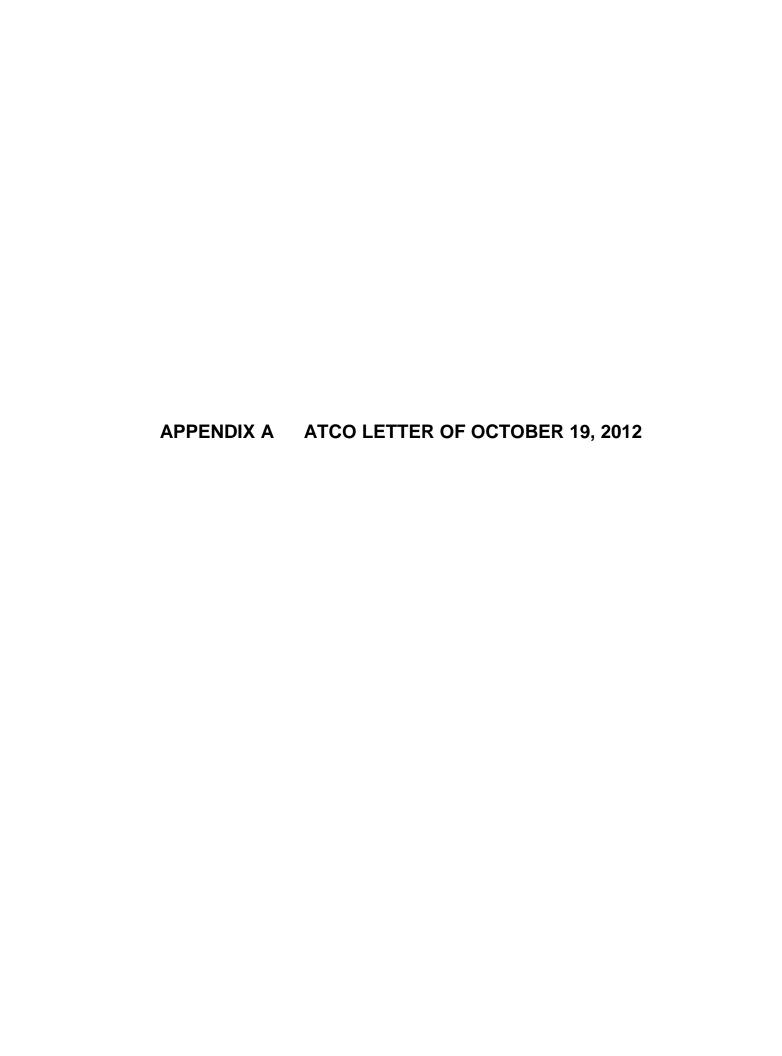
Appendix B – ATCO Letter of April 12, 2013

Appendix C – Information Regarding Commission Rule 007, Section 6.1 - NID12

Appendix D – TFO Capital Cost Estimate for the Approved Developments

Appendix E – TFO Capital Cost Estimate for the Amended Developments

Appendix F – Participant Involvement Program (PIP)





October 19, 2012

Mr. Brian Belway Project Manager, Project Delivery North Transmission, Alberta Electric System Operator 2500, 330 – 5th Avenue SW Calgary, AB T2P 0L4

Dear Brian,

Re: Shifting 9L08/76 into 2014/15 construction for the Northwest Fort McMurray Transmission Development project (AESO Project No. 1180)

As you may know, the Northwest Fort McMurray Transmission Development project is scheduled to be completed in three construction phases over a period of three years from 2013 to 2015.

Phase three, the system interconnection line 9L08/76 includes the construction of approximately 65 kilometres of 240 kV double-circuit transmission line. In order to complete this scope of work within this phase, an adjustment to the construction schedule is needed for the following reasons:

1. Ungulate zone restriction.

Part of the route goes though the ungulate zone with a timing restriction of January 1 to April 30. Due to this restriction, construction will need to be phased over two winters; winter 2013/2014 will include brushing and geotechnical work starting in November as frozen conditions are required, and winter 2014/2015 will include transmission line construction and tower erection.

2. Winter access road near 9L08/76.

Due to this road restriction, construction over one winter is not possible as access will need to be built.

3. Potential Joslyn 849S relocation project.

Building 9L08/76 in the last phase for loop completion will allow the Joslyn project to move ahead freely without affecting any customer connected to the Ells River substation.

Shifting the completion of the system interconnection line 9L08/76 to a 2014/2015 construction schedule will support the successful completion of the project allowing us to reach the in-service-date while respecting the noted restrictions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 780-420-5541, dinesh.sharma@atcoelectric.com should you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

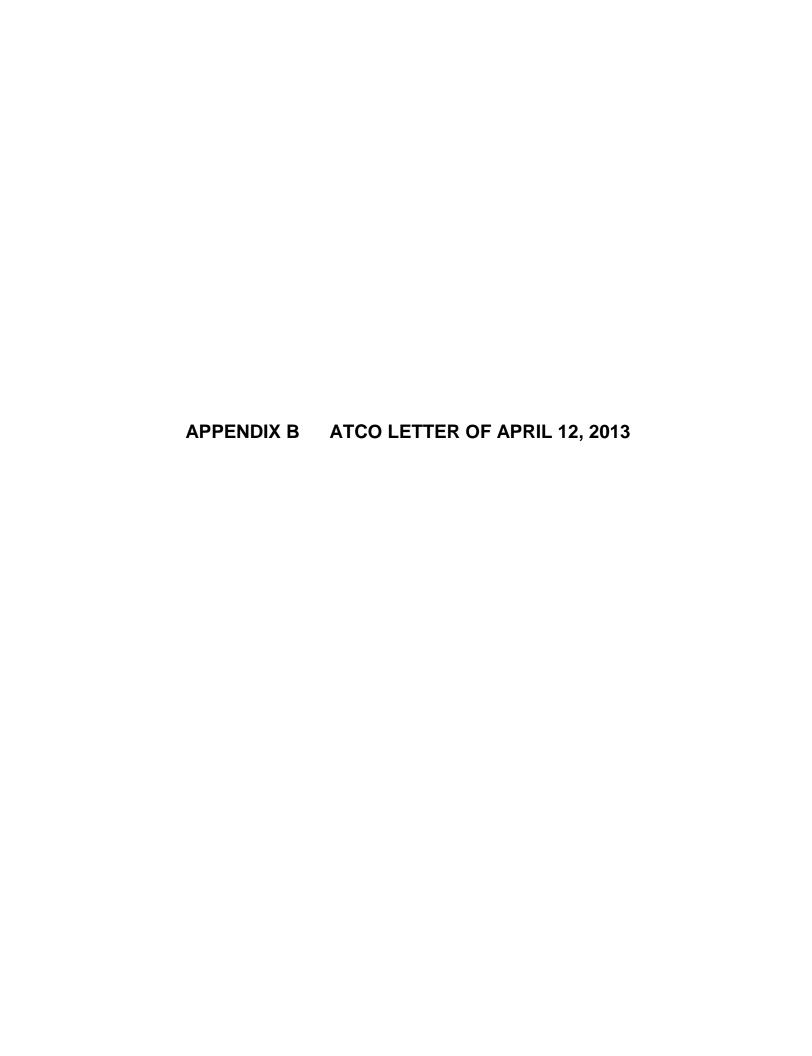
Dinesh Sharma, P.Eng, PMP

Manager, North East Regional Projects

DS/jp

cc:

Byron Wong





April 12, 2013

Mr. Brian Belway Project Manager, Project Delivery North Transmission, Alberta Electric System Operator 2500, 330 – 5th Avenue SW Calgary, AB T2P 0L4

Dear Brian,

Re: AESO Project No. 1180 Construction of line 9L95 with a 2014 In-Service Date

The current preferred routing for the construction of transmission line 9L95 is along the Athabasca Oil Company all-weather road. In deciding on this as the preferred route, we reviewed and analyzed alternative routes and determined following the existing road provided the best option in order for construction to be completed in 2014.

The Ministry of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD) is in strong support of this route as it parallels existing disturbances and supports the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan. The route crosses an existing caribou zone with a construction timing restriction of February 15 to July 31, annually. Since the route is within 100 metres of an all-season route and clearing is completed prior to February 15, the AESRD (in reference to the Enhanced Approval Process used for oil and gas) will allow ATCO (pending official approval) to continue construction throughout the caribou zone timing restriction. Completion of clearing work before February 15 is dependent upon the receipt of AUC Permit and License prior to November 30, 2013.

If an alternative route is chosen, construction will have to stop in accordance with the caribou zone restriction. In addition, construction access will not be possible without access to an all-season road. The stoppage of work due to access and the restriction will not allow ATCO to complete line 9L95 by the in-service date in 2014.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 780-420-5541, dinesh.sharma@atcoelectric.com should you have any additional questions or concerns.

Regards,

Dinesh Sharma, P.Eng, PMP Manager, NWFMTD Program

DS/br

cc: Byron Wong

APPENDIX C INFORMATION REGARDING COMMISSION RULE 007, SECTION 6.1 - NID12



April 12, 2013

Brian Belway Alberta Electric System Operator 2500, 330 – 5th Avenue SW Calgary, Alberta T2P 0L4

Dear Mr. Belway;

RE: Confirmation of AUC Rule 007, NID 12 Content in Facilities Application North West Fort McMurray Transmission System Development Project AESO Project File Nos.: 1180

There are seven major aspects of AUC Rule 007, NID 12, that will be addressed through the ATCO Electric Facility Application for the above referenced project, where applicable.

The seven aspects are listed below:

- 1. Agricultural impact
- 2. Residential Impact
- 3. Environmental Impact
- 4. Cost
- 5. Electrical considerations
- 6. Visual impacts
- 7. Special constraints

In addition, the Facility Application for this project will address the specific requirements of the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP), described in AUC Bulletin 2012-10. This includes indication of compliance with land-use planning objectives and air quality, groundwater quality and surface water quality management frameworks outlined in the LARP as well as identification of any potential impacts on new conservation or provincial recreation areas.

Sincerely,

ATCO Electric Ltd.

< Original signed by >

Laine Watson

Right of Way Planner Tel: 780-508-4589

Email: laine.watson@atcoelectric.com

APPENDIX D	TFO CAPITAL COST ESTIMATE FOR THE APPROVED DEVELOPMENTS

Proposal to Provide Services (PPS) - Estimate Summary

Project Name:

RP-05-1180 NW Fort McMurray Transmission Development Project

Estimate Prepared by:

Byron Wong October 26, 2012

Estimate Date: Estimate Accuracy:

+20 / -10 %

Version:

Version Date:

1 October 26, 2012

Estimating Guidelines: Refer to the Notes sheet in this workbook and "Proposal to Provide Services" template for guidelines on estimating requirements

System Portion **Customer Portion** TOTAL **Transmission Line Costs** Material 43,952,064 \$ 43,952,064 \$ Labour 236,253,912 236,253,912 Total-Transmission line \$ 280,205,976 \$ 280,205,976 **Substation Facilities Cost** Material 7.613.367 \$ \$ 7,613,367 Labour \$ 23,236,505 \$ \$ 23,236,505 Total-Substations \$ 30,849,872 \$ - \$ 30,849,872 **Telecommunication Cost** Material 1,186,330 \$ \$ 1,186,330 Labour 940,578 \$ \$ 940,578 Total-Telecommunication \$ 2,126,908 \$ - \$ 2,126,908 **Owner Costs** Proposal to Provide Service \$ 648,000 \$ 648,000 **Facility Applications** \$ 1,991,080 \$ - \$ 1,991,080 Land Rights - Easements \$ \$ \$ Land - Damage Claims \$ \$ \$ Land - Acquisitions 2.928.844 \$ \$ \$ 2,928,844 Total - Owner's Cost \$ 5,567,924 \$ - | \$ 5,567,924 **Distributed Costs** 3,056,400 \$ Procurement \$ - \$ 3,056,400 5,572,000 \$ Project Management \$ - \$ 5,572,000 Construction Management \$ 21.150.082 \$ - | \$ 21,150,082 Contingency 32,800,000 \$ 32,800,000 Total - Distributed Costs \$ 62,578,482 \$ \$ 62,578,482 Total Direct Costs \$ 381,329,162 \$ 381,329,162 Salvage Transmission Line Labour 128,000 | \$ - | \$ 128,000 Substation Labour \$ \$ - \$ Land Remediation and Reclamation \$ \$ Total-Salvage \$ 128,000 \$ 128,000 - \$ Other Costs Inflation 29,584,530 \$ 29,584,530 **AFUDC** \$ \$ E&S 36,954,293 \$ 36,954,293 Total - Other Costs \$ 66,538,823 \$ 66,538,823 \$ Total In-Direct Costs \$ - \$ 66,666,823 \$ 66,666,823 TOTAL PROJECT COSTS | \$ 448,000,000 \$ - \$ 448,000,000

Note: Please see 3. Cost Estimate

APPENDIX E TFO CAPITAL COST ESTIMATE FOR THE AMENDED **DEVELOPMENTS**

Proposal to Provide Services (PPS) - Estimate Summary

Project Name:

RP-05-1180 NW Fort McMurray Transmission Development Project

Estimate Prepared by:

Byron Wong

Estimate Date:

January 29, 2013

Estimate Accuracy:

+20 / -10 %

Version:

+20/-10/

Version Date:

January 29, 2013

Estimating Guidelines: Refer to the Notes sheet in this workbook and "Proposal to Provide Services" template for guidelines on estimating requirements

		System Portion	Customer Portion		TOTAL
		Transmission Line C	osts		······································
Materiai	\$	37,513,631		\$	37,513,631
Labour	\$	183,057,001		\$	183,057,001
Totai-Transmission lin	e \$	220,570,631		\$	220,570,631
	Est distri	Substation Facilities			
Materiai	\$	Substation Facilities		T &	7.040.007
Labour	\$	7,613,367 23,525,355	\$ - \$ -	\$	7,613,367
Totai-Substation				\$	23,525,355
Total-Substation	2 4	31,138,722		\$	31,138,722
		Telecommunication (Cost		
Material	\$	1,186,330	1 '	\$	1,186,330
Labour	\$	940,578	\$	\$	940,578
Total-Telecommunicatio	n \$	2,126,908	-	\$	2,126,908
		Owner Costs			
Proposal to Provide Service	\$	648,000	S -	\$	648,000
Facility Applications	\$	1,991,080	\$ -	\$	1,991,080
Land Rights - Easements	\$	-	\$ -	\$	1,551,000
Land - Damage Claims	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
Land - Acquisitions	\$	3,388,844	\$ -	\$	3,388,844
Total - Owner's Cos	t \$	6,027,924	\$ -	\$	6,027,924
· 1916年1月1日 (1915年1月1日日 1月1日日 1月1日日 1月1日日 1月1日日 1月1日日 1月1日日 1月1日日 1月1日日 1月1日日 1日日	Engraphi.		是	03.757	
		Distributed Costs	-		
Procurement	\$	3,056,400		\$	3,056,400
Project Management	\$	5,660,241	\$ -	\$	5,660,241
Construction Management	\$	17,701,481		\$	17,701,481
Contingency	\$	28,900,000	\$ -	\$	28,900,000
Total - Distributed Costs	\$	55,318,122	\$ -	\$	55,318,122
	ALCOHOL:				
Total Direct Costs	S \$	315,182,307	\$ -	\$	315,182,307
		Salvage			
Transmission Line Labour	T\$	67,500	\$ -	\$	67,500
Substation Labour	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
Land Remediation and Reclamation	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-
Total-Salvage	\$	67,500	\$ -	\$	67,500
Inflation	T &	Other Costs		_	
Inflation AFUDC	\$	25,374,088	A	\$	25,374,088
E&S	\$	30,181,458	\$ - \$ -	\$	-
Total - Other Costs	_ <u>-</u> _				30,181,458
Total - Other Costs		55,555,546	\$ -	\$	55,555,546
Total In-Direct Costs	\$	55,623,046	\$ -	\$	55,623,046
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$	370,805,353	\$ -	\$	370,805,353
Note: Please see 3 Cost Estimate					

Note: Please see 3. Cost Estimate





Amendment to the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document Approval

1.0 Participant Involvement Program (PIP)

From March to May 2013, the AESO conducted a Participant Involvement Program (PIP) to assist in preparing its amendment (the Amendment) to the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document Approval (NW FMM NID Approval). The AESO also directed transmission facility owner (TFO), ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO), to assist the AESO in providing notification in accordance with NID 13 and Appendix A of Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) Rule 007.

The AESO's PIP was designed to notify and provide information to: (1) all occupants, residents and landowners within 800 metres of the proposed transmission development, (2) to everyone notified within the study area during the original NID notification, and (3) to the following First Nations, government agencies and other organizations:

Government agencies and other organizations notified:

- MLA, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo
- Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance
- MD of Opportunity
- Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
- Alberta Culture and Community Spirit
- Alberta Department of Energy
- Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
- Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
- Alberta Transportation
- Department of National Defense
- Energy Resources Conservation Board
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- NAV Canada
- Telus Communications Inc
- Transport Canada
- Treasury Board

First Nations notified:

- Chipewyan Prairie First Nation
- Fort McKay First Nation



- Fort McMurray #468 First Nation
- Métis Nation Region 1
- Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
- Mikisew Cree First Nation
- Bigstone Cree First Nation
- Tall Cree First Nation
- Little Red River Cree Nation
- Sucker Creek First Nation
- Swan River First Nation
- Saddle Lake Cree Nation
- **Driftpile First Nation**

1.1 **Description of Participant Involvement Program**

As described below, the AESO used a variety of methods to notify stakeholders of the need to amend the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document Approval.

The AESO developed a one-page need overview document that described the proposed Amendment. The need overview was included in an information package along with the AUC's Public Involvement brochure and distributed via postal code mailout (unaddressed mail) in March 2013 to everyone notified within the study area the original NID notification and posted to the AESO (http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/23414.html) on March 25, 2013. The March 26, 2013 AESO stakeholder newsletter included a link to the need overview. A copy of the need overview is included as Attachment 1.

The need overview was also included with ATCO's March 2013 and April 2013 projectspecific information packages mailed on March 28, 2013 and April 19, 2013. The information packages were mailed to occupants, residents and landowners within 800 meters of the proposed transmission development as well as to the First Nations, government agencies and other organizations noted above. Attachment 2 includes copies of ATCO's information packages.

Most recently, the AESO advertised its intention to file the amendment in the Fort McMurray Today and Fort McMurray Connect newspapers on May 17, 2013, and in the Northern Journal newspaper on May 21, 2013. These newspapers serve areas that include the study area of the NW FMM NID. A copy of the final proof that was published in each of these newspapers has been included in Attachment 3.

Alberta Electric System Operator Project number 1180 June 2013



As directed by the AESO, the TFO was prepared to direct any inquiries or concerns about the project need to the AESO. The TFO has indicated that stakeholders have not identified any concerns with the need for the proposed Amendment.

To ensure that stakeholders have the opportunity to provide feedback, the AESO also provides stakeholders with a dedicated, toll-free telephone line (1-888-866-2959) and a dedicated email address (<u>stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca</u>). AESO contact information, along with the AESO's mailing address (2500, 330 5th Ave, SW, Calgary) and website address (<u>www.aeso.ca</u>), and a privacy statement that describes how the AESO honours Alberta's Personal Information Protection Act, were included on all AESO communications related to the Amendment.

1.2 Issues and Concerns Raised

The AESO has received no indication of concern from any party about the need for the proposed Amendment.

1.3 List of Attachments

- Attachment 1 AESO Need Overview
- Attachment 2 TFO Packages
 - "Ells River and Birchwood Creek Interconnection Project" (March 2013)
 - "Ells River Substation Transmission Project" (April 2013)
- Attachment 3- Notification of Filing Advertisement Final Proof

Project number 1180 June 2013



Attachment 1 – AESO Need Overview

Why am I receiving this information?

On June 18, 2012, the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) approved the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document (NID) in Decision 2012-167, and issued Approval U2012-271 (Approval) as an appendix to that decision.

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) will request minor amendments to the Approval. You are receiving this information because you may be affected by the AESO's proposed amendments.

What is the AESO proposing to amend?

The AESO will request that the AUC amend its Approval by:

- Specifying single-circuit structures, instead of double-circuit structures with a conductor on only one side, for the approved 240 kV transmission line between the approved Birchwood Creek 960S¹ substation and the approved Ells River 2079S² substation; and
- 2. Updating the development sequence described in the Approval to reflect current in-service date estimates:
 - a. the Birchwood Creek 960S substation will come into service in Q3 2014;
 - b. the Ells River 2079S substation will come into service in Q4 2014;
 - the transmission line between the Birchwood Creek 960S and Ells River 2079S substations will
 come into service in Q4 2014; and
 - d. the approved transmission line between the Ells River 2079S substation and the existing transmission line 9L08 will come into service in Q2 2015.

Why is the AESO requesting these amendments?

ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO), as the transmission facilities owner (TFO) in the Fort McMurray area, has informed the AESO that development of the double-circuit 240 kV transmission line connecting Ells River 2079S to the existing transmission line 9L08 will be delayed due to routing and construction challenges. The TFO will require two winter construction seasons to complete the work and cannot meet the original in-service date of Q3 2013.

To meet the required Ells River 2079S in-service date as closely as possible, ATCO has proposed to complete the 240 kV transmission line between Birchwood Creek 960S and Ells River 2079S in 2014, instead of in 2015 as originally scheduled. The AESO has determined that ATCO's proposal will meet the approved need, but has also determined that the proposed route for this transmission line is better served by single-circuit structures, instead of double-circuit structures with a conductor on only one side as described in the Approval.

When will the AESO file its amendment?

The AESO intends to file its amendment application with the AUC in Spring 2013. For more information on the AESO's proposed amendment, please visit http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/23414.html

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¹ Referred to as "NW FMM South" in the Approval.

² Referred to as "NW FMM North" in the Approval.



Who is the AESO?

Alberta's transmission system, sometimes referred to as the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES), is planned and operated by the AESO. The transmission system comprises the high-voltage lines, towers and equipment (generally 69 kV and above) that transmit electricity from generators to lower voltage systems that distribute electricity to cities, towns, rural areas and large industrial customers.

The AESO's role is to maintain safe, reliable and economic operation of the AIES. The AESO's planning responsibility includes determining the need for transmission system development and the manner in which that need is met. The AESO is also mandated to facilitate the interconnection of qualified market participants to the AIES. The AESO is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its needs identification documents.

How is ATCO involved?

ATCO is the TFO in the Fort McMurray area. While the AESO is responsible for identifying the need for transmission system development, ATCO is responsible for detailed siting and routing, constructing, operating and maintaining the associated transmission facilities. The AESO has directed ATCO to provide information to stakeholders on this proposed amendment and to file a facility proposal application with the AUC which will include a detailed description and location of the proposed transmission development.

You may not receive any information from ATCO because they are conducting more targeted mailouts. However, ATCO's materials, including detailed maps of the proposed routing and siting, are available at the following web pages on ATCO's website:

- http://www.atcoelectric.com/projects/ProjectPages/Birchwood-Creek-Substation-Transmission-Project
- http://www.atcoelectric.com/projects/ProjectPages/Ells-River-Substation-Transmission-Project
- http://www.atcoelectric.com/projects/ProjectPages/Ells-River-to-Birchwood-Creek-Interconnection-Project

Further Information

The AESO appreciates the views of stakeholders. Your comments and questions on the proposed amendment are encouraged. If you have any questions or comments regarding the AESO's proposed amendment to the NID Approval, please contact:

Megan Harris
AESO Stakeholder Relations
1-888-866-2959
stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca
2500, 330 - 5th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0L4

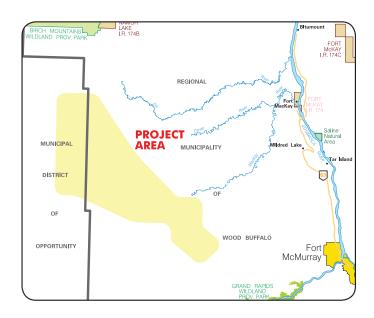
The AESO is committed to protecting your personal privacy in accordance with Alberta's Personal Information Protection Act. Any personal information collected by the AESO with regard to this project may be used to provide you with further information about the project, may be disclosed to the Alberta Utilities Commission (and as a result, may become public), and may also be disclosed to ATCO Electric Ltd. as the legal owner of transmission facilities in your area. If you have any questions about how the AESO will use and disclose your personal information, please contact us at 1-888-866-2959 or at stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca



Attachment 2 – TFO Packages

March 2013

Ells River and Birchwood Creek Interconnection Project



Selected Route

Following extensive consultation with landowners, occupants, agencies and other interested parties, ATCO Electric has selected a modified east route option for the Ells River and Birchwood Creek Interconnection project. This route is shown on the enclosed map.

In this update, you can learn about:

- · How the route was selected
- Location of the selected route
- Routing constraints and challenges
- Impact of feedback on the route
- Next steps in the consultation process
- Updated project timeline
- How to contact us

Consultation Update

In May 2012, we distributed information about the Ells River and Birchwood Creek Interconnection project to landowners, occupants, agencies and other interested parties, and invited their feedback on preliminary route options. A copy of this information is available on our website or by contacting us (please see page six for contact information).

Feedback obtained during personal consultations, combined with results from field studies and other information about the preliminary routes, were used to select and further refine the east route.

A detailed project map is enclosed. The map identifies the selected east route option. Routes that were rejected as a result of our consultation process and other factors following the first round of consultation, are also displayed.

How was the route adjusted?

ATCO Electric was directed by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) to prepare a facility proposal for the new development. As part of the facilities application process, ATCO Electric assessed route options for these facilities.

ATCO Electric identified a set of preliminary options for the project after studying available land-use information gathered from maps, aerial photos, field visits and meetings with agencies. Locations were chosen in an effort to minimize impacts on built-up areas, industrial operations and environmentally sensitive areas.

Preliminary options for the transmission line were subjected to extensive consultation to assess potential impacts on landowners, occupants, and interested parties. The results of the consultation process, as well as field studies and additional information, led to modifications of the east route, which was selected for further consideration.



Project Overview

If approved, this project will involve the construction of approximately 70 kilometres (km) of new 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line northwest of the city of Fort McMurray.

The new single-circuit transmission line will be called 9L95 and will connect the new Ells River and Birchwood Creek substations.

The selected east route is shown on the enclosed project map. Routes that were rejected as a result of our consultation process are also displayed.

Technical Updates

In May 2012, ATCO Electric mailed you an information package about the Ells River and Birchwood Creek interconnection project. In that package, the transmission line was described as being strung on one side of a steel lattice tower. Since that time, the structure type has been modified (please see page three). The transmission line will now be strung on H-frame structures in an effort to minimize project costs, reduce construction risk, and meet the required in service date of 2014 for Ells River. The typical right-of-way has also been modified to accomodate the new structure type (please see page four).

Project Need and Details

When upgrades to Alberta's electrical system are needed, they are identified by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO). The AESO has determined that an expansion of the transmission system is needed in the Fort McMurray area to serve developing electricity-intensive industrial growth. Oil sands extraction facilities and related industrial developments are proceeding into areas where there are currently no transmission facilities to provide electrical service and connect future industrial customers.

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 Need Overview included with this package, or visit www. aeso.ca. If you have any questions or concerns about the need for this project you may contact the AESO directly or you can make your concerns known to an ATCO Electric representative who will communicate them to the AESO on your behalf.

Impact of Feedback on Route Selection

Concerns and issues identified during consultations with landowners, occupants, and other interested parties are important to us. Consultation feedback was used in combination with other information to assess the impacts of each preliminary route option.

Some of the concerns raised during consultations can be mitigated while others cannot. We assess the nature of the concern, the specific circumstances involved, and our ability to respond to and mitigate associated impacts. This assessment was combined with other information to modify the east route, which was selected for further consideration.

To date, a variety of concerns have been identified, but the majority of these can be grouped into two broad categories: impacts on the environment and impacts on industrial operations.

Impacts on the Environment

Our planning criteria follow environmental regulations and regional planning guidelines. We selected a route that follows existing disturbances, where possible, in an effort to minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive areas.

We aim to minimize wetland and stream crossings, and disturbance to wet or steep areas, wildlife habitat and recreational use. ATCO Electric is committed to mitigating environmental concerns on the selected route in accordance with the expectations of the appropriate regulators.

Impacts on Industrial Operations

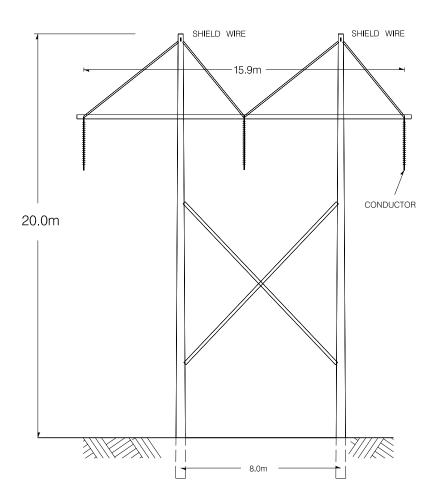
ATCO Electric makes every effort to coordinate our activities with industrial operations. In the Fort McMurray area, we are working to ensure our route and construction activities cause minimal disruption to built-up areas, oil and gas facilities, municipal roads and communication facilities.



Typical Single Circuit "H-Frame" Structure

The new transmission line connecting the Ells River and Birchwood Creek substations will be strung on one side of single-circuit 'H-Frame' structures (shown below). The typical H-Frame structure will be a design, about 20 metres (m) tall. The distance between structures will be 200 m.

Non-typical structures with taller or additional poles, anchors, and/or guy wires are required where the line ends or bends, at corners, and to maneuver around and over obstacles. In all cases, minimum clearance will meet or exceed the requirements of provincial safety regulations.



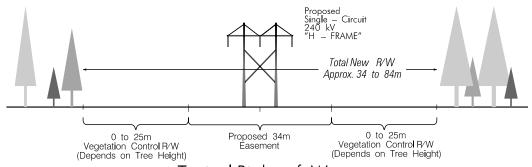


Typical Right-of-Way

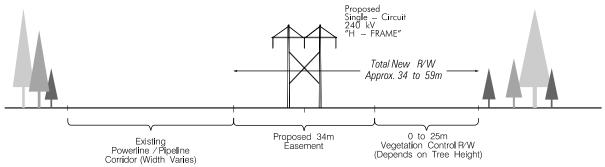
Transmission lines are located in corridors that have been cleared of brush and other obstacles. These are called a 'right-of-way'. A right-of-way must have a minimum width to ensure safety and allow for construction and ongoing access for maintenance purposes.

The width of the right-of-way, and the position of tranmission structures within it, will depend on a variety of factors including the type of structure that is used. The revised typical right-of-ways associated with the Ells River and Birchwood Creek interconnection project are shown below.

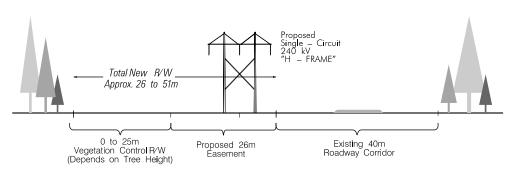




Typical Right—of—Way Paralleling Linear Corridor (Powerline and /or Pipeline)



Typical Right—of—Way Paralleling Roadways





Routing Constraints and Challenges

Land features and land use in the project area had a significant influence on where preliminary route options were positioned.

The project area is predominantly Crown land with considerable oil and gas development. The modified east route was identified in an effort to minimize impacts on industrial operations and the environment.

Special consideration was given to ensuring the newly constructed transmission line would follow existing linear features, such as roads and highways, and property boundaries. Other constraints on route selection included multiple wetlands, sensitive streams and wildlife areas.

Temporary Workspace

Temporary workspace may be required along the edge of the right-of-way and in other selected locations. If needed, this temporary workspace will be used to install the structures and string the transmission line.

At corners or locations where the line bends, additional areas may be required to string the transmission line and accommodate the movement of equipment. This temporary workspace may extend beyond the right-of-way by up to 200 metres (m) by 50 m.

The exact locations of all temporary workspace and structures have yet to be determined, and all dimensions may vary with final plans. Landowners will be compensated for temporary workspace located outside of the boundaries of the right-of-way. Arrangements for temporary workspace will be discussed and negotiated with landowners individually.

What are the next steps in the consultation process?

If you have an interest in lands located on or beside the selected east route, you will be contacted by an ATCO Electric representative to discuss questions or concerns about the project and to provide input.

This second round of personal consultations will begin in April 2013. During these meetings, an ATCO Electric representative will provide specific details about the design specifications, right-of-way location and construction methods.

Feedback may be used to further refine the east route to further reduce potential impacts. Route refinements typically involve localized adjustments to the line location or position of structures in response to newly identified concerns and constraints.

If you are not in the vicinity of the east route, you will not be contacted during our second round of personal consultations. Project updates are available on the ATCO Electric website and you can reach us by phone or e-mail if you would like additional information (please see our contact information on page six).

When consultations have been completed and the route has been finalized, ATCO Electric will submit a facilities application to the Alberta Utilities Commission to obtain approval for the construction and operation of the proposed facilities. For more information about how you can participate in the process, please see the enclosed brochure entitled *Public Involvement in Needs or Facilities Applications*.

Updated Timeline*

April 2013

Consultation with landowners and agencies

May 2013

Submission of the facilities application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)

November 2013

If approval is granted by the AUC, construction will commence

February 2014

Facilities completed and operating

*Timing may be adjusted to reflect final plans.

Contact Us:

Your comments and concerns are important to us. Please contact us toll free: 1-855-420-5775 or direct:

Laine Watson, Project Planner

ATCO Electric 10035-105 Street Edmonton, AB T5J 2V6

Phone: 780-508-4589 **Fax:** 780-420-5030

E-mail: consultation@atcoelectric.com

Website: www.atcoelectric.com

ATCO Electric

Albertans count on us for the safe, reliable and cost-effective delivery of electricity to their homes, farms and businesses. We have delivered electricity to Albertans for 85 years. Headquartered in Edmonton, ATCO Electric has 38 service offices serving nearly two-thirds of the province in northern and east-central Alberta.

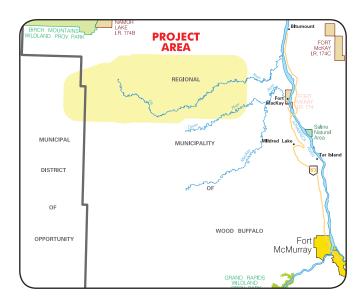
We help keep the lights on across the province by building, operating and maintaining approximately 72,000 kilometres of transmission and distribution power lines. We also operate an additional 10,000 kilometres of distribution power lines on behalf of Rural Electrification Associations.

We are committed to responsible development and environmental practices. We conduct an open and transparent consultation process, carefully considering the impacts to landowners, communities and the environment.



April 2013

Ells River Substation Transmission Project



Consultation Update

In May 2012, we distributed information about the Ells River substation transmission project to landowners, occupants, agencies and other interested parties, and invited their feedback on preliminary route options. A copy of the brochure is available on our website or by contacting us (please see page four).

Feedback obtained during personal consultations combined with results from field studies and other information about the preliminary routes was used to select and further refine the North Route.

A detailed project map is enclosed. The map identifies the selected North Route option and the substation location. Routes that were rejected as a result of our consultation process and other factors following the first round of consultation, are also displayed.

Selected Route

Following extensive consultation with landowners, occupants, agencies and other interested parties, ATCO Electric has selected an adjusted North Route option for the Ells River substation transmission project. This route is shown on the enclosed map.

In this update, you can learn about:

- How the route was adjusted
- Location of the adjusted route and substation location
- · Routing constraints and challenges
- · Impact of feedback on route adjustment
- Next steps in the consultation process
- Updated project timeline
- How to contact us

How was the route adjusted?

ATCO Electric was directed by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) to prepare a facility proposal for the new development. As part of the facilities application process, ATCO Electric assessed site and route options for these facilities.

ATCO Electric identified a set of preliminary options for the project after studying available land-use information gathered from maps, aerial photos, field visits and meetings with agencies. Locations were chosen in an effort to minimize impacts on built-up areas, industrial operations and environmentally sensitive areas.

Preliminary options for the transmission line were subjected to extensive consultation to assess potential impacts on landowners, occupants, and interested parties. The results of the consultation process, as well as field studies and additional information, led to an adjustment of the North Route, which was selected for further consideration.



Project Overview

If approved, this project will involve the construction of a new substation and approximately 70 kilometres (km) of new 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line.

The new Ells River substation (to be called 2079S) will be located north of the Dover River and northwest of the city of Fort McMurray, in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The new double-circuit transmission line will be called 9L08/9L76 and will connect the new substation to an existing transmission line.

The selected North Route is shown on the enclosed project map. Routes that were rejected as a result of our consultation process are also displayed.

Routing Constraints and Challenges

Land features and land use in the project area had a significant influence on where preliminary route options were positioned.

The project area is predominantly Crown land with considerable oil and gas development. The adjusted route was identified in an effort to minimize impacts on industrial operations and the environment.

Special consideration was given to ensuring the newly constructed transmission line would follow existing linear features, such as roads and highways, and property boundaries. Other constraints on route selection included multiple wetlands, sensitive streams and wildlife areas.

Impact of Feedback on Route Selection

Concerns and issues identified during consultations with landowners, occupants, and other interested parties are important to us. Consultation feedback was used in combination with other information to assess the impacts of each preliminary route option.

Some of the concerns raised during consultations can be mitigated while others cannot. We assess the nature of the concern, the specific circumstances involved, and our ability to respond to and mitigate associated impacts. This assessment was combined with other information to develop an adjustment to the North Route, which was selected for further consideration.

To date, a variety of concerns have been identified, but the majority of these can be grouped into two broad categories: impacts on industrial operations and impacts on the environment.

Impacts on the Environment

Our planning criteria follow environmental regulations and regional planning guidelines. We developed an adjusted route and site option that follows existing disturbances, where possible, in an effort to minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive areas.

We aim to minimize wetland and stream crossings, and disturbance to wet or steep areas, wildlife habitat and recreational use. ATCO Electric is committed to mitigating environmental concerns on the selected route in accordance with the expectations of the appropriate regulators.

Impacts on Industrial Operations

ATCO Electric makes every effort to coordinate our activities with industrial operations. In the Fort McMurray area, we are working to ensure our route and construction activities cause minimal disruption to built-up areas, oil and gas facilities, municipal roads and communication facilities.



Temporary Workspace

Temporary workspace may be required along the edge of the right-of-way and in other selected locations. If needed, this temporary workspace will be used to install the structures and string the transmission line.

At corners or locations where the line bends, additional areas may be required to string the transmission line and accommodate the movement of equipment. This temporary workspace may extend beyond the right-of-way by up to 200 metres (m) by 50 m.

The exact locations of all temporary workspace and structures have yet to be determined, and all dimensions may vary with final plans. Landowners will be compensated for temporary workspace located outside of the boundaries of the right-of-way. Arrangements for temporary workspace will be discussed and negotiated with landowners individually.



What are the next steps in the consultation process?

If you have an interest in lands located on or beside the selected North Route and/ or the substation location, you will be contacted by an ATCO Electric representative to discuss questions or concerns about the project and to provide input.

This second round of personal consultations will begin in April 2013. During these meetings, an ATCO Electric representative will provide specific details about the design specifications, right-of-way location and construction methods.

Feedback may be used to further refine the North Route to reduce potential impacts. Route refinements typically involve localized adjustments to the line location or position of structures in response to newly identified concerns and constraints.

If you are not in the vicinity of the North Route, you will not be contacted during our second round of personal consultations. Project updates are available on the ATCO Electric website and you can reach us by phone or e-mail if you would like additional information (please see our contact information on page four).

When consultations have been completed and the route has been finalized, ATCO Electric will submit a facilities application to the Alberta Utilities Commission to obtain approval for the construction and operation of the proposed facilities. For more information about how you can participate in the process, please see the enclosed brochure entitled *Public Involvement in Needs or Facilities Applications*.

Updated Timeline*

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Contact Us:

Your comments and concerns are important to us. Please contact us toll free: 1-855-420-5775 or direct:

Laine Watson Project Planner

ATCO Electric 10035-105 Street Edmonton, AB T5J 2V6

Phone: 780-508-4589 **Fax:** 780-420-5030

E-mail: consultation@atcoelectric.com

Website: www.atcoelectric.com

ATCO Electric

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We help keep the lights on across the province by building, operating and maintaining approximately 72,000 kilometres of transmission and distribution power lines. We also operate an additional 10,000 kilometres of distribution power lines on behalf of Rural Electrification Associations.

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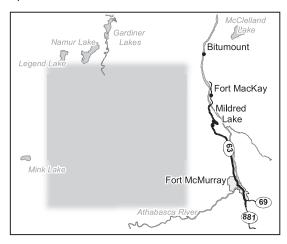


Attachment 3 – Notification of Filing Advertisement – Final Proof

Notification of AESO Regulatory Filing of an Amendment to the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document Approval

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) advises you of its intention to file an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to amend the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document (NW FMM NID) Approval U2012-271, on or after June 4, 2013.

The amendment will seek approval from the AUC to replace the previously approved 240 kV double-circuit transmission line with a single-circuit strung between the proposed Birchwood Creek 960S and Ells River 2079S with a single-circuit transmission line. The AESO will also be providing an updated development sequence.



The shaded area indicates the approximate area where the proposed transmission development is needed. In separate applications called Facility Applications, ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO), the transmission facilities owner (TFO) in the Fort McMurray area, will describe the specific routes and sites for the proposed transmission development, and request AUC approval to construct and operate these transmission facilities. The specific substation sites and transmission line routes applied for by ATCO may extend beyond the area shown.

The AESO and ATCO provided notification of the proposed NW FMM NID Approval amendment to stakeholders, including residents, occupants and landowners, from March to May 2013. The AESO has considered feedback gathered from stakeholders, and technical and cost considerations, and will apply to the AUC for approval of the amendment. Once filed, the NW FMM NID Approval amendment will be posted on the AESO website at http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/23414.html

Please visit our website, www.aeso.ca for more information, or contact the AESO at 1-888-866-2959 or stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca



