

December 13, 2019

JP Mousseau
Executive Director - Facilities
Alberta Utilities Commission
Eau Claire Tower
1400, 600 Third Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0G5

Dear Mr. Mousseau:

Re: **Application of the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) for Cancellation of the Needs Identification Document (NID) Approvals for the BluEarth Hand Hills Wind Energy Connection and the Suncor Hand Hills Wind Energy Connection**

Introduction and Background

On May 7, 2015, the Alberta Utilities Commission (Commission) approved the AESO's BluEarth Hand Hills Wind Energy Connection NID and the AESO's Suncor Hand Hills Wind Energy Connection NID respectively as NID Approval 2482-D02-2015 and 2482 D03-2015 (individually referred to as NID Approval and collectively as the NID Approvals).

The NID Approvals approved the following connections for the BluEarth Hand Hills Wind Power Facility (BluEarth Facility) and Suncor Hand Hills Wind Power Facility (Suncor Facility) to the Alberta interconnected electric system (AIES):

BluEarth Facility Connection

- adding one 240 kilovolt (kV) circuit to connect the BluEarth Facility and the existing Coyote Lake 963S substation; and
- modifying the Coyote Lake 963S substation, including adding two 240 kV circuit breakers.

Suncor Facility Connection

- adding the Mother Mountain 2055S substation, including three 240 kV circuit breakers;
- adding two 240 kV circuits to connect the Mother Mountain 2055S substation and the existing 240 kV transmission line 9L94; and
- adding one 240 kV circuit to connect the Mother Mountain 2055S substation and the Suncor Facility.

In Decision 2482-D01-2015¹, issued May 7, 2015, the Commission approved the AESO's NID applications² and issued the NID Approvals approving the need to connect the BluEarth Facility and the Suncor Facility to the AIES.

Subsequently, as the project failed to meet critical milestones in the AESO Connection Process, on June 12, 2019, the AESO cancelled the request for system access service for the BluEarth Facility. On August 14, 2019, the AESO received a notification from Suncor Energy Inc. (Suncor), attached as Attachment 1, requesting the AESO to cancel the request for system access service for the approved Suncor Facility as there was no longer a need for the connection.

Relief Requested

In accordance with the NID Approvals, which state that, "the Commission may review this approval, in whole or in part, upon its own motion or upon application by an interested party, in accordance with Section 10 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*," the AESO is applying to the Commission for cancellation of the NID Approvals pursuant to Section 10 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

Directions to ATCO and Request to Combine

On September 26, 2019, the AESO directed the transmission facility owner, in this case ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) to apply to the Commission for cancellation of the facilities-related approvals that were granted as a result of the NID Approvals, no later than 30 business days after having received the NID Approval cancellation application number from the AESO. The AESO and ATCO have agreed to coordinate submission of this application with ATCO's application for cancellation of the applicable facilities-related approvals, and the AESO requests that the Commission combine and consider the applications in a single proceeding as contemplated by Section 15.4 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.

Stakeholder Notification

With respect to stakeholder notification, Section 4(b) of Appendix A2 of Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments* states that "[i]n the event that the [AESO] decides not to proceed with a needs identification document application or an abbreviated needs identification document application for which a stakeholder notification has been distributed, the [AESO] must notify stakeholders of this decision in writing."

The AESO has directed ATCO to assist the AESO in providing notification to previously notified stakeholders who were part of the participant involvement programs³ conducted by the AESO. The AESO developed a one page cancellation notice to be distributed by ATCO to previously notified stakeholders. A copy of the cancellation notice was posted to the AESO website.⁴ A similar notice was published in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter on November 28, 2019. Copies of the cancellation notice on the AESO website and in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter have been included as Attachments 2 and 3,

¹ Decision 2482-D01-2015, *Alberta Electric System Operator BluEarth Hand Hills Wind Energy Connection Needs Identification Document*, ATCO Electric Ltd. *Hand Hills Transmission Project Facility Application*, *Alberta Electric System Operator Suncor Hand Hills Wind Energy Connection Needs Identification Document*, ATCO Electric Ltd. *Mother Mountain Transmission Project Facility Application*.

² Proceeding 2482, Exhibits 0001.00.ISO-2482 and 0090.00ISO-2482

³ Proceeding 2482, Exhibits 0001.00.ISO-2482 – Appendix B and 0090.00ISO-2482 – Appendix D

⁴ <https://www.aeso.ca/stakeholder-engagement/transmission-projects/blueearth-hand-hills-wind-energy-connection/> and <https://www.aeso.ca/stakeholder-engagement/transmission-projects/suncor-hand-hills-wind-energy-connection/>

respectively. ATCO has advised the AESO that it has mailed out its project cancellation letter and the AESO's cancellation notice on November 27, 2019. A copy of the ATCO's cancellation letter has been included as Attachment 4.

ATCO has advised that stakeholders have not identified any concerns or objections regarding the cancellation of the connections the BluEarth Facility or the Suncor Facility. Similarly, the AESO has not received any indication of concerns or objections about the cancellation of the BluEarth Facility connection or Suncor Facility connection.

We trust the foregoing to be satisfactory. Please contact the following individual with any questions or concerns:

Brenda J. Hill
Regulatory Administrator
need.applications@aeso.ca
403-539-2850

Sincerely,

Electronically submitted by

Robert Davidson, P.Eng.
Director, Customer Grid Access

Enclosure:

Attachment 1 – Suncor's Cancellation Request (August 14, 2019)
Attachment 2 – AESO Cancellation Notice (November 2019)
Attachment 3 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Cancellation Notice (November 28, 2019)
Attachment 4 – ATCO Project Cancellation Letter (November 27, 2019)



Suncor Energy Inc.
P.O. Box 2844
150 – 6th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 3E3
Tel 403-296-8000
Fax 403-296-3030
www.suncor.com

August 14, 2019

Alberta Electric System Operator
2500, 330 Fifth Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0L4

Attention: Steve Muenchrath – Program Manager, Transmission Connection Projects

Dear Steve,

**Re: PAA Cancellation for the following project:
P635 – Suncor Hand Hills Wind Energy Project**

On October 6, 2006, Suncor Energy Products Inc., which has since been amalgamated with Suncor Energy Inc. (“**Suncor**”), submitted a Preliminary Assessment Application (“**PAA**”) to the Alberta Electric System Operator (“**AESO**”) for P635 (the “**Project**”). The Project has since progressed through the AESO’s Connection Process and is currently in Stage 5.

Suncor has since performed further evaluations of the Projects based on its transmission connection alternative as well as other project success metrics. At this time, Suncor would like to request the AESO to withdraw the PAA for P635. Suncor will submit a separate SASR should a need arise to re-evaluate in the future.

Suncor would like to thank the AESO for supporting the Projects in progressing through the Connection Process. We look forward to continuing to work with the AESO in advancing our priority projects.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Hui at (403) 296-8440 or via e-mail at behui@suncor.com.

Yours truly,

Suncor Energy Inc.

Dan Visser, P.Eng., M.Sc.
Manager Project Development and Engineering – Renewable Energy

Hand Hills Wind Energy Connections

Stakeholder Update – Project Cancellation

November 2019

Project Cancellation

The purpose of this update is to inform stakeholders that the BER Hand Hills Wind LP and Suncor Energy Inc. requests for system access service to connect the approved BluEarth Hand Hills Wind Power Facility and Suncor Hand Hills Wind Power Facility in the Hanna area have been cancelled.

The Alberta Utilities Commission originally approved the Alberta Electric System Operator's (AESO) *BluEarth Hand Hills Wind Energy Connection Needs Identification Document* and *Suncor Hand Hills Wind Energy Connection Needs Identification Document* on May 7, 2015. The approvals included the following transmission developments:

- Add one 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the BluEarth Hand Hills Wind Power Facility and the existing Coyote Lake 963S substation;
- Modify the existing Coyote Lake 963S substation, including adding two 240 kV circuit breakers;
- Add the Mother Mountain 2055S substation, including three 240 kV circuit breakers;
- Add two 240 kV transmission lines to connect the Mother Mountain 2055S substation and the existing 240 kV transmission line 9L94;
- Add one 240 kV transmission line to connect the Mother Mountain 2044S substation and the Suncor Hand Hills Wind Power Facility; and
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

On June 12, 2019, BER Hand Hills Wind LP's request for system access service was cancelled. Subsequently, on August 14, 2019 Suncor Energy Inc.'s request for system access service was cancelled. The AESO intends to apply to the Commission for cancellation of the needs identification document approvals in late 2019.

The AESO's project-related information is available on the AESO's website at www.aeso.ca and follow the path Stakeholder Engagement > Transmission projects

Who Is the AESO?

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

For Further Information

Please contact the AESO through stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca or call our stakeholder relations toll-free line at 1-888-866-2959 if you have any questions.



November 28, 2019

AESO Stakeholder Newsletter

Hand Hills Wind Energy Connections – Cancellation Notice

The AESO would like to inform stakeholders that the BER Hand Hills Wind LP and Suncor Energy Inc. requests for system access service to connect the approved BluEarth Hand Hills Wind Power Facility and Suncor Hand Hills Wind Power Facility in the Hana area has been canceled.

The Alberta Utilities Commission originally approved the AESO's *BluEarth Hand Hills Wind Energy Connection Needs Identification Document* and *Suncor Hand Hills Wind Energy Connection Needs Identification Document* on May 7, 2015. The NID approval included the following transmission developments:

- Add one 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the BluEarth Hand Hills Wind Power Facility and the existing Coyote Lake 963S substation;
- Modify the existing Coyote Lake 963S substation, including adding two 240 kV circuit breakers;
- Add the Mother Mountain 2055S substation, including three 240 kV circuit breakers;
- Add two 240 kV transmission lines to connect the Mother Mountain 2055S substation and the existing 240 kV transmission line 9L94;
- Add one 240 kV transmission line to connect the Mother Mountain 2044S substation and the Suncor Hand Hills Wind Power Facility; and
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

The AESO has posted a Cancellation Notice for these projects on its website. Please [click here](#) to view the document or visit the AESO website at www.aeso.ca and follow the path Stakeholder Engagement > Transmission projects.



November 27, 2019

RE: Cancellation of Two Projects

Hand Hills Transmission Project & Mother Mountain Transmission Project

This letter provides you with updates on the Hand Hills transmission project & Mother Mountain transmission project. In December 2012, ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) sent you information regarding the projects.

At this time, ATCO would like to inform you that the projects are not proceeding. Therefore, both ATCO will be requesting that the AUC cancel all the Permit and Licence approvals obtained for these projects.

ATCO obtained these approvals:

- 9L12 – Mother Mountain 2055S Substation to Hand Hills 605S Substation
- 9L38 – Mother Mountain 2055S Substation to Highland 572S Substation
- 9L94 – Coyote Lake 963S Substation to Mother Mountain 2055S Substation
- Alterations to Coyote Lake 963S Substation
- New Mother Mountain 2055S Substation

For your reference a Route Mosaic Map is enclosed.

In addition, the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is also intending on submitting cancellation of the needs identification document to the AUC as well. See the enclosed AESO Stakeholder Update – Project Cancellation for more information.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Hand Hills transmission project and the Mother Mountain transmission project, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Laurie Jenkin

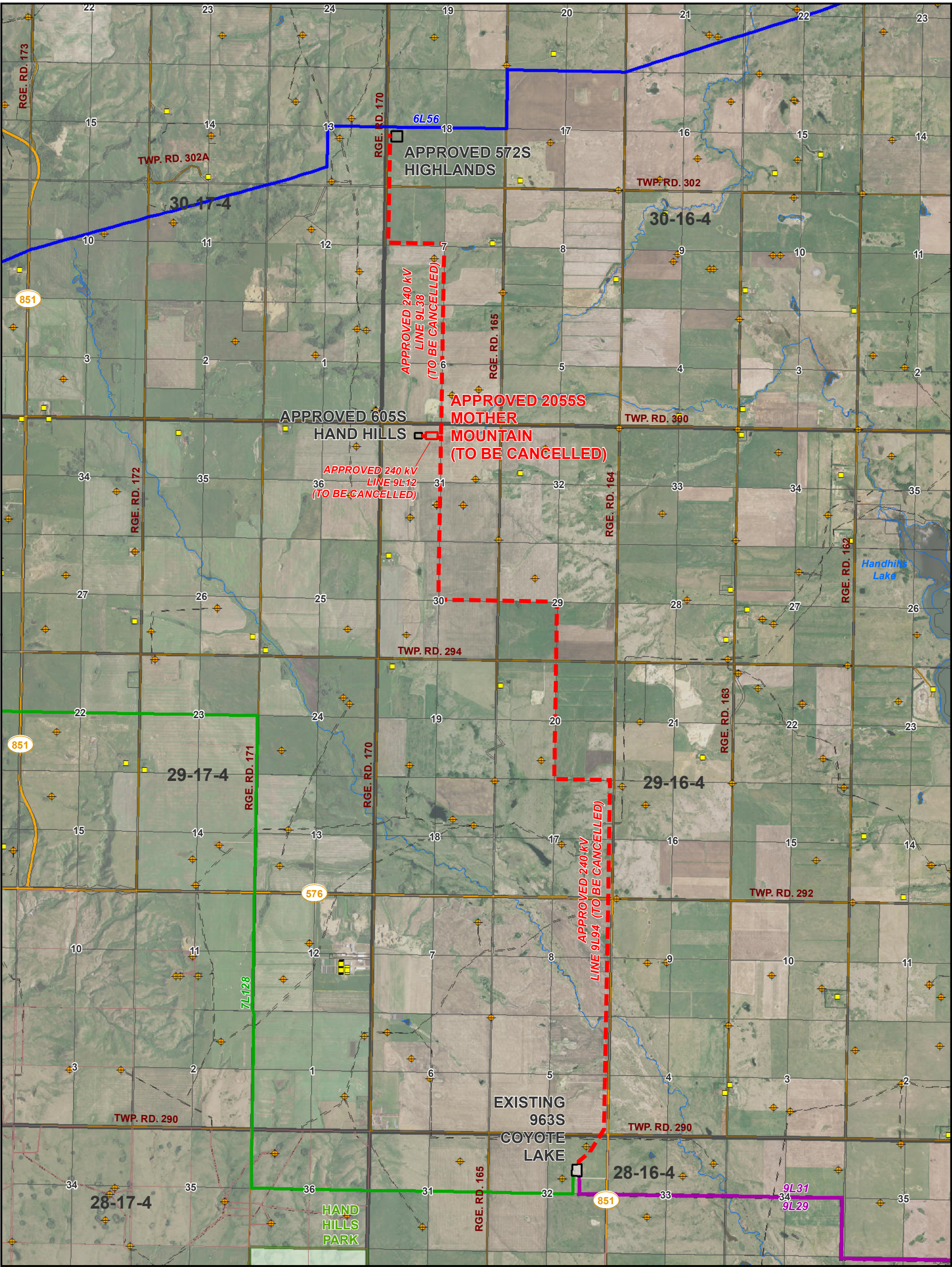
Project Planner ATCO

Toll Free: 1-855-420-5775

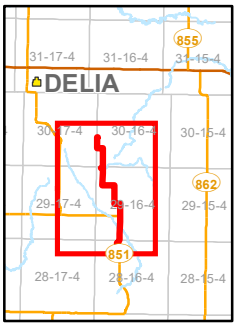
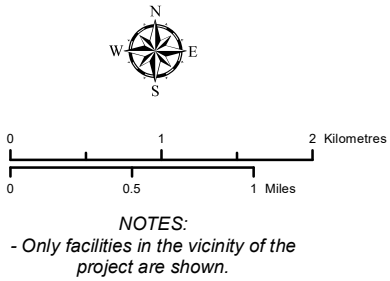
E-mail: consultation@atcoelectric.com

Enclosed:

- Approved Route Mosaic (Cancellation Project), Drawing: RS-9L94-N1-01
- AESO Stakeholder Update – Hand Hills Wind Energy Connections - Project Cancellation, November 2019



- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| Approved 240 kV Route (To Be Cancelled) | Secondary Highway |
| Approved Substation (To Be Cancelled) | Road |
| Residence | Waterbody |
| Existing Substation | Watercourse |
| Existing 240 kV Transmission Line | Provincial Park |
| Existing 144 kV Transmission Line | |
| Existing 72 kV Transmission Line | |
| Surface Well Site | |
| Current Disposition | |
| Existing Easement R/W | |



ATCO

Hand Hills Transmission Project & Mother Mountain Transmission Project
APPROVED ROUTE MOSAIC (CANCELLATION PROJECT)

November 2019

RS-9L94 - N1 - 01

CREDIT NOTES
Alberta Data Partnerships, IHS Markit, Imagery: Valtus Views 2015

This map is the property of ATCO. This map is not intended to be used in place of Alberta One Call.
Always practice extreme caution when near power



Hand Hills Wind Energy Connections

Stakeholder Update – Project Cancellation

November 2019

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