

ALTALINK TRANSMISSION LINE

Appointment – Nikki Heck, Scott Schriener, Hudson Foley and Gerry McNabb, AltaLink

AltaLink provided a presentation to the Committee outlining methods that have been utilized in an attempt to decrease the number of bird collisions at the Big Lake transmission lines (Line 747L). Prior to instituting these methods AltaLink conducted a risk assessment by using the Triple Bottom Line Approach:

- Economic Reality;
- Social-political Reality; and
- Biological and Environmental Reality

Although the area in question is one of the high-risk areas for bird collisions the numbers do not warrant a full study, which would be a costly endeavour. AltaLink felt that existing studies on transmission lines in similar habitats were sufficient to approximate bird collisions with the 747L line. Therefore, devices such as bird flight diverters and firefly markers have been installed on the shield wire to assist in decreasing bird collisions.

It is the opinion of AltaLink that based on this area being a high-risk area, and the commitments provided from the City and Alberta Parks and Tourism that relocating the line would be feasible. AltaLink provided an estimate of a base case route relocation that would cost approximately \$300,000 (in 2007 dollars). City Administration worked with Alberta Parks and Tourism in 2007 and proposed an alternate route, that they felt would further reduce the visual impacts, and that would have a total cost of \$850,000 (in 2007 dollars). It was discussed that based on this route a three way cost commitment of approximately \$300,000 each would move the project into the preliminary design phase. Alberta Parks committed \$300,000 to the project in 2007. AltaLink has confirmed that they are committed up to a maximum of \$400,000 to the project. City Council has not committed funding from the City at this point.

Estimates were provided for various above ground relocation routes as well for an estimate to move the transmission line underground in 2007. AltaLink agreed to provide new estimates in 2008/2009 dollars for these options as well as a 'under sidewalk' option that had not been looked at before. Each solution above the cost of the preferred AltaLink route, would be at a cost to the City with the least expensive being the relocation of the existing line above ground. AltaLink further clarified that it would not be prepared to bear the cost of moving the line without partners as it could not justify the sole expense to the Energy and Utilities Board (on behalf of its ratepayers).

AltaLink provided answers to various questions, which were previously submitted by the Committee.

It was the decision of the Committee to forward this matter to the AltaLink Transmission Line Report Subcommittee to craft a paragraph indicating the Committee's opinion on the matter. The paragraph will indicate that the Committee supports the relocation of the line at reasonable cost in a manner that preserves the partnerships that are in place to cost-share, therefore, minimizing any tax impacts to the residents. In terms of priorities, it was generally felt that the social benefits to residents and the aesthetics of line in proximity to the Lois Hole Provincial Park ranked higher than simple concern for bird mortality, although two members felt the latter aspect should not be ignored. C. De La Mare agreed to Chair the Subcommittee.