HEARTLAND TRANSMISSION PROJECT

ALTALINK | EPCOR

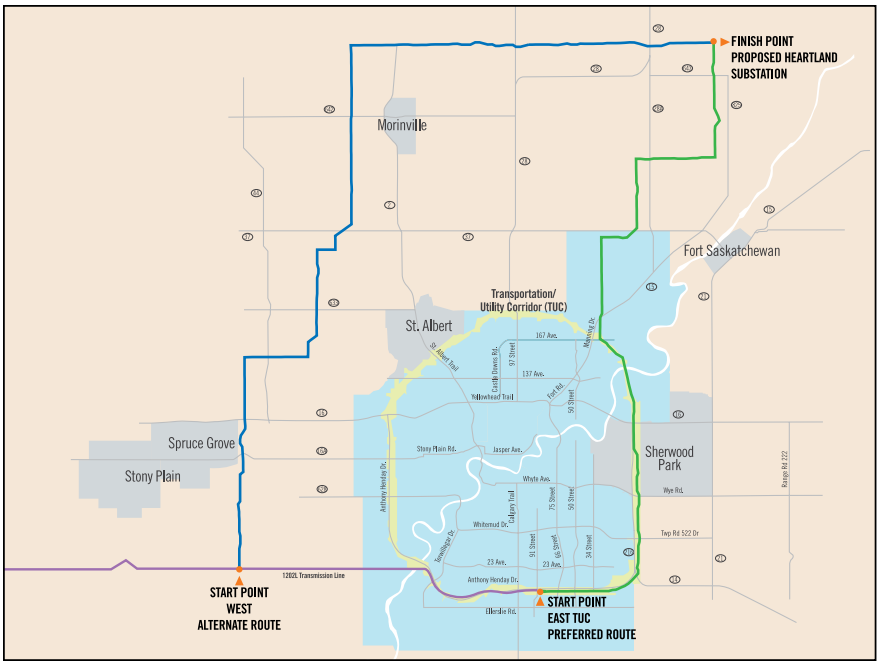
July 2010 UPDATE | Volume 2 | Issue 2

Consultation Update

With the announcement of the preferred and alternate routes in January 2010, we launched into the second phase of the Heartland Team's public consultation. Our aim was to meet and talk with potentially affected individuals and interested groups, and to listen and respond to your questions and concerns. Whether it was during a home visit, at an Open House or Information Centre, or a Community League meeting, people were given the opportunity to discuss their questions and comments directly with Heartland team members.

By spring 2010, we completed nearly 4,000 personal consultations, comprising the first and second phases of consultation. Consultations also took place at the seven Open Houses we hosted across the Capital Region in January and February 2010, where the Heartland Team welcomed nearly 600 attendees. The Open Houses included numerous information stations with team members ready to discuss *Route Selection, Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF), General Project Information, Environment*, *Land and Compensation*, and *Underground Transmission*.

The Heartland project continues to generate questions and feedback on a number of topics. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their comments and input with us thus far, all of which will be considered in our ongoing planning of the project.



This is a simplified map of the preferred and alternate routes. For a detailed map, please visit our website at www.heartlandtransmission.ca.

A Heartland team member explains routing details at an Open House.

How Your Input is Guiding Route Refinements

During the first phase of consultation, your feedback helped us to identify the preferred and alternate routes having the least overall impact. For the second phase of consultation, stakeholder input is being considered in refining each of those routes to further reduce potential impacts. These refinements are currently ongoing and will include adjustments to line and tower locations, the identification of additional routing constraints and potential mitigation measures. In recent months, we have been engaged in detailed discussions with a number of landowners along the East TUC route and the West route, listening to their concerns and responding to suggestions.

Consultations with landowners and further studies will continue over the coming weeks. Our aim is to update residents along the preferred and alternate routes about finalized routing changes prior to submitting our Facility Application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC).

Overhead Line to be Recommended in Facility Application

Over the past two years of consultation with the public about the proposed Heartland project, stakeholders have shared their comments and concerns with us on many topics, such as Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) and potential visual impacts, as well as associated potential effects on property value. Through personal consultations, open houses, information centres and other means, the Heartland Team has provided additional information regarding these and other issues. After much consideration and analysis, the Heartland Team has concluded that an overhead transmission line solution along the East TUC route meets all project and regulatory requirements, and has the least overall impact, taking into account all relevant factors.

In our Facility Application to the Alberta Utilities Commission, we will include two options for the Heartland Transmission Project:

- **Recommended Option:** a 500 kV double-circuit overhead line along the East TUC route.
- **Alternate Option:** a 500 kV double-circuit overhead line along the West Route.

While the Heartland Team will not be recommending underground construction in the Facility Application, due to the high cost compared to the benefits, we will include complete information on a stakeholder-requested underground option in our Facility Application for the AUC to consider. This option includes a 20-kilometre section of underground transmission line within the East TUC, and 45 km of a 500 kV double-circuit overhead line.

A monopole tower structure will also be included in our Facility Application as another potential option to reduce visual impact within the 20-km section of the East TUC.

The AUC will consider our request for approval to proceed with the recommended option, and will determine whether it is in the public interest for a portion of the line to be underground, or a monopole option to be adopted.

In addition to the 500 kV routes, the Facility Application will include other necessary facilities. Please see the back page for more details.

Once our Facility Application has been filed in the fall of 2010, interested residents and groups will be able to access a copy on the Heartland Project's website at **www.heartlandtransmission.ca** and on the AUC's website at www.auc.ab.ca.

Underground Study Update

During the past year of public consultation for the Heartland Transmission Project, many residents along the proposed routes expressed their preference for burying the line. In response, the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) initiated a study to determine the technical feasibility of using underground transmission for a portion of a larger 500 kV transmission project.

On February 24, 2010, the AESO-commissioned underground study was released to the public. The study determined that an underground cable system is technically feasible with the condition that further cable testing be done to ensure the cable can operate in Alberta's cold weather conditions. The study is available on the AESO's website at www.aeso.ca or on the Heartland website at www.heartlandtransmission.ca.

The Heartland team continues to work in cooperation with the AESO on further engineering development for underground transmission.

Overhead Tower Options

Updated Tower Design

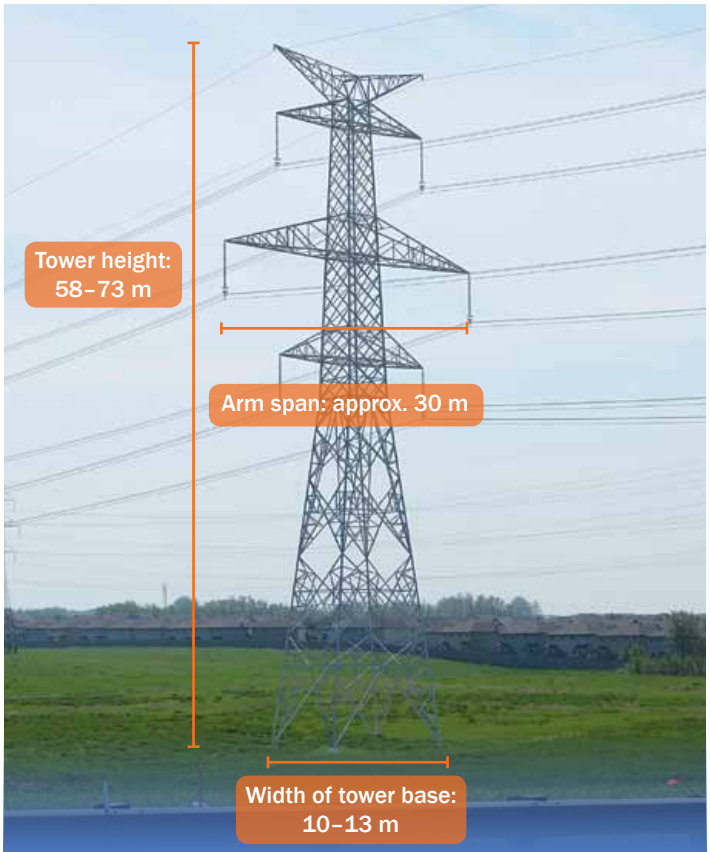
Throughout the design phase of the towers, the Heartland Project Team considered several alternatives, including lattice, tubular, and monopole options. In the early stages of the Heartland project, a design of the double-circuit lattice tower (as shown in our January 2010 newsletter) was a preferred option. This design would have allowed one circuit operating at 240 kV and the other circuit at 500 kV. This requirement has been revisited as the Heartland Project is now to operate both circuits at 500 kV from the outset.

A revised and lower-cost design that is about 10 to 13 metres taller, but about 15 metres narrower, and which uses approximately 30% less steel is now possible, and will be recommended in our Facility Application.

In addition to the proposed new lattice tower, we are providing information in this newsletter about a monopole structure. Monopole towers have been used in high-density areas as these structures can be perceived to have a lower visual impact than lattice towers in these settings. (See images on next page). The monopole tower will be included in our Facility Application as another potential option to reduce visual impact within the 20-km section of the East TUC.

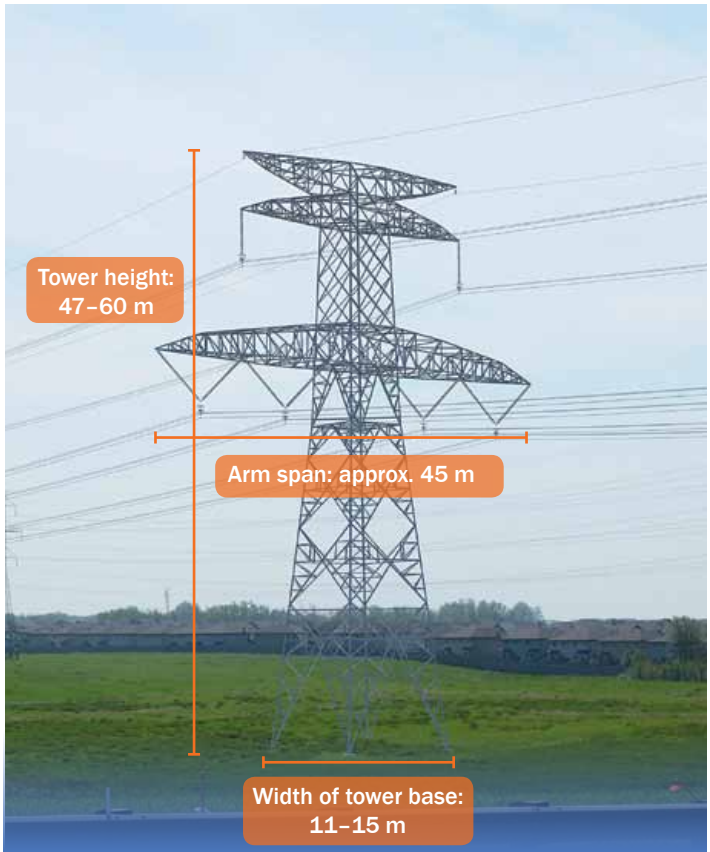
In August we will be hosting several public Information sessions, dedicated to the topic of towers. We hope to see you at one of the sessions as they provide an opportunity to learn more about the tower options and to share your feedback with us. Please see the back page for locations, dates and times.

New Lattice Tower (to be recommended)

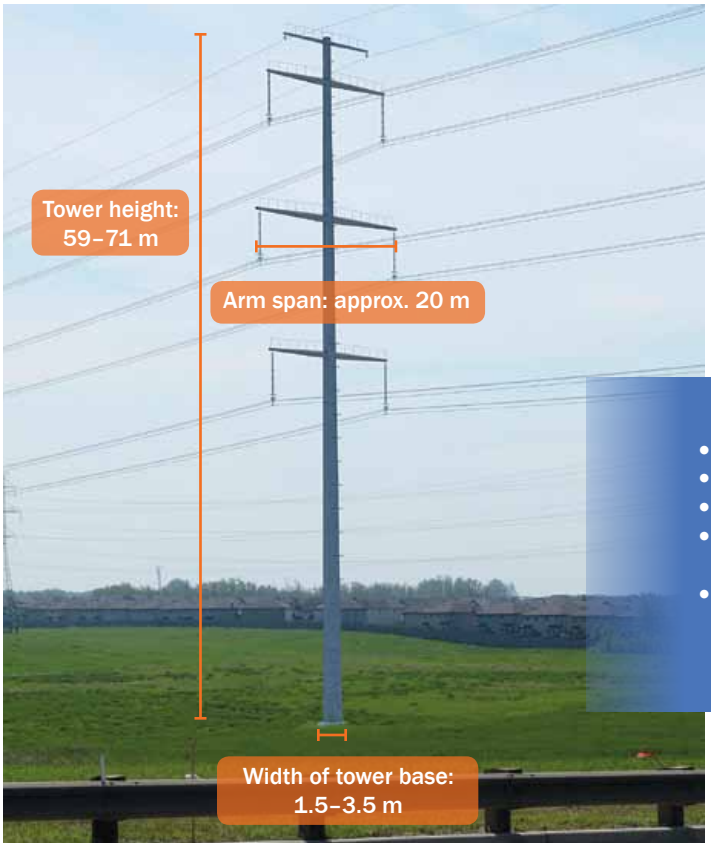


- *Narrower structure and smaller tower base than original tower*
- *Minimizes rate impact to Albertans as tower requires approx. 30% less steel (a savings of approx. $40M)*

Original Lattice Tower



- *Larger tower base relative to new lattice tower*
- *Wider structure relative to new lattice tower*
- *More costly as it requires approx. 30% more steel*



Monopole Tower

A potential option to reduce visual impact within the 20-km section of the East TUC.

- *Smaller tower base relative to both lattice towers*
- *Narrower than new tower*
- *Can be perceived as having lower visual impact*
- *Shorter spans between structures, therefore requires more towers per kilometre*
- *Approx. 30%–40% more expensive than lattice towers per kilometre*

Note: all measurements are subject to final design

Other Related Projects

You may have heard or been informed about two AltaLink projects that are closely related to the proposed Heartland Transmission line, and will be included in the AUC Facility Application:

- A new substation named Heartland (which is the north termination point for the Heartland 500 kV line), linked to a new 240 kV transmission line which will distribute power from the Heartland line to customers in northeastern Alberta; and
- The potential expansion of the existing Ellerslie substation.

The Heartland 240 kV line and the Ellerslie substation expansion are necessary so that the Heartland Project can be interconnected with the Alberta Interconnected Electric System. The Heartland 240 kV line will proceed if the AUC approves either the preferred or the alternate route. The Ellerslie substation will only proceed if the East TUC route is approved by the AUC. For additional information, please visit www.albertaelectricityfuture.com or contact AltaLink at 1-877-269-5903.

What's Next?

Tower Information Sessions

In August, we will host a number of Information sessions that will focus on the tower options included in this newsletter. The sessions, which will be located at a variety of venues throughout the Capital Region, will provide stakeholders the opportunity to learn more about the towers and what the Heartland Team will be recommending in its Facility Application. Large photos of towers will be on display, illustrating various locations and viewpoints in selected communities.

Tower Information Sessions Open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the following locations:	
Morinville St. Jean Baptiste Parish Hall 10010 – 101 Avenue	Monday, August 16
South Edmonton Woodvale Facility & Golf Clubhouse 4540 – 50 Street	Tuesday, August 17
Northeast Edmonton Clareview Arena 3804 – 139 Avenue	Wednesday, August 18
Sherwood Park Coast Edmonton East 2100 Premier Way	Thursday, August 19
Bon Accord Community Hall 4931 – 50 Avenue	Monday, August 23
Spruce Grove Pioneer Centre (Melcor Hall) 301 Jespersen Avenue	Tuesday, August 24

Facility Application Process

Once the Facility Application is filed in the fall of 2010, the focus of the project shifts to the AUC process.

Please visit the AUC website for more information on the public participation process at **www.auc.ab.ca.**

Project Timeline

Activities Completed	Timeline
2009 – 2010	
Personal consultations (i.e. door-to-door, phone calls)	April to November 2009
Information Centres	April to July 2009
Project update newsletter	May 2009
Open Houses	June 2009
Project update newsletter	November 2009
Project package on identified preferred and alternate route locations	January 2010
Open Houses	January 2010
Personal consultations	January to March 2010
Information Centres	January to April 2010
Facility Application Update postcard	May 2010
Activities Planned	**Proposed Timeline**
2010 – 2013	
Project update newsletter	July 2010
Tower Information Sessions	August 2010
Heartland Project Team submits Facility Application to Alberta Utilities Commission	Fall 2010
Alberta Utilities Commission review	Winter 2010 to Spring 2011
*Permit and License issued	Summer 2011
*Construction	Fall 2011
*In-service	March 2013

*These steps will only occur if the Facility Application is approved by the AUC. Public consultation, involving potentially affected stakeholders, is a significant step in the identification and evaluation of potential routes for the transmission line and the development of the Facility Application. If the AUC approves the project, consultation will continue beyond the application process into the construction phase.

Contact Us

Your questions, concerns, and input are important to us. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide their input thus far. For more information and to provide your feedback please contact us:

Heartland Transmission Project
P.O. Box 11547 Edmonton AB T5J 2T6
Toll-free: 1-888-441-7192

E-mail: PublicConsultation@heartlandtransmission.ca
Website: www.heartlandtransmission.ca