Monday, July 27, 2020

Update: **Information about potential options for the Chapel Rock-to-Pincher Creek Transmission Development**

This letter is to update stakeholders that the AESO is proceeding with the Chapel Rock-to-Pincher Creek (CRPC) Transmission Development project, and anticipates filing our Needs Identification Document (NID) with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) in late 2020. An overview of the proposed changes and important updates for stakeholders are included below.

As the organization responsible for managing the safe, reliable and economic operation of the provincial power system, the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) has carefully considered current conditions within Alberta, combined with our comprehensive assessments and prudent transmission system planning, and continues to support the advancement of the CRPC project.

We continue to evaluate the alternatives available to meet the need, and anticipate the selection of a single preferred alternative to be filed in our NID with the AUC in late 2020. The alternatives under consideration include the following:

Northern Option: This option involves a new 240 kV transmission line connecting the new Chapel Rock substation to one of two equally viable end points; the existing Castle Rock Ridge substation OR the existing Goose Lake substation. The new Chapel Rock substation is planned to connect directly to the existing 500 kV line 1201L.

Southern Option: This option includes replacing the existing 138 kV line 412L, and a section of the 138 kV line 170L, with a higher capacity 240 kV line. This option would also require modifications at the existing Goose Lake, Pincher Creek, Russell and Coleman substations. The new 240kV line would also connect to the new Chapel Rock substation along the 500 kV line 1201L.

In late 2019, AltaLink indicated to the AESO that an existing 69 kV transmission line (514L) in the Pincher Creek area is nearing end-of-life and will require a rebuild to remain in service. This line overlaps with AltaLink's potential northern routes for the CRPC project. With consideration for the efficient planning of the transmission system and in an effort to reduce impact to stakeholders in this area, the AESO is evaluating the possibility of combining AltaLink's 69 kV line replacement, with the AESO's need for a new 240 kV line as part of the CRPC project, to build a single line to meet both project requirements.

The option being considered would result in less transmission lines in the area, through the removal of the existing 69 kV transmission lines, 514L and 514BL. The addition of a new substation adjacent to the existing Cowley Ridge 322S substation and a new 240 kV circuit would be required at this substation, along with a new 69 kV circuit between the proposed Chapel Rock substation and the existing Lundbreck substation.

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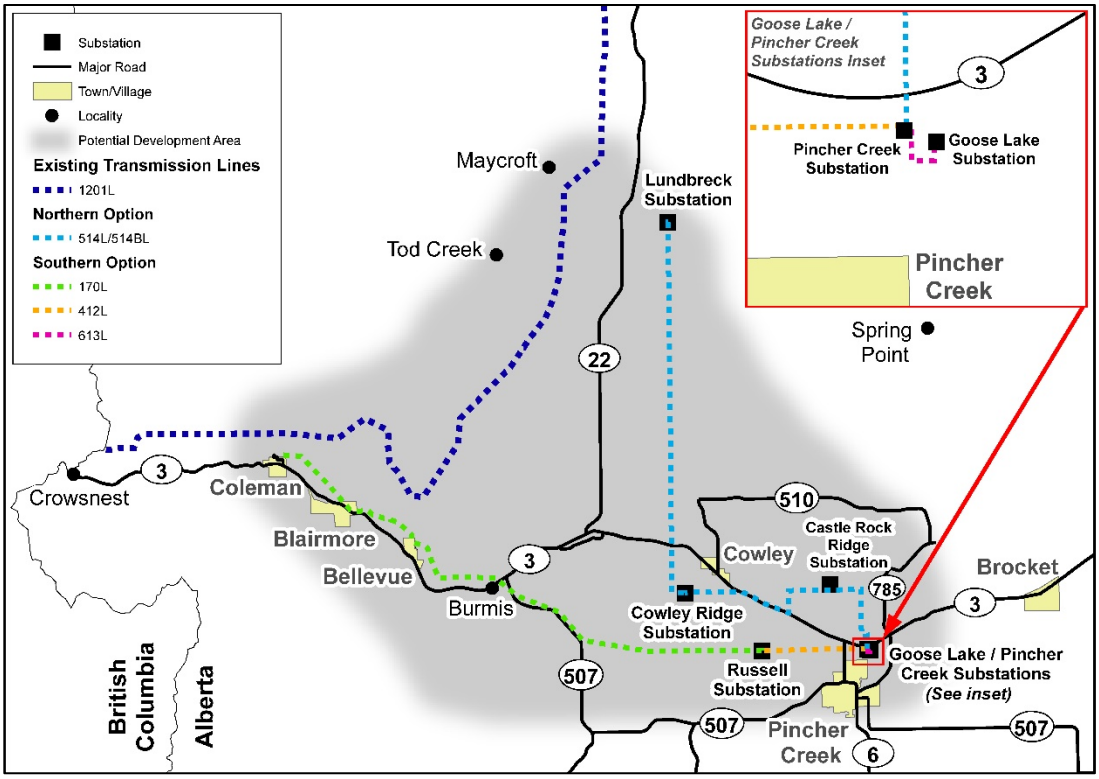
The map below provides further details on the location of the lines for the alternatives mentioned above. In the coming months, AltaLink will be consulting with area residents to provide more information on the transmission facilities planned in the area. We appreciate and value the feedback we have received to date and want to make you aware of our ongoing work.



The AESO continues to evaluate the Alberta-British Columbia intertie project and anticipates providing an update to stakeholders accordingly once next steps have been determined.

If you have any questions or feedback on the need for the Chapel Rock-to-Pincher Creek project, please contact us at 1-888-866-2959 or stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca

Questions regarding the routing or siting of potential transmission facilities can be directed to AltaLink at 1-877-269-5903 or stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca

Sincerely,

Mike Deising
Director, Corporate Communication

cc: Jennifer Vollmer, Communications Advisor

cc: Ata Rehman Director, Grid Planning & Operations Engineering