

# Heartland transmission line up and running

BY BRENT WITTMEIER, EDMONTON JOURNAL DECEMBER 28, 2013

EDMONTON—The Heartland transmission line is alive and crackling, Epcor announced Saturday.

The 65-kilometre high-voltage power line connects coal-fired plants on Wabamun Lake to the Heartland industrial area near Fort Saskatchewan. The \$600-million tab for the upgrade to a 500-kilovolt, double-circuit transmission line was covered by Epcor and AltaLink.

Residents might hear a buzzing or crackling noise, which will eventually dissipate to normal levels, Epcor noted in a news release.

The project was subject to three years of legal challenges. Strathcona County landowners argued the Alberta Utilities Commission failed to consider the economic and social impact of the transmission line. Another challenge was dismissed in March, when a group attempted to overturn the 2011 project approval by Jeff Johnson, Alberta's infrastructure minister at the time.

Construction was suspended in July after a helicopter crashed while working on a 64-metre transmission tower near Township Road 554 and Rural Route 225, hurting a pilot and a linesman.

The pilot and lineman were installing insulators that connect power lines to the transmission tower, said Schreiner. The insulators are made of a series of ceramic or glass discs strung together, which hang from the tower and insulate it from the power running through the lines.