

138-kV power line proposed



By [Megan Voss](#), Sherwood Park News

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****Thursday, May 1 update: Monday's public meeting concerning the proposed 138-kV power line to South Cooking Lake is being hosted by the Alberta Utilities Commission. AltaLink will not be at the meeting to allow dialogue between residents and the AUC, contrary to the Tuesday, April 29 News article "138-kV power line proposed." AltaLink plans to release additional information later this month.**

AltaLink is also aware of the UNESCO application for the Beaver Hills Moraine and has considered it in its routing plans.

An information meeting for South Cooking Lake residents about a proposed AltaLink line will be held on Monday, May 5.

AltaLink, an independent transmission company, has proposed to build a double-circuit 138-kV transmission line, which would result in the upgrading and expansion of the Cooking Lake substation. Upgrades include new equipment to monitor and control the high-voltage transmission lines, bringing electricity directly to homes, businesses and industrial facilities.

Approximately 25 km of double circuit 138-kV would be constructed, a portion of the line running along Highway 14.

Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) will host the information session where residents will be able to discuss what happens next with the AUC.

"There are some rights and obligations that landowners may not know they have," Riddell said.

“With that particular alignment, of course, we have visual impacts and environmental impacts... that residents are concerned about,” she continued, noting that the company would need to talk to individual landowners if it was necessary to pass through private property.

Riddell noted that the south alignment of the line would go through Leduc County.

“It will have to then hook north and come up through the Beaver Hills Moraine, through another avenue to the South Cooking Lake transfer station,” she said.

“Either way, it’s coming through Strathcona County — we’re just concerned about that really long line along Highway 14.”

Riddell said that while Beaver Hills provided AltaLink with some assessments for the environmental impacts the line would have, but AltaLink spokesperson Peter Brodsky said the company is aware of the UNESCO application for the Beaver Hills Moraine. Brodsky added that AltaLink has considered the UNESCO designation in its plans.

“They have to pick a final alignment and an alternate, and then they have to submit that to the AUC and it has to go through their processes of being upheld. After they go through all that, then they’re allowed to build — or not,” Riddell said.

While a price is not yet known, if approved, the project will begin in the fall of 2015 with a completion date of winter of 2016.

The meeting will take place at the South Cooking Lake Seniors Activity Centre, which is located at 102 - 22106 South Cooking Lake Rd., from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Monday, May 5.