

September 15, 2003

ATCO ELECTRIC AWARDED \$95 MILLION, 350 KM TRANSMISSION LINE

Final Approval Received for Edmonton to Fort McMurray Project

Calgary, Alberta – ATCO Electric has received final approval from the Alberta Energy & Utilities Board to build a \$95 million, 350-kilometre transmission line that will boost system reliability between Edmonton and Fort McMurray while delivering new power to Albertans.

The 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line will be the third major line between Fort McMurray and Edmonton, and will increase transport capacity by about 250 megawatts (MW) – from about 350MW to 600MW. Three substations are also included in this project to accommodate the new environmentally progressive energy plants being built in conjunction with expanding oil sands projects.

“Timelines are short, but we are well-prepared to complete this project quickly to enhance system reliability in the province and deliver electricity to areas within Alberta that are in need of more power,” said Sett Policicchio, Vice President, ATCO Electric. “Work is already underway with project completion expected in the third quarter of 2004.”

ATCO Electric, part of the ATCO Group of companies, delivers electric energy to customers throughout northern and east-central Alberta. ATCO Group is a worldwide organization of companies with 6,000 employees actively engaged in Utilities, Power Generation, Logistics & Energy Services, Technologies and Industrials.

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Edmonton to Fort McMurray Transmission Line

The Project

- The \$95 million project includes 350km of 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, construction of three new substations, and expansion of an existing substation.
- It will be the third major transmission line between Fort McMurray and the Edmonton area. It will stretch from Dover, northwest of Fort McMurray, to Whitefish, east of Fort Saskatchewan.
- The Dover-Whitefish line will be built as a regulated asset in three sections: Dover to McMillan (169 km), McMillan to Heart Lake (106 km), and Heart Lake to Whitefish (72 km).
- It will increase transport capacity by about 250 MW, from about 350 MW to approximately 600 MW. It will also increase the electric service reliability for the south Fort McMurray and Lac La Biche areas.
- The project also includes the construction of three new substations – Dover, McMillan and Heart Lake – and expansion of the existing Whitefish substation. These substations will accommodate new environmentally progressive energy plants being built in conjunction with expanding oil sands projects.
- Construction will start this fall, with project completion expected by Aug. 31, 2004. Large portions of the line cross muskeg, and must be built during winter months when the ground is frozen to allow the heavy construction equipment access and to protect the environment.
- Surveying for the transmission line is already underway and most materials have been ordered. The next step is to finalize the construction contracts and prepare the right-of-way.

The Process and Dates

- September 2001: Transmission Administrator issues a RFP (Request For Proposal) to build a third major transmission line between Fort McMurray and the Edmonton area.
- December 2001: ATCO Utility Services (AUS), which was established to pursue competitive, non-regulated transmission opportunities, is awarded the contract.
- May-September 2002: AUS holds public open houses and consults landowners along the proposed route.
- October 2002: Transmission Administrator re-assigns the project to ATCO Electric.
- November 2002: ATCO Electric submits the project application to AEUB.
- April 2003: AEUB conducts hearing and issues decision. ATCO Electric voluntarily agrees to modify the route originally proposed in response to landowner concerns.
- June 2003: AEUB issues permits and licenses for the Dover and McMillan substations, and the transmission line between the stations.
- July 2, 2003: ATCO submits the revised McMillan to Whitefish AEUB application.
- Aug 1, 2003: AEUB issues final approval for McMillan to Whitefish application.
- 4Q 2003: Construction starts; date to be determined by weather.

Applications made to the AEUB are available on our website, www.atcoelectric.com.
Select About Us > Our System > Transmission Projects.