



ATCO Electric Ltd.

Kiwetinohk Opal Transmission Project

February 23, 2024

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 28658-D01-2024

ATCO Electric Ltd.

Kiwetinohk Opal Transmission Project

Proceeding 28658

Applications 28658-A001 to 28658-A003

February 23, 2024

Published by the:

Alberta Utilities Commission

Eau Claire Tower

Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5

Telephone: 310-4AUC (310-4282) in Alberta

1-833-511-4AUC (1-833-511-4282) outside Alberta

Email: info@auc.ab.ca

Website: www.auc.ab.ca

The Commission may, no later than 60 days from the date of this decision and without notice, correct typographical, spelling and calculation errors and other similar types of errors and post the corrected decision on its website.

1 Decision summary

1. In this decision, the Alberta Utilities Commission approves the facility applications from ATCO Electric Ltd. for the Kiwetinohk Opal Transmission Project. The proposed project consists of a new transmission line, a transmission line alteration and a connection to the approved Kiwetinohk Opal Gas Project.

2 Introduction

2.1 Applications

2. Kiwetinohk Energy Corp. (KEC) has approval from the Commission to construct and operate a 101.133-megawatt power plant designated as the Opal Power Plant,¹ and to construct and operate a substation designated as the Gemini 1008S Substation,² located approximately 1.3 kilometres (km) south of the town of Fox Creek.

3. KEC submitted a system access service request to the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) to connect the Kiwetinohk Opal Gas Project to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System. The AESO determined a technical solution to meet the need consisting of a new 144-kilovolt (kV) transmission line connecting the approved Gemini 1008S Substation to ATCO's existing Transmission Line 7L199. On March 22, 2022, under ISO Rules Section 501.3 - *Abbreviated Needs Approval Process*, the AESO issued a letter of approval for the need for transmission development to respond to the system access service request from the market participant.³ The AESO then directed ATCO to file a facility application with the Commission.

4. ATCO applied to the Commission for approval to construct and operate a 144-kV transmission line, which would be designated as Transmission Line 7LA199. The new transmission line would be approximately 1.3 km in length and run from existing Transmission Line 7L199 to KEC's approved Gemini 1008S Substation.

5. ATCO also filed applications to alter existing Transmission Line 7L199 to accommodate the connection and for approval to connect proposed Transmission Line 7LA199 to KEC's approved Gemini 1008S Substation. The alteration would consist of rebuilding approximately five km of existing Transmission Line 7L199 in its existing alignment between ATCO's Fox Creek 741S Substation and the proposed tap point with Transmission Line 7LA199. The alteration would also relocate approximately 650 metres (m) of the existing transmission line to a

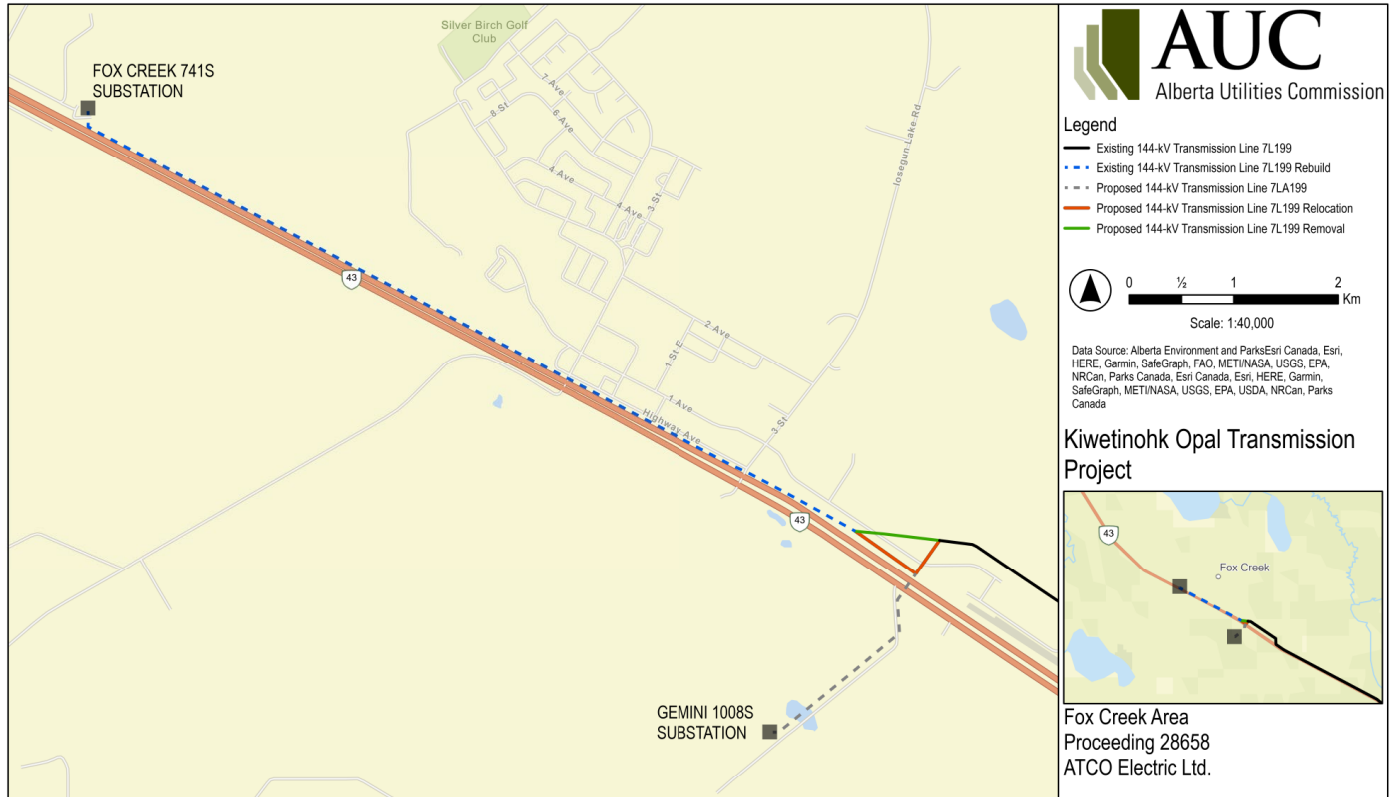
¹ Power Plant Approval 27293-D02-2022, Proceeding 27293, Application 27293-A001, August 3, 2022.

² Substation Permit and Licence 27293-D03-2022, Application 27293-A002, August 3, 2022.

³ Exhibit 28658-X0013, ATCO-Atch08_KiwetinohkOpal_AESO_ANAP-Approval-Letter, PDF pages 1 to 3.

new alignment and salvage approximately 500 m of the transmission line. The location of the proposed project is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Location of proposed project



6. ATCO explained that the Transmission Line 7L199 alignment and right-of-way would be unchanged and the specifications would be largely the same as the existing line (i.e., structure height, material, type, span). ATCO stated that the new structures would be more robust in order to support the new conductor and would be approximately one metre taller on average and the cross-arms would be incrementally thicker.

7. ATCO proposed that the project's in service-date would be December 1, 2024.

8. The cost estimate for ATCO's portion of the project is \$7.7 million, which is allocated to KEC; and \$6.8 million, which is allocated to system costs. The total service proposal cost is \$14.5 million.

2.2 Interveners

9. The Commission issued a notice of applications to local stakeholders and the following Indigenous groups: East Prairie Métis Settlement, Alexander First Nation, Sawridge First Nation, Swan River First Nation, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Kapawe'no First Nation, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake First Nation, Driftpile Cree Nation, Kehewin Cree Nation, Sucker Creek Nation, and Métis Nation of Alberta Region No. 4.

10. The Commission received one statement of intent to participate (SIP) from East Prairie Métis Settlement (EPMS). EPMS withdrew its SIP on February 1, 2024.⁴

3 Findings

11. For the reasons that follow, the Commission finds that approval of the proposed development is in the public interest having regard to the social, economic, and other effects of the proposed facilities, including their effect on the environment.

12. The Commission finds that ATCO's applications comply with the information requirements prescribed in Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines* and the proposed development is consistent with meeting the approved need and the requirements of the AESO's functional specification.

13. ATCO conducted a participant involvement program and notified landholders, agencies, and other potentially interested parties within 200 m of the proposed alterations to existing Transmission Line 7L199 and within 800 m of the proposed Transmission Line 7LA199 and Transmission Line 7L199 relocation route rights-of-way. ATCO consulted with all landholders, occupants, agencies, industries, and other interested parties within 100 m of the proposed route rights-of-way. ATCO also confirmed that it consulted with 11 Indigenous groups as directed by the Aboriginal Consultation Office and provided the project information to the Métis Nation of Alberta, as the project is located within a Métis harvesting area. The Commission finds that the participant involvement program for the proposed project meets the requirements of Rule 007 and is satisfied there are no outstanding concerns.

14. The Commission accepts that project-related residual effects on environmental features are anticipated to be minimal and no significant adverse effects are anticipated provided that ATCO implements standards and project-specific mitigation and industry best practices. This is reinforced by the short construction period, existing disturbance within the project footprint, the selection of the most direct route from the substation to the existing transmission line, and the avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas.

15. Based on the foregoing, the Commission considers the project to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

⁴ Exhibit 28658-X0049, AUC SIP 28658 withdrawal, cleaned.

4 Decision

16. The Commission approves the applications under sections 14, 15, 18, 19 and 21 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*, and grants ATCO Electric Ltd. the following approvals:

- Permit and Licence 28658-D02-2024, to construct and operate Transmission Line 7LA199 (Appendix 1).
- Permit and Licence 28658-D03-2024, to alter Transmission Line 7L199 (Appendix 2).
- Order 28658-D04-2024, to connect Transmission Line 7LA199 to Kiwetinohk Energy Corp.'s Gemini 1008S Substation (Appendix 3).

17. The appendices will be distributed separately.

Dated on February 23, 2024.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Douglas A. Larder, KC
Vice-Chair