[Saskatoon Sutherland Power Line Project]

FEEDBACK REPORT

PREPARED BY:

SaskPower – Public Engagement

November to December 2019

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WHAT WE DID

We are committed to ongoing discussions with all stakeholders throughout this project's development and operations. We advertised and sent mailouts to approximately 26,000 addresses within the following neighbourhoods: Sutherland, Silverspring, Forest Grove, Erindale, Arbor Creek, and Evergreen on November 7, 2019. On November 19th, 2019 we hosted a public open house at the Sutherland Memorial Hall from 3-8:00 pm. Following feedback received at that event, we held additional meetings at the SaskTel Sports Centre on Wednesday December 11th and left door hangers for residents who would experience significant tree removal near their homes. We shared the project history and our plans moving forward, continued to learn about local interests and concerns, and answered many questions. The following is a summary of how we attempted to engage with residents.

- **26,000 mailed invitations** to the open house (mailed November 7th)
- **100 signups** for electronic newsletter
- **45 people** attended the open house (November 19th)
- **75 additional letters and phone calls** to the stakeholders living closest to the planned power line (November 29th)
- **10 phone conversations**
- **2 follow-up meetings** in Saskatoon (December 11th)
- **15 flyers hand delivered** to homes on Fairbrother Crescent (December 11th)
- **35 feedback surveys received** (paper and electronic)

Thank you to the many people who gave their time, participated with curiosity, asked great questions, and offered their perspectives and ideas. Enclosed is a summary of all inputs recorded, questions received, and the responses that were provided.

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WHAT WE HEARD

We compiled what we heard into 10 themes. We've highlighted specific comments and included our response. If you see something missing or misconstrued, please reach out to us so we can make corrections.

1. Trees and green space

There's a concern about the impacts to green space and decreased aesthetic appeal.

Comments collected:

- Timeliness of replacing trees and restoring the green space is important;
- SaskPower should consider planting berry-producing bushes and trees for locals to enjoy if taller trees are not an option;
- Where privacy is now decreased because of tree removal, options should be proposed to people impacted by a loss of privacy and sound blocking abilities of tree line;
- SaskPower should consider placing vines on the fences to hide the industrial equipment within the WJ Bunn substation;
- If berry bushes are planted, they should be kept away from busy roads (pollution and safety concerns);
- SaskPower should consider landscaping around walking paths on edge of Sutherland to distract from eye-sores (power lines);
- Residents on Haslam Crescent have been pushing for the City to introduce trees behind their yards to create more aesthetic appeal, the City wants to put in a sound barrier wall, the community is opposed to that.

SaskPower Response:

Trees need to be removed for construction access and safety reasons for the long-term operations of the line. In some instances, this means backyard privacy will be reduced, in others it means that the existing infrastructure will be more exposed.

SaskPower will work with the City of Saskatoon's Urban Forestry, landscaping, and environment departments to create a plan for restoring green space post-construction. While we won't be able to replace tree species with the same species in the same locations, we will do what we can to leave the area in as good or better condition than prior to construction.

For open green areas where vegetation removal is unnecessary, we will consider the public's feedback to look at landscaping options to distract from the added "eyesores" of the new structures. (This pertains to areas behind Haslam and Rutherford Crescents particularly)

2. Traffic

There's a concern about impacts for high traffic roads (Attridge Drive, Central Avenue, and Circle Drive)

Comments collected:

- 7-9 am and 4-6 pm are highest traffic times, avoid road/path closures at these times;
- Keep at least one lane open on each side of the meridian on Attridge Drive throughout construction;
- Monday to Friday in summer months and early fall is busy for traffic coming and going from the Forestry Farm, avoid traffic stoppages during operational hours;
- Consider bike and pedestrian traffic that uses the CP Rail bridge across Circle Drive and how far any detour option would take, blocked access from bridge would be best in winter over summer months;
- Keep stoppages short when crossing Circle Drive, Attridge Drive, and Central Avenue;
- Central Avenue is a terrible intersection, more traffic now that north bridge is open; and
- Construction is never-ending, tired of dealing with it.

SaskPower Response:
Traffic will be impacted in several ways. Depending on several variables, speed reductions will take effect, and at times, lane closures or short stoppages will be necessary. Variables include what work is being done which determines the type of equipment that will be used, and the section of the line that will be impacted (the line is 2.9 kilometers so not all sections will be worked on for the entire duration of construction).

Stoppages will be short and should only be necessary for stringing the line. We'll work to complete stringing activities across major roadways on weekends to avoid busy hours. The challenge for SaskPower is performing stringing activities in daylight hours, on low wind days, and in ideal temperatures for safety and productivity purposes.

Lane closures will require short sections of the lane closest to the part of the power line being built. As the work moves along the route, the section of lane closure will also change. Lane closures are required as work is taking place close to the road surface to enable movement of large equipment and the safety of workers on the ground around it.

Speed reductions will be required on Attridge Drive for the duration of work adjacent to the road. Speed reductions will be aligned with lane closures and traffic stoppages as required.

SaskPower will consider lower traffic times for and traffic stoppages such as midday or mornings on weekends. We will communicate as best we can through local temporary billboards and signage, posting to our website, and sending out email notifications.

3. Proximity to homes

There's a concern about the impacts to the properties located closest to the power line.

Comments collected:

- Safe fall down distances.
- Decreased property values.
- Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) and the potential health-related impacts of EMFs.

SaskPower Response:

The new power line will not be built on private property. Adequate setback distances will be maintained. The new line will be built using galvanized steel and will be supported by large concrete foundations. The structures will be strong, stable, and in the event of impact, extremely unlikely to fall or break. They are different than typical wood structures.

Many factors can affect property value. This includes market trends, proximity to the amenities, and transportation access. The length of time a property is listed can also impact a property's selling price. A nearby power line is only one factor out of many to consider as a prospective buyer. Buyers focus on priorities differently. Factors that may be important to one buyer may not be even be noticed with the next. This variance means there is no evidence that property values are in fact decreased with the introduction of a power line. In fact, many new homes are selling fine are built right at the edge of the right-of-way to existing high voltage power lines.

In terms of potential health impacts from living near a power line, we recognize that people are concerned about their health and we treat those concerns seriously. We urge people to do their research on Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) and look to credible sources (Health Canada or World Health Organization) to learn more. To date, international health agencies and independent scientific bodies have been unable to establish from their research that there is a proven health risk from exposure to EMF. While SaskPower does not conduct health research, we look to these organizations for their findings and recommendations.

SaskPower designs our facilities to they comply with all recognized standards. Because EMFs are strongest at the point of origin and EMF strength fades rapidly as distance is increased, you are exposed to the strongest EMFs when standing close to a source (e.g. in front of your microwave while it's on, or directly under a high voltage power line). As you move away from the source, the EMFs become weaker. SaskPower designs our facilities so that any permanent occupied building is located far enough away that there is no increase in EMFs due to the power line at the building location. We can measure EMFs. When we do, we often find that readings are higher in the house from household electrical appliances than outside the house and closer to the power line. Anything using electricity produces EMFs and household electronics (dishwasher, microwave, hair dryer, laundry machines, etc.) produce the same EMFs as high voltage lines, we call these 'extremely low frequency' EMFs.

4. Overhead versus Underground

There's a concern that SaskPower should construct the new power line below ground rather than overhead as planned.

Comments collected:

- Not supportive of project if the line isn't buried under ground.
- This area will continue to grow, SaskPower should plan with the City and just put the line underground so it's not in the way in the future impeding future development.
- There can't be that big of cost difference between the two options considering the money SaskPower will save maintaining this line in the future.
- Overhead power lines attract lightening.
- Underground power liens are safer than above ground.

SaskPower Response:

Overhead power lines are 8-10 times less expensive to build than underground power lines. They are also quicker to repair in the event of an outage. That means less burden on our customers. Underground power lines are susceptible to as many risks, if not more, than above ground lines. Above ground lines are susceptible to adverse weather, like hoarfrost. Below ground lines may fail because of ground shifting or nearby construction work. Regardless, it's always faster to repair overhead power lines and much less expensive to build them.

SaskPower has worked very closely with the City of Saskatoon to understand long range planning considerations and we have designed accordingly. Regardless of whether the line was in the ground or overhead, if there are major changes to the landscape and Attridge Drive, alterations would be necessary. Making an even stronger case for choosing the extremely more cost effective option of overhead versus underground power line.

5. All decisions made prior to public consultation

There was a concern that people should have been consulted earlier in the process.

Comments collected:

- Would have liked to hear about this project in the planning phase, not the implementation phase.
- SaskPower is proceeding with the project in the way that they've planned, nothing I can say will change that.

- Not much to influence at this point in the process, there is no point in participating in consultation.

SaskPower Response:

Routing the power line became more complicated than SaskPower originally anticipated. When the project initially kicked off in 2016, the plan was to engage the public on different routing options and different tap point locations on our existing 138 kV line called M1Q. However, one of our commitments when SaskPower facilitates consultation is that we do not ask for feedback on things the public cannot influence. In other words, if public feedback cannot change an outcome than we don't want to make it seem like it can. We engaged the City of Saskatoon early in the process for access to data on things like water, gas, cable, and telephone lines and to understand planned future developments like transportation, parks, and new neighbourhoods. We did the same with the University of Saskatchewan as these two organizations were also the entities SaskPower would need to register easements with. Upon reviewing all the data, it became apparent that major challenges existed on all routes but one, these challenges would not be easily mitigated and warranted the removing of all other options prior to public consultation even beginning.

6. Noise

There's a concern that there will be noise disturbance during construction and throughout operations of the line.

Comments collected:

- Construction in this area is never ending.
- Not happy if the transmission lines will hum and create noise.
- Will transformer boxes be placed on the structures? Those make noise.

SaskPower Response:

The noisiest part of construction is likely going to be the backup beacons on any SaskPower half tonne truck. Additional noise may also be produced when stringing the line depending on the equipment and technique we choose to use.

There are two techniques that we can use to string the conductor between structures. The options are crane or helicopter. There are pros and cons to each. Helicopter stringing is becoming the preferred method as it is quicker which means less traffic stoppages and shorter wait times. However, helicopters have the potential to cause distractions and are noisy. The alternative

method of using a crane is also effective. However, it does require more time and stoppages for road crossings. Regardless, there are many moving parts during the stringing of the line, and daylight hours are a must, so consideration will be given when determining which method for road crossings (crane will be used for the majority of the line).

Transmission lines are typically very quiet while operating. Sometimes a hum will be produced when hoarfrost develops on the line in the winter. When this hum is produced it will only be detectable when very close to the line. With this type of structure, it is not typical for the wind blowing through the conductor and shield wires to produce any additional noise in this instance.

7. Outages

There's a concern that the communities adjacent to the power line will have to endure power outages associated with the construction of this project.

SaskPower Response:

The communities adjacent to the proposed power line are Saskatoon Light & Power (SL&P) customers. That means they are customers not served by the SaskPower line. For the double circuit section where there will be impacts to the existing SL&P line, SL&P has indicated they can continue service through other lines.

There may be short temporary outages associated with the work that SL&P must do prior to SaskPower construction to burry existing distribution lines. They will follow typical maintenance procedures from such temporary outages as they cut over service. This is necessary to ensure all SL&P customers continue to be served reliably throughout construction and thereafter.

The areas served by Sutherland substation may also experience short temporary outages. These areas are: River Heights, Willowgrove, Erindale and Arbor Creek.

SaskPower will communicate the dates and times of the planned outages through our website, social media and radio broadcasts as per typical outage communication planning procedures.

8. Interference

There's a concern that the new power line will interfere with other signals in the home.

SaskPower Response:

For the most part, transmission lines do not have any impact on Wi-Fi, satellite, or digital TV signals. SaskPower's electrical system operates at an extremely low frequency of 60 Hz (hertz). Devices like cell phones, Wi-Fi, satellite TV and most other wireless signals operate in the very high frequency range, above 800 MHz (megahertz) and should not experience reception problems because of the new power line.

AM radio frequencies that range between 0.54 MHz to 1.7 MHz could be affected by transmission lines, particularly when you drive directly underneath them. As the distance increases between the transmission line and the AM receiver, the potential to cause interference drastically decreases.

9. Project Communications and Signage

There's a preference for community members to be communicated to throughout the following phase of the project. When asked how people want to be communicated with as construction approaches, the following mediums were preferred in order of most votes to least:

1. Email
2. Mailed Letter
3. Flyer
4. Bill inserts
5. Street Signage

SaskPower Response:

Registering for project updates is the best bet to stay abreast on project developments. We won't send out more than five newsletters over the course of the project (the next year and a half). Some people don't want the additional emails, so we will commit to also sending information in the mail and by applying the feedback we received to consider effective locations for street signage. We heard that means not just signage on the streets that will be impacted but farther out as well where people can choose an alternate route. Unfortunately, bill inserts would only be effective for SaskPower customers and the communities living closest to construction are SL&P customers, we won't use this method. Also, we won't distribute flyers because we learned through consultation that many people have "no flyer" signs on their mailboxes, this means the mailed letter will be more effective than a flyer.

10. City of Saskatoon should have participated in public event

There was a comment that the City should have been represented at SaskPower's open house to talk about anything development-related in the City of Saskatoon.

SaskPower Response:

This is a SaskPower project and, in an effort to avoid confusing people, we kept it as such. We did invite and had participation from the City's utility, SL&P, who was present at the open house to answer any questions related to the impact to their customers or their operations.