TISDALE TO PRAIRIE RIVER POWER LINE REBUILD

SaskPower is planning to invest $37 million into rebuilding a 74 kilometre (km) 72 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that connects the Tisdale switching station to the Prairie River substation. The transmission line is at the end of its useful life and rebuilding it will maintain reliability of power in the area for years to come. A line rebuild is the most economic option to continue providing reliable service in the area. Part of the project involves building the new power line beside the existing one, while the other involves re-routing the power line.

What We Did

In November and December 2022, we reached out to stakeholders to share information and learn their perspectives on this project. We shared information with the Rural Municipality of Bjorkdale and connected by phone and email with approximately 70 landowners. Thanks to everyone who willingly gave their time and offered their input.

What We Heard

This is a summary of the many conversations we had with stakeholders. If we've missed anything, please reach out to us.

What is Being Built

- SaskPower will secure a 30 meter (m) easement for final route for the new transmission line. The 300m corridor noted on the map is for planning purposes only.
- The new transmission line will be built with H-frame structures that can span approximately 200m.
- The new transmission line will be built to 138 kV standards. This includes adding a shield wire for lightning strike protection and improving reliability.
- Distribution lines will not be understrung on the new transmission structures.
- Transmission lines are not put underground due to cost and maintenance concerns.

Reduce impact to residences

- Maintain as much clearance as possible from residences.
- The electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) readings from powerlines are less than common household items such as microwaves and televisions.
- Transmission lines do not interrupt cellular service.

Reduce impact to agricultural operations

- Avoid placing structures in the middle of fields.
- Minimize the number of corner structures, anchors and guy wires.
- Minimize the amount of stranded/unfarmable land. Accommodate large equipment.
- Consider current farming practices when routing along quarter section lines.

Minimize impact to wildlife/environment

- There is active wildlife in the area – elk, moose, deer, boars, timber wolves and eagles were some of the animals noted in our meetings.
- There is interest in understanding vegetation clearing as the project progresses.
- It was noted that some of the land is used for hunting and landowners would like to preserve that ability.

Old Rail Line

- Many asked why this wasn't considered for a route. Generally, SaskPower won't consider rail lines/right of ways for our infrastructure due to liability regarding any previous site contamination.

Construction

- Avoid scheduling work at times that would result in crop damages or impact cattle.
- Winter construction was the preference by many.
- Any impacts to fencing need to be discussed with landowners, but fences can be rebuilt. Gates are installed for access to the new transmission line. During construction contractors are instructed to leave gates as they are found when accessing the right of way.
- Some landowners were unhappy with work previous contractors had completed. We apologize for this and ask that if there are any concerns in the future to please contact your land representative.

Crown Land

- Some of the crown land was mislabeled on the map shared in the information package. This will be updated when the preferred route is shared.

What's Next

We're using the feedback from stakeholders, combined with our routing considerations, to determine a preferred route. We plan to share the preferred route early next year and will reach out again to impacted landowners for additional comments. At that time we'll also discuss possible accommodations that could be made to address concerns.

In the meantime, please call toll free 1-855-566-2903 or email PublicEngagement@saskpower.com if you have any questions or comments.