

CONDUCT OF POWER LINE PROPONENTS

The Myth:

Proponents of the Heartland Transmission Line have considered public input and have dealt openly with the public.

The Facts:

- Residents provided factual information to the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO), EPCOR and AltaLink between 2007 and 2010, much of which has been either ignored or not included on routing maps.
- Senior AESO representatives have stated that AESO is a not-for-profit company independent from electricity transmission companies. Other AESO staff have stated that AESO is funded primarily by electricity transmission and generation companies, and that many AESO staff are previous employees of electric transmission and generation companies.
- Prior to route selection AESO, EPCOR and AltaLink representatives had stated that they had not yet determined the “best” of the 4 potential routes for a power line, and that all 4 routes had been considered equally. On other occasions, company representatives indicated their preference for one route over another based on suggestions to them by the Alberta Government.



- AESO’s Industrial Heartland Electricity Transmission proposal compared the 4 initial potential power line routes through a number of techniques, including a Multiple Factor Analysis and Sensitivity Analysis. Major inaccuracies within these analyses, some based on AESO’s own data, have been pointed out on many occasions by residents. These inaccuracies significantly skew the results; however, AESO defends its original analyses. Similar inaccuracies exist in EPCOR’s and AltaLink’s January 2010 comparative analyses of the 4 initial potential routes.
- Significant differences exist between the negative impacts of overhead power lines, as reported in the scientific and popular literature, and those stated by AESO, EPCOR and AltaLink.
- Significant differences exist between the feasibility (technical and financial) of burying high voltage power lines, as reported in the literature, and that stated publicly by AESO, EPCOR and AltaLink.
- Much is written in the literature about the lobbying efforts of electricity companies in an attempt to get public and political support for their initiatives (Beder 2003a, 2003b).

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