

September 6, 2016

AltaLink transmission lines: Spacer damper replacement

Inspection and replacement update:

In May 2016 AltaLink issued a notice that we would be increasing the frequency of inspections along transmission lines previously consulted on with your community: 1043L, and 1054L (Heartland 240kV). These increased inspections relate to a piece of equipment, known as a spacer damper, failing on one of our transmission lines.

All spacer dampers of this type will be replaced. Replacement is expected to begin in October 2016 and we anticipate the work will be completed by June 2017.

As the Metis Nation of Alberta (MNA) was engaged regarding the Crown lands involved with these transmission lines, the MNA's members may be conducting Traditional Land Use activities where the lines will require more frequent inspections. We asked the MNA to communicate to their members the potential safety issue related to the spacer dampers.

Inspections will continue until the spacer dampers are replaced. Inspection activities may include low-level helicopter flight inspections, ground level inspections and crews accessing the line from service trucks.

What is a spacer damper?

A spacer damper connects two wires at intervals between transmission towers to reduce movement in adverse weather conditions by preventing the two wires from contacting and damaging each other. Spacer dampers are attached to the two wires with clamps and secured by bolts. Clamp bolts on the failed spacer damper did not remain secure and the clamp released from the wire, causing a portion of the spacer damper to fall to the ground.



Spacer damper installed on transmission line



Spacer damper in a failed position

Potential safety hazard:

There is a possibility that a spacer damper, or parts of a spacer damper, could fall to the ground from the overhead transmission wires. AltaLink asks that MNA members who have access to the right-of-way to please avoid walking along or under the right-of-way at the following locations where the spacer dampers have been installed on Crown lands (also see the corresponding Strip Mosaic [SM]] maps enclosed).

1043L Crown Lands:

- NW-12-52-3-W5 (SM4)
- NW-7-52-2-W5 (SM4)
- NW-8-52-2-W5 (SM5)
- SW-1-52-2-W5 (SM8)
- NE-4-52-25-W4 (SM19)
- NW-3-52-25-W4 (SM19)

1054L (Heartland 240kV) Crown Lands:

- SE-28-56-21-W4 (SM5)
- NE-28-56-21-W4 (SM5)

If circumstances are such that you must cross and/or walk along the right-of-way, please avoid crossing under and walking in areas below the spacer dampers.

If the MNA members believe they have found pieces of spacer dampers on the ground, or notice a spacer damper that appears to be in the failed position outlined and shown above, please contact us at the information below and we will conduct further inspection and investigation.

Please do not pick up or move the pieces because seeing them in their original location will allow AltaLink to more easily identify the line section from which the spacer damper fell.

Contact us:

AltaLink apologizes for any inconvenience that this may cause. Thank you for your cooperation in advance as we work to maintain the safety of the transmission system. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 1-877-380-0303 or landowner.advocate@altalink.ca.

Sincerely,



Kris Gladue
Manager, Aboriginal Relations