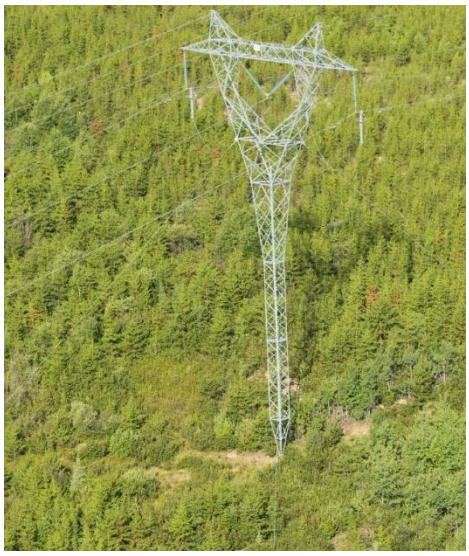
# North-South Transmission Systems Project
# Questions and Answers

**Why does SaskPower want to build these power lines in our area?**

SaskPower has been experiencing the lowest hydro generation in the north in more than three decades due to years of extreme drought. At the same time, we're forecasting unprecedented load growth in the province's far north due to increased mining for uranium and other critical minerals.

The northern power grid is currently independent from the system that powers the southern half of the province. SaskPower can only move additional power to the far north through Manitoba, and that ability is limited.

SaskPower is considering two parallel 250-kilometre transmission lines to connect the northern and southern systems. This will ensure Saskatchewan's northern communities have reliable power and will support continued economic development opportunities.



**What would the power line look like?**

We're in the early stages of planning this project and we haven't decided which line structure type will be used. Our engineers will determine the best option as they evaluate things like geography and access to the infrastructure. The photo shows what it could possibly look like when finished.

**What if SaskPower doesn't build the line – what would that mean for the area?**

The northern power grid is currently independent from the system that powers the southern half of the province. SaskPower can only move additional power to the far north through Manitoba, and that ability is limited.

**Do you have a preferred or final route for the new lines?**

Not yet. Engagement with Rightsholders and stakeholders is important to us. We're early in the project stages and we need your participation to help us reach a decision. We've developed a study area and we're looking for feedback to help us better understand the area, how you see the project impacting you, and how we can reduce impacts. After this initial Rightsholder and stakeholder engagement, we'll use the feedback we receive plus our routing considerations to develop and define route options. We will then seek additional feedback with Rightsholders and stakeholders to help narrow down to a recommended route.

**Will the new line affect my health or the health of wildlife?**

Short answer, no. International health agencies, such as Health Canada, and several independent scientific bodies have been unable to establish any associated health risks from exposure to extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields (EMF).

Extremely low frequency EMFs are around us every day. They're found wherever we use electricity – whether that's a television, microwave oven, electric stove, a computer, a hair dryer, cell phones, Wi-Fi, a power line or a smart meter. Most of our daily exposure comes from appliances that are a regular part of our lives. SaskPower's equipment makes up a small amount of the EMFs we encounter every day.

We design and operate our electrical generation, transmission and distribution systems to comply with recognized standards, including maintaining safe distances from habitable residences, and we provide EMF estimates for proposed electrical facilities. This ensures that we comply and cooperate with regulatory agencies established at both the provincial and federal levels.

SaskPower customers are welcome to request an EMF reading around residential, commercial and public buildings.

**How many lines are you building and how much space is needed for the new lines?**

We're planning to build two single circuit, parallel 230-kilovolt (kV) power lines that'll be about 250 kilometres long. It'll start from the planned new Moose Range switching station south of the E.B. Campbell Hydroelectric Station and go to the Island Falls Hydroelectric Station. Having two separate lines will provide increased reliability and resiliency to the northern grid while also accounting for projected future load growth. Once we've narrowed down the route options to a recommended route corridor, we'll need up to a 160-metre (m) right-of-way (ROW) for the new power lines.

**How was the initial study area determined?**

The study area was initially identified through a preliminary desktop analysis using mapping tools to examine technical, geographic, and environmental considerations. This was followed by an aerial inspection to validate findings and refine observations. Next, we will collaborate closely with Rightsholders and stakeholders to integrate their knowledge, priorities, and perspectives into the development of a preferred route. This approach ensures that the route selection process not only meets technical requirements but also reflects community values and works toward avoiding and/or mitigating potential impacts.

**How is the recommended route determined?**

Choosing routes for transmission lines is never an easy task. There are pros and cons to every option and many routing considerations. Participation from Rightsholders and stakeholders is important in our planning process, and we want to hear all perspectives on the route options. To help us find a route, we work with Rightsholders and stakeholders using our routing considerations to understand what's important at community and individual levels. Next, we carefully apply what we've learned to assess each route option to see which one has the least impact on what the community prioritizes, while meeting SaskPower's technical requirements.

**Why do I sometimes hear humming near a power line?**

Sometimes you can hear low-level noise when driving or walking near a high voltage power line. Electric fields can sometimes become concentrated around a transmission line and create a small discharge. This type of discharge is called a corona and it ionizes the air around the conductor wire. Conductor voltage, shape and diameter as well as scratches, dust and water on the wire can affect the creation of coronas. When a corona forms, there can be audible noise coming from the transmission line. Because corona can contribute to energy losses, transmission lines are designed so that, normally, they do not produce corona.

**What is the minimum distance allowed for a home to be built from the line?**

The easement is limited to the width of the right-of-way (ROW) that is acquired for a power line. For this project, the ROW could be up to 160 metres (m) wide where the two 230 kV lines are built in parallel. ROWs are required for public safety and safe construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line. SaskPower will not allow any dwelling or permanent structure within this ROW. SaskPower doesn't limit how the land outside the ROW is used. If you're using the area outside the ROW, ensure that your activities do not cause public safety issues or block safe operation of the line.

**What if the transmission lines impact areas of significance or places of residence?**

We recognize that building new facilities will impact Rightsholders, landowners and other stakeholders. That's why we're engaging with them to understand what matters to them as we plan the project. We'll also look at any mitigations we can make with structure placement to reduce impacts as best as possible.

**Can I plant or keep existing trees if they're along the power line right-of-way?**

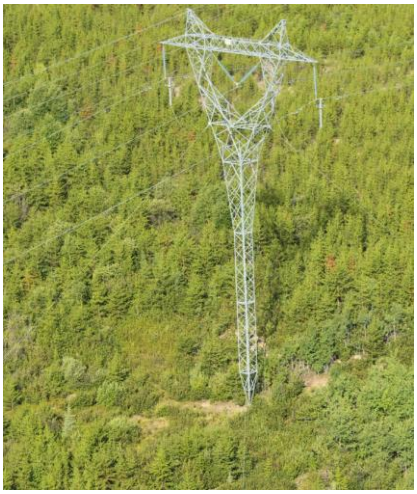
We acknowledge that trees hold cultural, economic, social and aesthetic values. And in some cases, they're used as shelter belts and to provide privacy for homesteads. For public safety, no permanent structure, including trees, are allowed in the right-of-way (ROW). Prior to construction and during the lifetime of the powerline, we clear

vegetation along the ROW, including trees that are likely to grow into energized power lines. This process also helps reduce the number of power outages.

**Can I tap power from the new line?**

You can't tap directly from a transmission line because the power travelling through a transmission line is not suited for your home or business appliances and equipment.

A transmission line is a high-capacity line moving electricity current from a power generation plant to a switching station or from one switching station to another. To make it safe for your home appliances or office equipment, the power is channeled through a substation where the power level is stepped down before supplying it to our customers through distribution lines. These are smaller single poles typically in the road allowance.



Example of a typical transmission structure in northern Saskatchewan

Example of a typical distribution line

**Are you going to bury the new power line?**

The new line will be built overhead. The 230 kV lines are high-capacity lines. They move power from a source to a station before it is distributed to homes and businesses. It would cost significantly more to bury and maintain these types of lines. Compared to overhead lines, it also takes longer to find and fix problems with underground lines, especially in the winter when the ground is frozen.

**How can I be a supplier to SaskPower?**

We're committed to fair and transparent procurement practices. You can find more information at Doing Business with SaskPower or email our Major Projects Procurement Team at majorprocurement@saskpower.com.

**How can I provide feedback to SaskPower?**

You can share your comments by contacting us directly:

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS
- IndigenousRelations@saskpower.com
- 306-227-2106

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS
- PublicEngagement@saskpower.com
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