



Photo: Russ Heinl

**AltaLink  
Model Class Screening Report  
for  
Banff National Park**

**ALTALINK**





**This Model Class Screening Report For Operation and Maintenance of Electrical Power Transmission Facilities in Banff National Park**

**Was Prepared for:** AltaLink Management Ltd.

**Prepared by:** Highwood Environmental Management Limited

**and**

**AltaLink Management Ltd.**  
John Rasmussen

**January 2003**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	1-1
1.1 Class Screening and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.....	1-1
1.2 Model Class Screening Report and Power Transmission Facilities Operation and Maintenance Projects in Banff National Park .....	1-2
1.3 Organization of the Model Class Screening Report .....	1-3
2.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE MODEL CLASS SCREENING REPORT.....	2-1
2.1 Purpose of the Model Class Screening Report .....	2-1
2.2 Development of the Model Class Screening Report.....	2-1
2.2.1 Definition of the Project Class.....	2-1
2.2.2 Review of the Environmental Effects of Transmission Facilities Operation and Maintenance Projects .....	2-3
2.2.3 Develop Standard Environmental Mitigation Practices.....	2-3
2.2.4 Development of the Screening Process and the Format and Requirements of the Class Screening Project Reports.....	2-4
2.2.5 Prepare the Model Class Screening Report .....	2-4
2.2.6 Submission of the Model Class Screening Report For Declaration .....	2-5
2.3 Other Department Consultation .....	2-5
2.4 Public Consultation.....	2-5
3.0 TRANSMISSION FACILITIES OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS COVERED BY THE MODEL CLASS SCREENING REPORT.....	3-1
3.1 The Purpose of Operation and Maintenance Projects of Power Transmission Facilities in Banff National Park .....	3-1
3.2 Power Transmission Facilities Operation and Maintenance Projects Subject to CEAA.....	3-1
3.3 Transmission Facilities Operation and Maintenance Projects Excluded from the MCSR.....	3-2
3.4 Transmission Facilities Operation and Maintenance Projects Not Suited to the MCSR.....	3-6
3.4.1 Projects Included in this Document Based on Parks Policy .....	3-6
3.5 Description of the Class of Projects.....	3-7
3.6 AltaLink Transmission Facilities Within Banff National Park.....	3-10
3.6.1 Transmission lines .....	3-10
3.6.2 Substations .....	3-10
3.7 MCSR Projects.....	3-12
3.7.1 Off Roadway Vehicle Access .....	3-13
3.7.2 Typical Seasonal Scheduling and Duration of Projects .....	3-14
4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF POWER TRANSMISSION FACILITY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS.....	4-1
4.1 Description of the Class Screening Area .....	4-1

4.2	Existing Environmental Conditions.....	4-3
4.2.1	Terrestrial Setting.....	4-3
4.2.2	Wetland Setting.....	4-10
4.2.3	Aquatic Setting.....	4-14
4.2.4	Heritage Resources .....	4-20
4.2.5	Human Use and Recreation .....	4-21
4.3	Impact Assessment Approach.....	4-21
4.4	Potential Environmental Effects of Transmission Facility Routine Maintenance and Operation .....	4-22
4.4.1	Air .....	4-24
4.4.2	Groundwater .....	4-24
4.4.3	Wetlands, Surface Water and Aquatic Resources.....	4-25
4.4.4	Soil .....	4-28
4.4.5	Vegetation .....	4-29
4.4.6	Wildlife .....	4-29
4.4.7	Public Health and Safety.....	4-32
4.4.8	Heritage Resources .....	4-32
4.5	Standard Environmental Mitigation Practices and Ecological Constraint Mapping .....	4-33
4.5.1	Project Planning and Time Restrictions.....	4-36
4.5.2	Special Vegetation Clearing Measures .....	4-43
4.5.3	Equipment Restrictions .....	4-58
4.5.4	Maintenance Crews and AltaLink Personnel.....	4-58
4.5.5	Standard Environmental Mitigation Practices .....	4-58
4.6	Effects of the Environment on the Project.....	4-58
4.7	Malfunctions and Accidents .....	4-59
4.8	Emergency Situations .....	4-60
4.8.1	Emergency Situation Environmental Assessment Procedure .....	4-60
4.8.2	Post Emergency Environmental Assessment.....	4-60
4.9	Residual Impacts .....	4-61
4.10	Cumulative Effects.....	4-61
4.11	Follow-Up Programs and Monitoring.....	4-62
5.0	PREPARING THE CLASS SCREENING PROJECT REPORT .....	5-1
5.1	The Class Screening Process .....	5-1
5.2	Timelines and Responsibilities .....	5-1
5.3	Federal Environmental Assessment Index.....	5-2
5.4	AltaLink Management Ltd. Class Screening Project Report Form for Routine Operation and Maintenance of Electrical Power Transmission Facilities in Banff National Park.....	5-3
6.0	AMENDING THE MCSR .....	6-1
7.0	REFERENCES .....	7-1

## **APPENDICES**

- APPENDIX A      Glossary of Terms
- APPENDIX B      Photos of Stream Crossings
- APPENDIX C      Equipment List
- APPENDIX D      Chemicals Approved for Use in BNP and Non-Native Species Priority List
- APPENDIX E      Ecosite Characteristics
- APPENDIX F      Ecological Constraint Maps
- APPENDIX G      Access Maps

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

	<b>Page</b>
Figure 2.1      Developing the MCSR for Transmission Facilities in Banff National Park.....	2-2
Figure 3.1      Location of AltaLink Transmission Facilities .....	3-11

## LIST OF TABLES

	<b>Page</b>
Table 3.1 Projects Carried out for Routine Operation and Maintenance of Transmission Facilities in BNP that Trigger CEAA.....	3-3
Table 3.2 Description of Projects and Associated Activities Carried out for Routine Operation and Maintenance of Transmission Facilities in Banff National Park .....	3-15
Table 3.3 Typical Equipment Requirements.....	3-23
Table 4.1 Ecosites in the CSA .....	4-5
Table 4.2 Vegetation Community and Dominant Species in the CSA .....	4-11
Table 4.3 Vegetation Complex Associations within each ecosite .....	4-12
Table 4.4 AltaLink Transmission Lines Crossing Wetlands and Wet Ecosites within BNP (West to East).....	4-13
Table 4.5 AltaLink Transmission Lines Waterbody Crossings within BNP (West to East) .....	4-17
Table 4.6 Impact Rating Attributes.....	4-23
Table 4.7 Matrix of Potential Pre-mitigation Environmental Impacts from Activities ....	4-34
Table 4.8 Time Constraints related to AltaLink Projects in BNP.....	4-37
Table 4.9 Access Timing Windows .....	4-40
Table 4.10 Standard Environmental Mitigations Associated with Routine Operation and Maintenance Activities for Power Transmission Facilities in Banff National Park .....	4-44
Table 5.1 AltaLink Management Ltd. Class Screening Project Report Form for Routine Operation and Maintenance of Electrical Power Transmission Facilities in Banff National Park.....	5-3

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

Agency	The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
ANC	Aquila Networks Canada
ATV	All terrain vehicle
BNP	Banff National Park
CEAA	<i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i>
CPR	Canadian Pacific Railway
CSA	Class Screening Area
CSPR	Class Screening Project Report
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
ELC	Ecological Land Classification
ENGO	Environmental Non-governmental Organization
FEAI	Federal Environmental Assessment Index
MCSR	Model Class Screening Report
OCA	Outlying Commercial Accommodation
POLs	Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants
PM	Particulate Matter
PT	Potential Transformer
RA	Responsible Authority
RAP	Restricted Activity Permit
RoW	Right of Way
TCH	TransCanada Highway
VEC	Valued Ecosystem Component