

# ESTEVAN AREA TRANSMISSION LINES

SaskPower is building several new power lines to support the addition of new power projects and interconnections to the provincial grid. We'll be adding capacity for up to 500 megawatts (MW) of power from the Southwest Power Pool in the United States and 100 megawatts (MW) of solar power from the Iyuhána Solar Energy Facility located near Estevan.

## WHAT WE DID

Between March 2025 and April 2025, we met with the Rural Municipality (RM) of Estevan and other stakeholders to share information and learn their perspectives on this project. We connected by phone and e-mail, as well as in person in Estevan for those who wanted to meet face-to-face. Thanks to all who willingly gave their feedback and offered sincere perspectives.

## WHAT IS BEING BUILT

- SaskPower is building three transmission lines:
  - Two 230-kilovolt (kV) double circuit transmission lines. We'll be splitting existing lines north of Boundary Dam Power Station and building the new lines to connect to the Tableland Switching Station.
  - One single circuit 230-kV transmission line to connect the Iyuhána Solar Energy Facility to the Tableland Switching Station.
- SaskPower will secure an easement of approximately 40 metres (m) for each of the new transmission lines. The 300 m corridor noted on the map is for planning purposes only.

## Route Change

- We need to adjust our route options departing from Tableland Switching Station on the west side. This change is required to maintain proper safety clearances as the transmission line departs the switching station. Impacted landowners have been notified and provided feedback on the change. An updated map is included to reflect the adjustment.

## WHAT WE HEARD

This is a summary of feedback from the many conversations we had with stakeholders. This information has been shared with the project team. The team is reviewing information and will adjust route options based on impacts to SaskPower's routing criteria where applicable. If we've missed or misrepresented anything, please reach out to us.

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## Utilize SaskPower-owned land

- SaskPower land should be utilized as much as possible for this project and any future projects.
- Why was extra land acquired for Tableland Switching Station and Iyuhána Solar Energy Facility? Why wasn't SaskPower land used?
  - Our response: SaskPower has avoided building facilities on its reclaimed coal land due to potential geotechnical issues. We were able to include routing options that utilize SaskPower-owned land for this project after preliminary geotechnical investigation.
- Why is the SaskPower land south of Iyuhána Solar Energy Facility not being utilized more for routing?
  - Our response: That block of land is reserved for potential future coal mining, so no routes can divide it.

## Iyuhána Solar Energy Facility

- Some landowners were concerned that there might be a glare from the solar panels.
  - Our response: The Solar Glare Hazard Analysis report on the Iyuhána Solar website indicates that the project is not likely to have the potential to create hazardous glare conditions for the dwelling or roads that were assessed. More information can be found on their website: <https://greenwoodinfra.com/development-projects/iyuhana/>
- Landowners had questions about decommissioning, weeds and taxes.
  - Our response: Iyuhána is responsible to maintain weeds around the facility. They're also responsible to pay taxes to the RM of Estevan. As part of the power purchase agreement, Iyuhána is contractually obligated to decommission the site at the end of the 25-year contract.
- Can you put the easement on the Iyuhána Solar Energy Facility land?
  - Our response: The easement can't encroach the fencing and solar panels, therefore, it won't be on the property.

## Potential future infrastructure

- Landowners were interested in, and in some cases, concerned about what additional projects they can expect to see from SaskPower, and how they might be impacted; especially any future projects that may connect to Tableland Switching Station.
  - Our response: At this time, that information is unknown and will be shared with landowners when SaskPower is able.

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## Compensation and land value

- Landowners are concerned with potential loss of land value.
- Landowners were interested to know what the compensation will be.
  - Our response: We shared the general methodology for how compensation was determined with landowners who inquired. Once we've reached the 90 per cent design completion stage for the preferred route, a SaskPower land representative will contact impacted landowners to explain how compensation is calculated. Compensation depends on many variables, including recent land sales and the impact of structures that'll be installed on a given property.

## Reduce impacts to residences

- There are many houses and acreages in between the route options; using the route options and cross-over corridors in this area should be avoided.
- There are a few yard sites or houses in development that weren't on the map.
  - Our response: These have been noted and shared with the project team, and will be avoided where possible.
- Maintain as much clearance as possible from residences:
  - Our response: As per (Canadian Standards Association) CSA Standard for 230 kV power lines, SaskPower must maintain a minimum setback of 61 m from an occupied dwelling and 31 m from a barn or shop.
- Concerns about Electric Magnetic Fields (EMFs)
  - Our response: EMF readings from powerlines are less than common household items such as microwaves and televisions. [<https://www.saskpower.com/safety/electrical-safety/homeowner-safety/electric-and-magnetic-fields>]. Similarly, studies show exposure to EMF from power lines is not a demonstrated cause of any adverse health effects in livestock.
- Concerns about wifi and cell phone usage
  - Transmission lines may cause some interference but shouldn't be a significant cause of issues. There are many factors that can contribute to the quality and strength of a cellular signal, such as changes to SaskTel's network, environmental and other situational factors.

## Reduce impacts to agricultural operations

- Avoid diagonal routes where possible to accommodate large equipment. Diagonal routes impact the use of (Global Positioning Systems) GPS for farming equipment.
- Preference to routes that follow the quarter-line or road allowance.
- Minimize the amount of stranded/unfarmable land.
- Consider current farming practices when routing along quarter section lines.

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## Minimize impact to wildlife/environment

- There is active wildlife in the area.
- Recommendation to use bird diversion near dugouts and wet spots.
- Concern about impact on cattle, especially during construction and maintenance.
  - Our response: A temporary fence would likely be placed during construction. There will also be communication with the landowner to mitigate impacts to roaming cattle.

## Distribution lines

- There are above-ground distribution lines located in the road allowances along the route options.
  - Our response: If a route is chosen where the transmission lines would run parallel to an existing distribution line, there will be a minimum distance maintained between the lines for safety.

## Construction

- Avoid scheduling work at times that would result in damage to crops.
- Consider impacts to cattle during construction.

## Other Comments

- Why aren't these lines going underground?
  - Our response: Transmission lines aren't put underground due to cost and maintenance concerns.
- There is a private solar farm on NE-08-02-09 W2 that would need to be avoided.
- There is a Ministry of Highways gravel pit in NW-09-02-09 W2.
  - Our response: We've added this to the map and it will be avoided.
- There are explosives being stored SW-18-02-08 W2 that would need to maintain a setback.
  - Our response: We've added this to the map with a 180 m setback.
- Some landowners voiced concern for the noise of the transmission line.
- Comments about water pipelines and natural gas lines.
  - Our response: We're aware of these and they'll be avoided as we determine structure placement in the design stage
- If someone wanted to build on their property, is there an additional setback from the easement?
  - Our response: You can build right up to the easement. SaskPower can't enforce further setback from our easements.
- Some landowners expressed concern over the transmission line splitting or dividing their land on specific routes. Preference was given to routes that kept blocks of land cohesive.

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- Comments about weed management.
  - Our response: SaskPower's current weed control policy is an opt-in/out program where landowners may choose to manage weeds around structures themselves or have a SaskPower crew/contractor spray weeds annually. For those who choose to manage the weeds on their own, SaskPower sends an annual cheque based on the number of poles and anchors they're affected by.
- Can the routes run parallel to each other?
  - Our response: The Iyuhána Solar line and Tableland line can run parallel to each other because they're separate lines. The two Tableland lines can't be parallel to each other and need to be at least 800 m apart for system reliability.
- What happens if there are damages to cattle or crops?
  - Our response: SaskPower is responsible for any damages. Please reach out to the SaskPower land representative if you encounter any issues.
- How does SaskPower accommodate moving electric fences during construction?
  - Our response: SaskPower works with the landowner to find a solution that works for both parties. Typically, we communicate rough time frames we expect to be in the area, that way the landowner can cycle their temporary electric fence before or after our work. In other cases, such as or in the case of permanent electric fences, we use established access points and ensure it's closed once we are done. If there are any issues outside of this, we work with the landowner for a solution.

## What's Next

We're using the feedback we received from stakeholders, combined with routing considerations, to determine a preferred route for each of the three required power lines. We plan to share the preferred routes later this year and will reach out again to impacted landowners for additional comments. We'll also discuss possible accommodations that could be made to address concerns we heard. We'll continue to try to connect with anyone we haven't reached. If you know of anyone who has not provided feedback, please encourage them to reach out. In the meantime, please call toll free 1-833-706-3030 or email [PublicEngagement@saskpower.com](mailto:PublicEngagement@saskpower.com) if you have any questions or comments.