



Why is Transmission system reinforcement needed for the South Calgary area?

The AESO has identified the need for reinforcement of a section of the transmission system running through south Calgary between Sarcee Trail, in the southwest, and Ogden Road, in the southeast. The map shows the location of this potential reinforcement. This section of the transmission system is currently operating at a voltage of 69 kV. This section of the transmission system needs to be improved: aging equipment, increasing demand for power in the areas served by this section of the transmission system in the Calgary area and a need for restoring operational flexibility are the main drivers for this need.

What kind of electric transmission reinforcement is needed?

Technical studies conducted by AESO planners indicate that the optimal way of meeting increased demand for electricity and improving operational flexibility in the Calgary area is to divert power flow from a portion of the existing 69 kV route, and to upgrade the capacity of the grid in southeast Calgary from 69 kV to 138 kV.

The solution proposed by the AESO will create operational flexibility; that is, the proposed solution provides system controllers, who operate the transmission system, with better options when faced with circumstances that affect power flow, such as unplanned outages and fluctuations in demand. Specifically, the solution provides increased capacity (it will allow system controllers to move more electricity through this section of the system) and redundancy (it creates a back-up in case an outage occurs).

At over 40 years old, the equipment along this section should be replaced; it has come to the end of its useful life. Consultation on routing at the facilities stage, combined with further technical study, will reveal the most appropriate way of addressing this need.

When will the AESO file the amendment to its application with the Alberta Utilities Commission?

We intend to submit an amendment to the original Needs Identification Document with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) early in 2010. This document will include more detailed information about the amendment of the NID. ENMAX is currently developing a detailed facilities application for this phase of the project, and intends to submit its application for this work in July 2011. These applications will include recommendations for specific siting and routing based on public consultation activities and other technical requirements.

The target in-service date for this work is anticipated to be October 2012.

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