



## NEWS RELEASE

### *For Immediate Release*

### **Temporary Trip in B.C. Tieline Results in Firm Load Curtailment**

CALGARY, Alberta (July 24, 2006) – Today, at about 4:30 p.m. the Alberta Electric System Operator issued a directive to shed firm load after the transmission tieline with British Columbia tripped off likely due to a lightning strike. The tieline outage lasted less than 30 minutes and about 600 megawatts of load was curtailed across Alberta. The AESO began restoring this load within 30 minutes.

Earlier today the AESO made a request for Albertans to voluntarily reduce use of electricity until 6 p.m. this evening. Albertans were successful in reducing load by about 100 to 150 megawatts. The request was made due to increased demand for electricity as a result of the recent hot and humid weather in Alberta which results in a higher use of air conditioning and irrigation systems.

In addition to the higher demand for power, Alberta's electricity supply was affected because some power generating units were experiencing operating difficulties. One of the generating units is coming back online.

As an independent system operator, the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) leads the safe, reliable and economic operation and planning of Alberta's interconnected power system. The AESO also facilitates Alberta's hourly wholesale electricity market, which has about 200 participants and \$7 billion in annual energy transactions.

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