March 23, 2015

To: Alberta Utilities Commission (“AUC”)


The Alberta Electric System Operator (“AESO”) recommends that the AUC approve the final proposed EOP-006-AB-2, pursuant to section 19 of the Transmission Regulation.

Background

Effective January 1, 2014, the AESO assumed the responsibilities that relate to the functions of a Reliability Coordinator (“RC”) in Alberta. Some of these functions had previously been performed by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (“WECC”) RC. The AESO’s assumption of these functions was approved by the AESO Board in September, 2013, and EOP-006-AB-2 is necessary to reflect the same.

Final proposed EOP-006-AB-2 is applicable only to the AESO.

Summary of Proposed Changes

The purpose of EOP-006-AB-2 is to ensure plans are established and personnel are prepared to enable effective coordination of the system restoration process to ensure reliability is maintained during restoration of the Alberta interconnected electric system in the event of a complete or partial blackout.

The following changes have been made to final proposed EOP-006-AB-2 in comparison to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) EOP-006-2 in effect in the United States:

1. The Purpose has been modified to align with practices in Alberta where restoration plans give priority to restoring the Alberta interconnected electric system;

2. Requirement R1 has been modified as follows:
   a) The requirement to activate the system restoration plan upon the occurrence of a separation between neighboring RCs was excluded, as the AESO has other procedures in place to manage the normal occurrence of the Alberta interconnected electric system separating from the WECC;
   b) The requirement to activate the system restoration plan when an energized island has been formed on the bulk electric system was excluded, as the AESO has other procedures in place with transmission operators to balance and restore areas known to island; and
   c) The phrase “provided facilities are available to be returned to service” was added to the description of when the scope of the AESO’s system restoration plan ends, as there may be times when facilities are not available to be returned to service, but the Alberta interconnected

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1 The functions of an RC are outlined in the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) Functional Model Terminology.
electric system has been returned to normal operation and the operation of the energy market has resumed;

3. In sub-requirement R1.1, the phrase “high level strategy” was replaced with “strategy”, as the AESO’s system restoration plan provides the strategy for the restoration of the Alberta interconnected electric system;

4. Sub-requirement R1.2 was modified to reflect the fact that the AESO has the legislative authority to direct restoration of the Alberta interconnected electric system;

5. Sub-requirement R1.3 was modified to reflect the fact that the AESO directs the restoration process in Alberta, including arranging the synchronization plans between operators of transmission facilities;

6. Sub-requirements R1.7, R1.8 and R1.9 were modified to reflect the fact that the AESO is the balancing authority for Alberta;

7. Requirement R5 was modified to require that the AESO review the restoration plans of the transmission operators within Alberta that are required to be submitted to the AESO under any ISO rules and reliability standards;

8. Requirement R6 was modified such that when EOP-005 comes into effect in Alberta, the AESO will be required to have restoration plans or procedures for each operator of a transmission facility that is required to have an approved plan or procedure in accordance with EOP-005; and

9. Requirement R10 was modified to reflect the fact that the AESO develops the restoration plan for the province of Alberta, and includes all of the entities that need to participate in the restoration of the Alberta interconnected electric system in the plan.

AESO Consultation

It is the AESO’s view that market participants are not likely to be directly affected by the final proposed EOP-006-AB-2. Accordingly, no formal consultation with market participants was undertaken in respect of the final proposed EOP-006-AB-2.

On March 3, 2015, the AESO posted a notification in its stakeholder newsletter, informing market participants and other interested parties that it would not be consulting on the final proposed EOP-006-AB-2, and would forward the final proposed EOP-006-AB-2, to the AUC, on March 23, 2015.

Related Forwarding Notice to the AUC

On March 23, 2015, the AESO issued a Forwarding Notice to the AUC recommending the approval of the final proposed Alberta Reliability Standard definition “blackstart resource”. The final proposed Alberta Reliability Standard definition “blackstart resource” was developed in conjunction with the drafting of the final proposed EOP-006-AB-2, as this term is used in requirement R1.

Attachments to Forwarding Notice

The following documents are attached to this Forwarding Notice:

1. Clean copy of EOP-006-AB-2; and

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3 Section 19(4) of the Transmission Regulation states that, before adopting or making a reliability standard, “the ISO must consult with those Market Participants that it considers are likely to be directly affected”
Proposed Effective Date

The AESO recommends that the AUC approve the final proposed EOP-006-AB-2 to become effective on the first day of the month following 120 days after AUC approval.

The AESO submits that the final proposed EOP-006-AB-2 complies with the requirements of the Transmission Regulation, is not technically deficient and is in the public interest.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

“Original Signed By “

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Attachments