



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Transmission needed to meet growing wind development interest and demand for power in East Central Alberta *Public consultation to begin, including Open Houses*

CALGARY, Alberta (February 20, 2009) – The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) has identified the potential for a substantial increase in wind power development and demand for electricity throughout the Hanna region, in east central Alberta.

In its role as planner of the transmission system for all Albertans, the AESO is currently investigating the need to reinforce the transmission system to enable wind generation projects to be reliably connected to the provincial grid and to supply electricity to industrial consumers, mostly in the pipeline industry.

The AESO is holding a series of Open Houses throughout east central Alberta to provide opportunities for residents to discuss the need to improve the transmission system, as well as to learn about three transmission alternatives under consideration for development. Comments from visitors about the transmission alternatives collected at the Open Houses will be used to help ensure the safe, reliable and economic planning of Alberta's interconnected power system.

"Our goal with these Open Houses is to share information about the need in the Hanna region (east central Alberta) and importantly to gather feedback from people potentially affected by this development," said Bill Strongman, Director, Regional System Planning.

Monday	February 23	4-8pm	Wainwright, Wainwright Communiplex
Tuesday	February 24	4-8pm	Hardisty, Hardisty Community Hall
Wednesday	February 25	4-8pm	Provost, Provost Recreation & Culture Centre
Thursday	February 26	4-8pm	Consort, Consort Community Centre
Monday	March 2	4-8pm	Oyen, Seniors Recreation Centre
Tuesday	March 3	4-8pm	Hanna Legion Hall
Wednesday	March 4	4-8pm	Drumheller, Meeting Room, Hotel Ramada
Thursday	March 5	4-8pm	Hussar, Hussar Community Hall

Monday	March 9	4-8pm	Three Hills, Super 8 Motel Meeting Room
Tuesday	March 10	4-8pm	Stettler, Recreation Centre

As an independent system operator, the AESO leads the safe, reliable and economic planning and operation of Alberta's interconnected power system. The AESO also facilitates Alberta's fair, efficient and openly competitive wholesale electricity market, which has about 200 participants and approximately \$8 billion in annual energy transactions.

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