



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

AESO issues RFP for Wind Power Forecasting Service in Alberta

CALGARY, Alberta (June 23, 2009)

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) has issued a [Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#) for a centralized wind power forecasting service in Alberta as part of its continuing efforts to integrate more wind power into Alberta's Interconnected Electric System.

Studies conducted by the AESO and other industry organizations indicate that wind power forecasting is an effective measure toward increasing the amount of wind that can be reliably integrated to the electricity grid. Wind power forecasts will be used by the AESO to plan ahead for the amount of generation resources required to back up wind power and to develop operating plans to keep generation and demand on the system safely in balance at all times.

"Wind power forecasting is a valuable tool that allows us to accommodate the variable nature of wind and enable more wind power to be added to the Alberta generation mix," said Warren Frost, AESO Vice-President Operations and Reliability. "The AESO's objective is to integrate as much wind to the Alberta system as is feasible without compromising system reliability or the fair, efficient and openly competitive operation of the market."

The AESO completed a year long wind power forecasting pilot project from May 2007 to May 2008 made possible by funding from the Alberta Department of Energy, the Alberta Energy Research Institute and the AESO. The Canadian Wind Energy Association also made a valuable contribution of time, resources and expertise to the pilot project. The pilot compared and contrasted wind forecasting methodologies of suppliers AWS Truewind (Albany, New York); energy & meteo Systems (Oldenberg, Germany) and WEPROG (Ebberup, Denmark). Ortech Power (Mississauga, Ontario) was also engaged to analyze the effectiveness of the various models.

Using the knowledge and experience gained from the pilot project, the AESO worked with stakeholders to develop a recommendation for a wind power forecasting service which will provide the AESO with wind power forecasts updated at least once per hour and for the next 48 hours for the province of Alberta. The AESO's intention is have the wind power forecast service operational by the end of the year.

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 \$9 billion in annual energy transactions.

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