



MEDIA RELEASE

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Alberta Electric System Operator Earns High Marks in Reliability Evaluation

CALGARY, Alberta (September 30, 2008) – In a recent evaluation of its readiness to maintain safe and reliable operations, the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) received top marks from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC).

NERC regularly conducts independent evaluations of key entities in the electricity industry, assessing their preparedness to meet assigned reliability responsibilities. In an effort to promote excellence in operations in the electricity industry, the readiness evaluations are designed to ensure that operators of the bulk electric system have the tools, processes, and procedures in place to operate reliably. The evaluations typically identify strengths and areas for improvement in emergency preparedness; resource and demand balancing; interconnected operations and coordination; and communications.

“The NERC team cited the AESO as a model operating organization in terms of our experienced and knowledgeable operators, leadership and management support, our practice of ensuring operational input to plans and systems and the learning environment we have created,” said Warren Frost, AESO Vice-President, Operations & Reliability.

The final report was issued to the AESO in late August 2008 and included several positive observations made by the NERC evaluation team regarding the AESO’s tools, documentation, succession planning, partnership with the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), participation in the industry, dedication to system restoration planning, physical security and organizational culture. The final report is posted on the NERC website at http://www.nerc.com/filez/readiness_evaluations_2008.html.

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The North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) mission is to ensure the reliability of the bulk power system in North America. To achieve that, NERC develops and enforces reliability standards; assesses adequacy annually via a 10-year forecast and winter and summer forecasts; monitors the bulk power system; audits owners, operators, and users for preparedness; and educates, trains, and certifies industry personnel. NERC is a self-regulatory organization, subject to oversight by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and governmental authorities in Canada. Learn more at www.nerc.com.

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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