



**AESO 10-Year Plan (2007-2016) Stakeholder Meeting – December 4, 2006
Stakeholder Questions/Comments and AESO Responses
January 24, 2006**

The AESO would like to take this opportunity to thank all stakeholders for their participation in the third stage of the development of the 10-Year Transmission System Plan (2007-2016).

The AESO has used these questions and comments to update the second draft of the 10-Year Transmission System Plan (2007-2016) as necessary.

The stakeholder meeting was attended and/or the AESO received comments from the following organizations:

Alberta Department of Energy
AltaGas Ltd.
AltaLink Management Ltd.
Arisaid Solutions Inc.
ATCO Electric
ATCO Power
City of Lethbridge
CRD Energy Services
Cypress County.
DJ Hammond Consulting Inc.
DPH Focus Corporation
Economic Development Alliance of Southeast Alberta
Elkwater Colony and Murray Lake Colony
ENMAX
EPCOR Utilities Inc.
Kennedy and Associates

Lawson Lundell LLP, Barristers & Solicitors
Maxim Power Corp
Natural Power
Office of the Utilities Consumer Advocate
PKS Ventures Inc.
Spirit Pine Energy Corporation
Syncrude Inc.
The Cogent Group Inc.
TransAlta (TAU)
TransCanada
Valeo Power
Vision Quest
WestWindeau Inc.
Wind Power Inc.

Note: The original posting of this matrix occurred on December 20, 2006. Since that day, the AESO has received a request from stakeholders to remove certain questions submitted by them. The AESO has complied with this request and as such replaced the original matrix with this version. The AESO apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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SUBJECT	STAKEHOLDER QUESTION / COMMENT AND AESO RESPONSE
<p>GENERAL</p>	<p>1) CNRL: In general the transmission system has been under built for years, for evidence see the remarkable \$1 to 3 billion in transmission expenditures forecast for the next ten years and knowing that there is no hope of having all of the work complete on time and on budget. The Balance appears to be from Just in Time Transmission to seriously under built transmission. There does not appear to be any risk of overbuilding transmission in this 10-Year Plan. What is the backup plan for when all of the transmission facilities are not able to be installed in time?</p> <p>AESO: <i>Section 2 of the Transmission Regulation states the AESO is required to anticipate future demand for electricity, generation capacity and appropriate reserves required to meet the forecast load so the transmission facilities can be planned and are available in a timely manner to accommodate the forecast load and new generation capacity. This anticipation of future growth will facilitate timely transmission reinforcement. However, if specific facilities do not meet their expected in service date, the AESO will develop mitigation strategies to operate the AES in a safe and reliable manner.</i></p> <p>2) CNRL: Why is there no mention of double circuiting the first stage 500 kV from Edmonton to Calgary? The incremental cost for double circuit vs a second line that is needed less than 5 years after the first 500 kV line is energized in 2011 indicates a seriously under built transmission system.</p> <p>AESO: <i>A number of the concepts analyzed in the Edmonton – Calgary 500 kV Transmission Development Need Application filed with the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) in May, 2004 considered the use of double circuit 500 kV construction for all or parts of the proposed development. The question of which concept was the most appropriate to proceed with was examined in the subsequent EUB hearing with the result that the EUB confirmed Concept V as the most appropriate concept for the reasons articulated in their Decision 2005-031.</i></p> <p>3) CNRL: With both 500 kV lines built by 2016, and at capacity shortly thereafter, what is the next step? Is there any recognition that the system does need to last past the ten year plan?</p> <p>AESO: <i>The AESO has anticipated a need for a second 500 kV Edmonton to Calgary development by 2016. The 10-Year Transmission System Plan addresses issues identified for the 2007-2016 time frame. The AESO also develops a 20-Year Outlook document that addresses issues within the 20</i></p>

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	<p>year time period. (please click here to view the current document). The AESO fully recognizes its mandate to plan the transmission system past a ten-year plan and in accordance with its statutory requirement will develop a 10 -Year Transmission System Plan every 2 years and a 20-Year Transmission Outlook at least every 4 years.</p> <p>4) Elkwater Colony & Murray Lake Colony: We have signed an option on some of our land to a local Wind Power company and are very much in favour of Wind Power.</p> <p>AESO: The AESO acknowledges the potential benefits of wind generation in Alberta. Due to reliability concerns resulting from wind output variability, the AESO has a wind development threshold of 900 MW. The AESO currently has several initiatives underway, working with stakeholders to develop mitigation measures and removal of the current threshold.</p>
<p>STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS</p>	<p>5) WestWindeau Inc.: WindEau notes that the AESO is characterising the 10-Year Plan as a “conceptual plan” which will require further review and studies in most cases. (p.10, November 30, 2006 Draft Plan). West WindEau concurs with this assessment and therefore urges the AESO to outline the stakeholder process which will be used to engage stakeholders in the further studies and refinements to replace the “conceptual plans” included in the 10-Year Plan to be filed with the Board before December 31, 2006.</p> <p>AESO: Please refer to Section 1.2 of the draft 10-Year Transmission System Plan. (please click here) As presented, the 10-Year Plan is a high level document that provides a “road map” of the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES) based on the information we have today. The process then turns to producing more detailed analysis and essentially developing a need application including an ultimate recommendation to the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board for transmission development in a specific area. As the AESO performs a more detailed review of specific areas of the province, we will engage stakeholders when relevant information becomes available. The AESO is currently developing need applications for transmission reinforcements in both Southeast Alberta and Northeast Alberta and have already been in the process of engaging stakeholders to work collaboratively with the AESO to develop a prudent and reasonable recommendation that balances interests of all Albertans. Please click here to view the Southeast Alberta Transmission Development section of the AESO’s website for the development of the need application and stakeholder consultation currently underway or click here to view the same in reference to Northeast Alberta. Please click here to view the section of the website in reference to Northwest Alberta for which the Need Application was approved August 2006.</p>

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	<p>6) West WindEau Inc.: Of particular concern to West WindEau is how the AESO will engage stakeholders in a discussion of the AESO’s obligations under section 4 and 8 of the Transmission Regulation. These sections require that the AESO plan the transmission system so that transmission is not a constraint in locating and operating generation or servicing load requirements. It is a concern that the AESO has elected to use generation and load scenarios that fall short of the full potential in southern Alberta and as a result the current “conceptual plan” will be inadequate or result in inefficient upgrades. West WindEau therefore recommends that the AESO engage in further stakeholder consultations prior to filing a Need Application in order to fully review the reasonableness of the generation and load assumptions and the merits of alternative transmission development options.</p> <p>AESO: Please refer to the answer to question 5. The AESO would like to reiterate the 10-Year Plan is a “road map” of the AESO based on knowledge we have today. The conceptual plan is not intended to preclude or replace the current stakeholder consultation underway for Southeast Alberta where more detailed analysis is being performed. Please click here to view the section of the website that refers to the stakeholder consultation process underway for Southeast Alberta. The Southwest Alberta Need Application was approved by the AEUB in 2004. (please click here to view the section of our website) The AESO will continue to monitor load requirements and generation development in the Southwest Area and engage stakeholders at the time when new transmission reinforcements are required and a need application will be developed for timely transmission reinforcement into the area.</p> <p>7) WestWindeau Inc.: In general, West WindEau does not believe the AESO began the consultation process soon enough before the obligatory submission deadline. The opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue and provide a number of opportunities to engage the market has not been sufficient. Even the current consultation has been cut short given the time of year, the short interval for submitting comments and the perception that the 10-Year Plan is a “done deal” despite its preliminary nature. In future the stakeholder engagement on the development of the 10-Year plan should begin much earlier than it has for this version. At the same time the stakeholder consultation process should not end simply because the AESO has filed a document with the Board.</p>

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	<p>AESO: <i>The AESO takes note of this point and will revise the consultation process as necessary for the 10-Year Transmission System Plan required to be filed for information with the AEUB by December 31, 2008. Please note: the 10-Year Transmission System plan is a high level overview based on knowledge we have today and is not intended to preclude or replace specific area consultations. The ultimate recommendations to the AEUB are resultant from the specific area plan upon which stakeholder consultation is currently underway for several development plans and will continue to proceed until a need application is filed for that specific area. The AESO is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders to develop the most prudent and reasonable recommendation of transmission development for a specific area that is in the best interest for Alberta. This commitment will not end with the filing of the 10-Year Transmission System Plan (2007-2016).</i></p>
<p>LOAD ASSUMPTIONS AND GENERATION SCENARIOS</p>	<p>8) EDA: As discussed, our concerns with the draft 10-Year Plan centre primarily around the AESO load forecast and ensuring adequate transmission is planned in order to support the economic activity of our growing region. We understand that the AESO has revised the 0.5% system and regional load forecast for the 2006 and 2016 average annual growth rate for Southern Alberta to 1.6%; however in our opinion this remains inexplicably low.</p> <p>AESO: <i>The 10-Year Transmission System Plan is a document that provides a high-level overview of the transmission system in Alberta over the next ten years. The annual growth rate identified in the 10-Year plan reflects coincident summer peak load growth for the entire South Region. As indicated in the Southeast Alberta Need Assessment and Alternative Screening document, (please click here) the coincident summer peak growth rate for the southeast area is 1.7 per cent. If the Empress planning area is excluded from the southeast area coincident summer peak loading, the growth rate for the Southeast area is 2.2 per cent. As can be seen in Table 2.2-1 of Southeast Alberta Need Assessment and Alternative Screening document, the growth rate varies for the different planning areas within the Southeast area and the Medicine Hat planning area coincident peak growth rate is forecast at 3.3 per cent. However, the AESO has only included the City of Medicine Hat's demand transmission service (DTS) requirements of 26 MW and not the entire City of Medicine Hat load in developing reinforcements into Southeast Alberta. The City of Medicine Hat has not provided indication of increasing the 26 MW DTS from the Alberta Interconnected Electric System at this time.</i></p>

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	<p>9) Cypress County: Specifically, the county is most concerned with the general lack of electric transmission infrastructure to accommodate not only future economic growth in the region but current requirements as well. We also have grave concerns about the restrictions being placed on the wind resources being developed to their full potential in our area.</p> <p>AESO: <i>The AESO is currently developing a need application for the necessary transmission development to meet the load requirements in Southeast Alberta. Simultaneously, the AESO is performing the appropriate studies to accommodate development of wind generation upon the mitigation of the reliability issues of wind generation. The AESO is currently working with stakeholders to develop solutions to the wind reliability issues. Upon resolution of this issue, the AESO will proceed with the necessary studies to file a need application with the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board for further transmission development to accommodate the proposed wind generation development. Please click here to view the section of the AESO's website that refers to the stakeholder consultation process underway for Southeast Alberta.</i></p> <p>10) EDA: Commercial and Industrial developments in Southeast Alberta is expected to continually increase. We encourage the AESO to work with the EDA to engage local Chambers of Commerce and rural towns and counties in our region on our process where each of the stakeholders has the opportunity to provide the AESO with information on the annual growth rates and economic activity.</p> <p>AESO: <i>The AESO takes note of this point and will look forward to EDA's and others participation in the specific area plan for Southeast Alberta.</i></p> <p>11) TransCanada: TransCanada requests that table 5 page 26 include a NorthernLights scenario with 1,500 to 2,000 MW of dedicated generation.</p> <p>AESO: <i>Because merchant interties such as NorthernLights project are planned and advanced by competitive, for-profit organizations optimizing their merchant potential, the interties themselves are outside the planning purview of the AESO. Furthermore, as long as the merchant intertie transactions are for opportunity services, the AESO does not plan and reinforce the transmission system to provide a higher level of service. As well, the AESO is not obliged to reinforce the transmission system for potential firm transfers over these interties in the absence of the users of</i></p>

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	<p><i>the merchant facilities or the merchant developers contracting for firm service. The AESO is currently in the early stages of working with TransCanada to determine the steps necessary to advance the project within Alberta. Recognizing that the NorthernLights Transmission Project will span across several critical cut-planes in the Alberta transmission system, the AESO will continue to assess the potential to obtain service from the NorthernLights Transmission Project to delay or avoid the need altogether for advancing regulated intra-Alberta transmission projects. Such service would be dependent on satisfactory commercial and technical arrangements being put in place, and would be expected to be subject to regulatory approval by the AEUB.</i></p> <p>12) EPCOR: EPCOR is generally supportive of the Plan. The Plan is a thorough and credible document which addresses the major transmission development issues in Alberta over the next 10 years. In letters dated September 15, 2006, and November 10, 2006, EPCOR provided extensive comments on the Plan. The AESO has considered and responded to several of these concerns. EPCOR, however, continues to have concerns with respect to the AESO forecasting methodology for both load and generation, as communicated in our September 15 and November 10 letters.</p> <p>AESO: <i>The AESO takes note of this point.</i></p>
<p>BULK TRANSMISSION SYSTEM – CONCEPTUAL SYSTEM UPGRADES</p>	<p>13) CNRL: The 10 year plan is based on a feasible development plan, a review of some of the considered alternatives would be worthwhile, demonstrating the available margin for increased load or generation for the preferred alternative.</p> <p>AESO: <i>The 10-Year Transmission System plan is a high level overview or a road-map of the transmission system over the next 10 years. It has presented possible conceptual system upgrades that may be required based on the knowledge we have today. A detailed analysis of the alternatives is part of the detailed alternative assessment and recommendation stage of the development of a need application for a specific area plan.</i></p> <p>14) CNRL: Specific concerns include the new 240 kV Brintnell to Dover transmission line estimated at \$100 million. This is an obvious candidate to be prebuilt to 500 kV and energized at 240 kV to start. This would met [sic] the 10-Year Plan requirement while allowing a large capacity increase when converted to 500 kV in the future. Building it to just 240 kV will not give the generators in Fort McMurray any sense of future capacity.</p>

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	<p>AESO: As indicated on page 26 of Volume I of the Northwest Alberta Transmission Development Need Identification Document the AESO intends to evaluate this alternative.</p> <p>15) CNRL: The 240 kV Cross Tie from Leismer 72S to McMillan 885S to Brintnell 876S has an impact on the transfer in and transfer out capacity yet the incremental capacity is not demonstrated. Ditto for the additional reactive compensation. A table outlining the capacity increases for each section would be valuable. As would the capacity increase due to the Brintnell 876S to Dover 888S line at 240 kV, at 500 kV, and built at 500kV energized at 240 kV.</p> <p>AESO: Please refer to the response to question 14.</p> <p>16) CNRL: Cold Lake is left again without any proposals, demonstrating yet again that the AESO will only build for committed needs not for forecast needs. At least a hint with possible capacity margins would be useful!</p> <p>AESO: The AESO has posted a document specific to the Northeast Inter-Regional Transmission development in which Cold Lake was identified and studied as a region. Please click here to view the Northeast Alberta Service Requirements Forecast document for detailed information at the detailed specific area plan for Northeast Alberta.</p> <p>17) DJ Hammond Consulting Inc.: With reference to the Northeast cut-plane conceptual system upgrades, what is the anticipated timeframe for each of the four stages?</p> <p>AESO: The four stages identified as conceptual system upgrades for the Northeast area are anticipated to be needed by 2016 based on the assumed generation development. However, the transmission system upgrades for Fort Saskatchewan are anticipated to be needed within the next 2.5 to 3 years. The AESO is currently developing a stream-lined stakeholder consultation process that will accommodate the imminent need in Fort Saskatchewan.</p> <p>General timeframes will be included for the conceptual transmission system upgrades in the final 10-Year Transmission System Plan (2007-2016).</p> <p>18) CRD Energy Services: With reference to the industrial load generation scenario and the Northeast cut-plane, are the load requirements being driven by development in Fort</p>

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	<p>McMurray?</p> <p>AESO: <i>Yes, in part, Fort McMurray is a component of the additional load requirements. However, Fort Saskatchewan is emerging as a load center with respect to the addition of oil sands upgraders in the area.</i></p> <p>19) CRD Energy Services: A conceptual system upgrade for the Northeast area includes a 500 kV line from Heartland to Brintnell. Has the AESO considered a line from Wabamun to Brintnell?</p> <p>AESO: <i>This suggestion will be explored in more detail at the more detailed specific area planning stage for the Northeast. For the purposes of the 10-Year Transmission System Plan (2007-2016), the AESO included the option it has as the line length becomes shorter and therefore less expensive when taking into account the load growth in Fort Saskatchewan and the subsequent need to reinforce the Fort Saskatchewan area.</i></p> <p>20) TransCanada: With respect to the Fort Saskatchewan system reinforcement, has the AESO considered 240 kV development rather than 500 kV? If so, will the decision be based upon economics, timing or both?</p> <p>AESO: <i>The decision to reinforce the transmission system at 240 kV or 500 kV will be explored in the specific area planning for Fort Saskatchewan. This decision will be based on a number of considerations including economics and timing.</i></p> <p>21) TransCanada: With respect to the analysis performed on the SOK cut-plane, please explain what is meant by the term "high export conditions".</p> <p>AESO: <i>"High export conditions" refers to the models used in the analysis of the SOK cut-plane including 1000 MW of export. The 1000 MW assumption was based on a GRAS to restore the AB/BC intertie to 1000 MW export capability.</i></p> <p>22) TransCanada: What considerations for the high export conditions were made with respect to the AB/Saskatchewan intertie?</p> <p>AESO: <i>The AB/Saskatchewan intertie was assumed to be neutral in this scenario.</i></p>

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	<p>23) TransCanada: When assuming 1000 MW of export capability on the AB/BC intertie, is the AESO assuming this is firm service?</p> <p>AESO: <i>The purpose of including "high export conditions" in a scenario is to review congestion on the bulk transmission system. Under Section 8 of the Transmission Regulation, the AESO has a requirement to restore these interties to their full path rating under normal operating conditions and assumes that the restoration refers to existing interconnections.</i></p> <p>24) TransCanada: Does the AESO consider the major driver to restoring intertie capability economic exports?</p> <p>AESO: <i>Under Section 8 of the Transmission Regulation, the AESO has a requirement to restore the existing interties to their full path rating under normal operating conditions. While the AESO generally agrees that a significant benefit of restoring intertie capability is to accommodate economic exports there are also other benefits as well including, for example, the ability to accommodate imports.</i></p> <p>25) TransCanada: When the AESO reviews congestion on a cut-plane, does it consider the secondary effects of congestion?</p> <p>AESO: <i>No. The AESO bases it's modelling on the generic stacking order. (please click here) When evaluating the bulk transmission system, the AESO used 11 generation scenarios and in these scenarios, the AESO assumes this generation has been built.</i></p> <p>26) TransCanada: Would the AESO model this way if export capability was not considered? Would the AESO plan the transmission system in a similar manner if export capability becomes the main driver to restoring the interconnections with other jurisdictions?</p> <p>AESO: <i>If export capability becomes the main driver to restoring the interconnections the AESO would plan the transmission system consistent with the assumptions made regarding the level of service to be provided for that export i.e. firm or opportunity.</i></p> <p>27) ALM: One of the AESO's regulated requirements is to restore intertie capability. How do you apply the planning criteria to accomplish this?</p>

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	<p>AESO: <i>In accordance with the AESO’s Reliability Criteria, the AESO considers the economic dispatch and will plan the transmission system accordingly.</i></p> <p>28) CRD Energy Services: Are the path ratings identified in the 10-Year Plan consistent across all times of the day or are they specific to the condition identified?</p> <p>AESO: <i>The path ratings identified are more specific to the conditions studied and in some cases will be dependent on the specific generation dispatch studied, for example in those cases where the path rating is determined by voltage stability considerations. The path ratings used in the 10-Year Plan are based on credible worst-case loading and generation conditions for purposes of applying the planning criteria.</i></p> <p>29) TransCanada: Please identify the location of possible alternatives for additional interties.</p> <p>AESO: <i>The AESO is currently performing preliminary work to identify the possibility of additional interties. We have not identified any site-specific or route-specific options for the alternatives at this time.</i></p> <p>30) CRD Energy Services: Based on the conceptual system upgrade of a second 500 kV Edmonton to Calgary transmission development, please identify the path rating on the interties.</p> <p>AESO: <i>The current WECC path rating for the Alberta-BC intertie is 1000 MW export/1200 MW import however, current system limitations do not allow operation of the tie at these levels. The addition of a second 500 kV Edmonton to Calgary transmission development will allow operation at these path ratings. However, any increase in path rating achievable (or desired) is difficult to determine at this time as it will be dependent on the results of detailed studies that would have to be conducted as part of the WECC Path Rating Process.</i></p> <p>31) CRD Energy Services: Is there a GRAS (Generation Remedial Action Scheme) in place for the Wabamun Area?</p> <p>AESO: <i>No. The GRAS scheme identified in the second draft of the 10-Year Transmission System Plan</i></p>

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	<p><i>is based on a ten year timeframe. Currently, there is preliminary work underway to develop the GRAS for the Wabamun area.</i></p> <p>32) CRD Energy Services: Please define the South cut-plane and explain why the transmission line to Sheerness is not included.</p> <p>AESO: <i>As defined in Section 4.2 of the second draft of the 10-Year Transmission System Plan (2007-2016); there are currently three 240 kV circuits between the south area and the Calgary and central areas. These three circuits plus 138 kV circuits interconnect the south area with the Calgary and central areas and are referred to as the "South Cut-plane". The transmission line to Sheerness is not included as the majority of the south-north transfer occurs over the three 240 kV circuits previously mentioned.</i></p> <p>33) ALM: Will the AESO consider pre-building the conceptual system upgrades identified in the south region at 500 kV?</p> <p>AESO: <i>As mentioned, the 10-Year Transmission System Plan identifies high-level, conceptual system upgrades that present possible solutions to alleviate the transmission system constraints identified under the load forecast and possible generation scenarios. The conceptual system upgrades identified in the 10-Year Transmission System Plan do not preclude or replace the detailed studies at the specific area planning stage when the AESO embarks on developing a need application for the area. At this detailed stage, the AESO will consider many alternatives, not only the conceptual system upgrades identified in the plan. The recommendation that will be identified in the need application for the area will be a balance of the economic, technical performance and land use impacts.</i></p> <p>34) CRD Energy Services: What does the AESO mean when it identifies a replacement of the Peigan-Janet line in the conceptual system upgrades in the south region?</p> <p>AESO: <i>In the studies conducted to date the Peigan – Janet 240 kV line has been identified as a limiting facility in the South Region and in particular the southwest area, based on its construction with a smaller conductor. In order to remove it as a limiting factor, it is advantageous to salvage the existing structures and use the right-of-way to construct a line of higher capacity and/or double circuit construction. This alternative will be considered as part of the detailed analysis to be conducted for the south region.</i></p>

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	<p>35) TransCanada: Please include approximate timeframes for all conceptual system upgrades identified.</p> <p>AESO: <i>The AESO takes note of this point and will include approximate timeframes in the final 10-Year Transmission System Plan (2007-2016).</i></p> <p>36) TransCanada: TransCanada requests that appropriate system maps of the bulk and NE systems show NorthernLights.</p> <p>AESO: <i>The AESO acknowledges the proposed NorthernLights project in Section 4.6.4 of the 10-Year Transmission System Plan (2007-2016).</i></p>
<p>REGIONAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM – CONCEPTUAL SYSTEM UPGRADES</p>	<p>37) Wind Power Inc.: With respect to the Edmonton region, the AESO identifies an increase in transmission developments of 600-700 MW. At what time do you expect these projects to be needed?</p> <p>AESO: <i>Please refer to the response to question 35.</i></p> <p>38) CRD Energy Services: What is the location of the termination point for the approved Southwest Alberta Transmission Development?</p> <p>AESO: <i>The termination points of the approved development are Goose Lake (a new substation in the Pincher Creek area), Peigan and North Lethbridge. Please click here to view the Southwest Alberta Need Application.</i></p> <p>39) CRD Energy Services: Is there a possibility of terminating the Southwest development at the proposed MATL 120S substation?</p> <p>AESO: <i>The AESO considered this possibility in the development of the need application for the Montana-Alberta Tie line. However, as there is sufficient room at North Lethbridge to terminate these circuits the AESO did not see any particular benefit to terminating the southwest transmission development at the proposed MATL 120S substation.</i></p>