

Christina Lake 240 kV Transmission Development Needs Identification Document Application – Update for Potentially Affected Stakeholders

This update provides stakeholders with information regarding the Alberta Electric System Operator's (AESO) *Christina Lake 240 kV Transmission Development Needs Identification Document application*, recently filed with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). In preparation of its application, the AESO conducted a participant involvement program through the spring and summer of 2011, involving landowners, occupants and residents, as well as various agencies in the Christina Lake area.

On October 20, 2011, the AESO filed its application with the AUC; the application seeks approval of the need for transmission system development to serve industrial growth forecasted in the Christina Lake area. The area currently contains some oilsands extraction facilities and related industrial development and the existing transmission system facilities in the area are inadequate to serve growing demand and the connection of new industrial customers. The AUC is now reviewing the AESO's application. More information on the application and the AUC review process can be found below in the *next steps* section.

Why is transmission system development needed?

The AESO identified the need to develop the transmission system in the Christina Lake area, which is located approximately 140 km south of the City of Fort McMurray and 100 km to the northeast of Lac La Biche. The AESO forecasts electricity demand required for future industrial connections in the area will increase from approximately 50MW to between 390MW and 570MW by 2018/19. New industrial customers will require connection to the transmission system beginning as early as 2013.

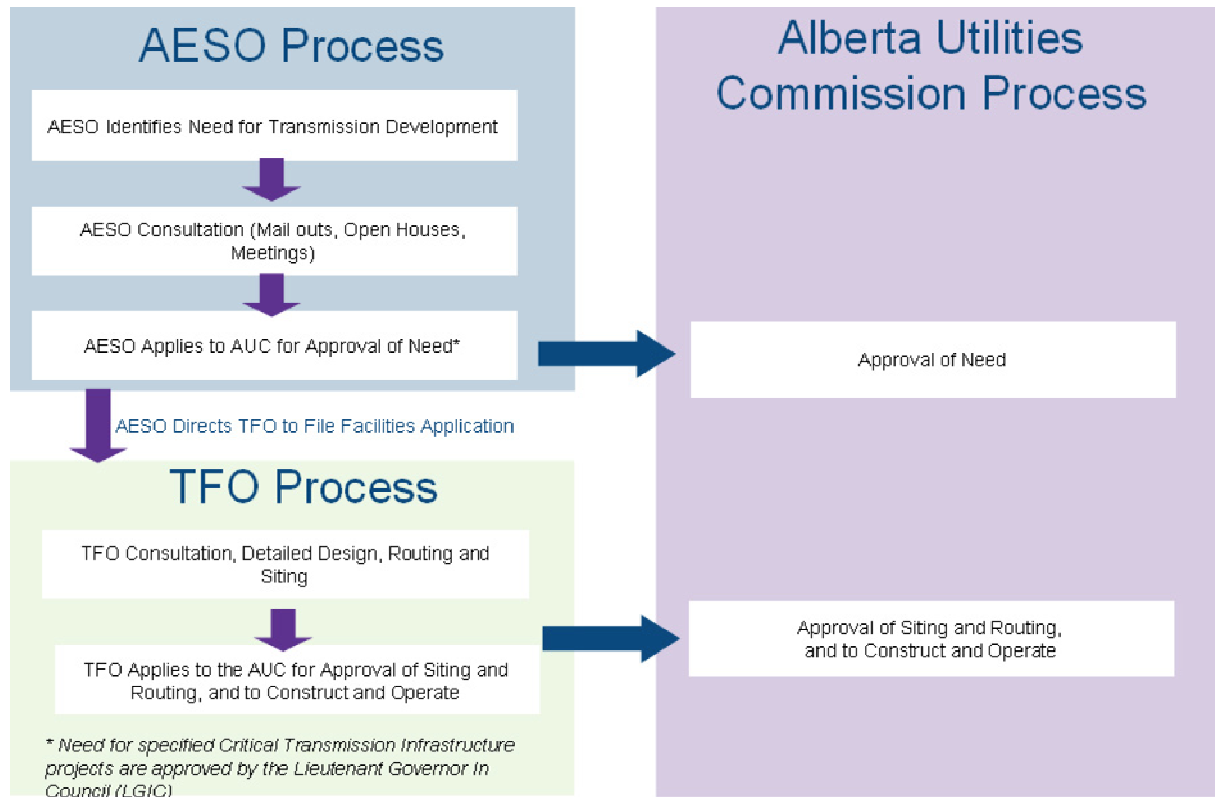
How will the AESO address this need for transmission system development?

The AESO has proposed a transmission development plan for the area that includes developing a 240 kV looped transmission system, including three new 240 kV substations, approximately 100 – 150 km of new 240 kV transmission line, and modifications and expansion of existing transmission substations in the area.

Parts of this proposed transmission system development are expected to be in-service beginning in 2013. The development is expected to be complete in 2015.

What are the next steps?

The AUC is currently reviewing the AESO's application. A copy of the application can be found at <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/23408.html> or on the AUC website, registered as application number 1607795. Information about AUC proceedings and how to get involved in the AUC application process can be found on the AUC's website at <http://www.auc.ab.ca/involving-albertans/Pages/default.aspx>.



It is noted that while the AESO's application addresses the need for the proposed transmission development, it does not include information on siting and routing of the proposed transmission facilities. This information is determined during the transmission facility owner's (TFO) Facility Application (FA) process.

Recently, the AESO has directed both ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) and AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink), the TFOs in the Christina Lake area, to prepare FAs to meet the need for the transmission development identified in the AESO's Christina Lake application. As part of the FA process, the TFOs will consult with the public and interested stakeholders regarding possible transmission line routes and substation locations for the transmission development identified in the AESO's application. When the TFOs have completed consultation and finalized their routing and siting, they will file the FA or FA's with the AUC for approval.

Who is the AESO?

Alberta's transmission system, sometimes referred to as the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES), is planned and operated by the AESO. The transmission system comprises the high-voltage lines, towers and equipment (generally 69kV and above) that transmit electricity from generators to lower voltage systems that distribute electricity to cities, towns, rural areas and large industrial customers.

The AESO's role is to maintain safe, reliable and economic operation of the AIES. The AESO's planning responsibility includes determining the need for transmission system development and the manner in which that need is met. The AESO is also mandated to facilitate the interconnection of qualified market participants to the AIES. The AESO is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its Needs Identification Document (NID).

Further Information

The AESO appreciates your views on this need for transmission system development and your comments are encouraged. If you have any questions or comments about the need for this transmission system development in this area or the AESO application regarding this need, please contact:

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