

Information Document

Adequacy, Supply Shortfall and Energy Emergency Alerts

ID #2012-006R



Information documents are not authoritative. Information documents are for information purposes only and are intended to provide guidance. In the event of any discrepancy between an information document and any authoritative document¹ in effect, the authoritative document governs.

1 Purpose

This information document is most applicable to the following authoritative documents:

- (a) reliability standard EOP-011-AB-1, *Emergency Operations* (“EOP-011-AB-1”)
- (b) Section 202.2 of the ISO rules, *Short Term Adequacy and Supply Shortfall* (“Section 202.2”);
- (c) Section 202.4 of the ISO rules, *Managing Long Lead Time Assets* (“Section 202.4”);
- (d) Section 202.6 of the ISO rules, *Adequacy of Supply* (“Section 202.6”); and
- (e) Section 305.1 of the ISO rules, *Energy Emergency Alerts* (“Section 305.1”).

This information document provides background information regarding the steps the AESO uses to manage a supply shortfall event and the criteria used for conducting both short-term and long-term adequacy assessments. This information document also provides information on requirements contained in authoritative documents regarding energy emergency alerts. This information document is likely of most interest to market participants, pool participants, legal owners and operators of sink assets and source assets, and legal owners of electric distribution systems..

2 AESO Steps in Managing Supply Shortfall

Appendix 1 of this information document identifies steps that the AESO takes in managing a supply shortfall event. Certain steps may be more effective than others in differing supply shortfall events.

The AESO continues to meet the control performance standard as defined in the *Consolidated Authoritative Document Glossary* during a supply shortfall event. As such, if the AESO determines that a step in Appendix 1 is not effective in managing the supply shortfall event such that the control performance standards are met, the AESO skips that step and proceeds to steps determined to be more effective. If the AESO does skip one or more steps in Appendix 1 when managing a supply shortfall event, the AESO returns to the skipped steps and reduces the requirements for energy from later steps if time and operating conditions permit.

3 Notification of Energy Emergency Alerts

Section 305.1 focuses primarily on who needs to communicate information related to an energy emergency alert. In comparison, Appendix 1 of EOP-011-AB-1 details the process and describes the levels the AESO uses to communicate the condition of its balancing authority area when it is experiencing an energy emergency.

Appendix 2 - Table 2: Energy Emergency Alert Notification Methods of this information document lists the general notification method the AESO uses when notifying market participants of an energy emergency alert. When the AESO notifies market participants regarding an energy emergency alert, the AESO and the market participants identify and discuss any work that increases the risk of tripping a generating unit or an intertie and which could subsequently be stopped.

After notifying parties of an energy emergency alert, the AESO also posts notice of the energy emergency alert in the [AIES Event Log](#) located on the AESO website. Additionally, market participants may find useful information in the [Supply Adequacy Report](#) located on the AESO website.

¹“Authoritative document” is the general name given by the AESO to categories of documents made by the AESO under the authority of the Electric Utilities Act and associated regulations, and that contain binding legal requirements for either market participants or the AESO, or both. Authoritative documents include the ISO rules, the reliability standards, and the ISO tariff.

4 Voluntary Efforts to Alleviate Supply Shortfall

The AESO may request the assistance of the following market participants in alleviating the supply shortfall event:

4.1 Pool Participants in General

A pool participant may, in response to the message issued pursuant to subsection 3(1) of Section 202.2, voluntarily curtail load. If a pool participant can no longer voluntarily curtail load, the AESO encourages the pool participant to provide notice to the AESO before restoring large amounts of load.

4.2 Legal Owners of Electric Distribution Systems

The AESO encourages the legal owner of an electric distribution system to make best efforts to achieve a 3% voltage reduction on the electric distribution system. The AESO encourages those who are able to reduce voltage to provide notice to the AESO before restoring voltage to normal.

5 Determining Short-term Supply Adequacy

In some situations, the amount of demand is greater than the amount of energy offered in the energy market merit order. When the AESO has issued dispatches for all energy in the energy market merit order, the interconnected electric system may experience a supply shortfall event. Various events such as:

- generation contingencies;
- transmission contingencies;
- energy market deficiencies; or
- unexpected demand levels

can produce a supply shortfall event.

The AESO assesses short term adequacy to determine the likelihood of a supply shortfall event in upcoming settlement periods. If the short term adequacy assessment indicates that a supply shortfall event is likely to occur, then the AESO takes steps to maintain regulating reserves and avoid shedding firm load.

6 Long Lead Time Asset Priority Order for Supply Shortfall

The AESO issues directives to long lead time assets, if a short term adequacy assessment leads the AESO to take the steps outlined in subsection 3(2) of Section 202.2. The AESO issues directives in the following order:

- (a) shortest start-up time;
- (b) largest incremental availability capability;
- (c) shortest minimum run time; and
- (d) lowest loss factor.

7 Short Term Adequacy Assessment Assumptions

The AESO makes certain assumptions when conducting the calculation described in subsection 3 of Section 202.6, including using a forecast output from wind and solar aggregated generating facilities, persisting current values for price-responsive loads and behind-the fence generation for the next 36 hours, and then applying a fixed number for the remainder of the 7 day period based on statistical data. Currently, the AESO uses 200 MW for price-responsive load and 355 MW for behind-the-fence generation.

8 Long Term Adequacy Metrics and Reporting

The AESO posts a quarterly report to the AESO website every February, May, August, and November, that contains long term adequacy metrics. The long term adequacy metrics include: new generation projects and retirements, a reserve margin, a supply cushion, and the 2-year probability of supply adequacy shortfall.

8.1 New Generation Projects and Retirements Metric

The new generation projects and retirement metrics includes 4 tables. All 4 tables include the sponsor, project name, fuel type and unit capacity and either the announced in-service date or the retirement date. The metric further classifies projects into the following 4 categories to provide additional information:

- (a) generation projects under active construction, as determined by the AESO;
- (b) generation projects which have received government permits or approvals to proceed from the Electric Utilities Board, Alberta Utilities Commission or other Alberta agencies;
- (c) generation projects which have a connection application before the AESO or have been publicly announced and have an ongoing commitment to proceed, as determined by the AESO; and
- (d) existing generating assets which are known to be retiring as indicated by the public announcements of the owners of such assets or by other publicly available sources of information.

The AESO may provide additional public generation project information regarding the magnitude of the impact of a project on long term adequacy and may identify potential impediments to the timely completion and connection of the projects if appropriate.

8.2 Reserve Margin Metric

The reserve margin metric is a comparison of generation supply and demand during annual peak demand in Alberta. This metric is a calculation of the installed generation capacity and future generation capacity, accounting for seasonal hydro capacity and generation with on-site load, and excluding wind and solar capacity at the time of system peak that is in excess of the system annual peak demand, expressed as a percentage of the system peak. Three forecast reserve margins are presented, each with different future supply additions. The different supply additions correspond to the stage of the generation projects in the new generation projects and retirements metric. The metric may be calculated with or without inertia capacity, as appropriate for the specific study, since full import capability may not always be available at the time of system peak demand.

8.3 Supply Cushion Metric

The supply cushion metric illustrates the ability of installed generation capacity and future generation capacity, accounting for seasonal hydro capacity and generation with on-site load, and excluding wind and solar capacity to meet peak demand on a daily basis. This metric includes existing generation and generation under construction less announced retirements but it does not include transmission outages unless a generator or aggregated generating facility submits an outage or derate. A deficiency of supply to meet daily peak demand does not mean a supply shortfall exists as there may be other resources such as wind, solar, or imports available to meet demand. Any confidential information used in the metric is only shown in aggregate form.

8.4 2-year Probability of Supply Adequacy Shortfall Metric

The 2-year probability of supply adequacy shortfall metric provides information on potential energy supply shortfall events during the 2 year period on a rolling quarterly basis in terms of number of hours of supply shortfalls, largest supply shortfall hour in MW, and total MWh not served. The calculated total MWh not served represents the cumulative total of MW of demand not served during each hour of all supply shortfall events modeled during the 2 year period.

The AESO may establish other metrics deemed appropriate for the assessment of long term adequacy in Alberta. The other metrics may not necessarily be published in the quarterly report but would be used to assist the AESO in fulfilling its obligations under subsection 5(1) of Section 202.6 and under the *Electric Utilities Act*.

The AESO updates the long term adequacy metric methodology as appropriate. Generally, the methodology:

- (a) covers the key elements which directly or indirectly measure long term adequacy;
- (b) is relatively simple to understand and promotes understanding of the energy market;
- (c) to the extent possible, is based on publicly available and verifiable information; and
- (d) provides an outlook on long term adequacy.

9 Long Term Adequacy Threshold Determination and Use

The AESO assumes an average hourly Alberta internal load and uses a one in 10 year one-hour supply shortfall, to calculate the long term adequacy threshold, as per the methodology in subsection 5(1) of Section 202.6. An example of the calculation for an average load of 8000 MW produces a one in 10 year one-hour supply shortfall equivalent to 800 MW (8000 MW / 10 years). Applying this over a 2 year period produces a threshold value of 1600 MWh (800 MWh x 2 years).

10 Long Term Adequacy Threshold Actions

The AESO may procure the following services if long term adequacy threshold is exceeded:

- (a) load shed – the AESO contracts with pool participants for the right to curtail load in certain circumstances and under specific terms and conditions.
- (b) self-supply and back-up generation – the AESO contracts with the legal owners of self-supply and back-up generating units for the ability to call on such generating units to provide energy to the system. The contracted generating units normally only produce energy solely for use at the generation site, or are normally available to provide back-up supply when there is an outage at the generation site, and would not otherwise have been available to participate in the energy market.
- (c) emergency portable generation – the AESO would contract with the legal owners of emergency portable generating units for the ability to call on such generating units to provide energy to the system. Emergency portable generating units are portable units that are not currently located in Alberta but which can be interconnected on short notice if a suitable site is available.

11 Appendices

Appendix 1 – *Table 1: Supply Shortfall Management*

Appendix 2 – *Table 2: Energy Emergency Alert Notification Methods*

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Revision History

Posting Date	Description of Changes
2021-12-22	Revised Appendix 1 to align with newly issued EOP-011-AB-1. Consolidated the provisions of ID 2012-024R into this ID in Section 3 and added Appendix 2. Amended to align with AESO drafting principles and conducted administrative updates.
2018-09-04	Updates to reflect addition of solar and clarify assumptions for short term adequacy assessments.
2015-10-19	Addition of Step 20, Appendix 1, Table 1, requesting BC emergency energy.
2013-12-20	Admin update to remove, re-organize and clarify information. Addition of long-term supply adequacy sections relating to Section 202.6 of the ISO rules.
2013-07-26	Reordered steps in Table 1 to reflect more efficient process
2013-06-24	Changes to steps in Table 1 to reflect more efficient process
2013-01-08	Initial release

Appendix 1

Table 1: Supply Shortfall Management

The AESO performs the following steps in managing a supply shortfall event as outlined in section 2 of this information document. The AESO follows these steps in reverse order when returning to normal operations after a supply shortfall event.

(1)	The AESO, performs a short term adequacy assessment in accordance with subsection 2 of Section 202.2, when the short term adequacy program issues an alarm.
(2)	Perform planning steps, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) if step 7 is anticipated to be reached, cancel transmission maintenance to remove generation constraints or increase import available transfer capability on all interconnections with neighbouring balancing authorities; (b) if it is assessed that shedding of firm load is likely to occur, and sufficient time is available for a public appeal to reduce electrical energy consumption to reduce load, arrange for AESO Corporate Communication to issue a public appeal; (c) allow for 1 hour notice if it is anticipated that the demand opportunity service 1 hour loads are to be curtailed in step 8; (d) determine in which future hours during the potential supply shortfall export available transfer capability on all interconnections with neighbouring balancing authorities are to be posted to 0 MW in step 6 so new export available transfer capability levels can be posted 1 hour in advance; (e) if the AESO reasonably anticipates an Energy Emergency Alert 1 or 2 is likely to be reached, notify the adjacent balancing authorities; and (f) allow for 1 hour notice if it is anticipated that the AESO Voluntary Load Curtailment Program loads are to be issued dispatches to terminate load in step 13.
(3)	Issue a dispatch to terminate dispatch down service with respect to a directive for energy from a long lead time asset.
(4)	Internal notifications within the AESO.
(5)	Declare Energy Emergency Alert 1 in accordance with EOP-011-AB-1.
(6)	Reduce export available transfer capability to zero on all interconnections with neighbouring balancing authorities and post the updated available transfer capability to the AESO website.
(7)	Declare Energy Emergency Alert 2 in accordance with EOP-011-AB-1.
(8)	Curtail demand opportunity service loads.
(9)	Cancel transmission maintenance.
(10)	Issue directives for dispatched contingency reserves that are in excess of the contingency reserve requirement.
(11)	Issue directives for out-of-market energy from long lead time assets.
(12)	Request legal owners of an electric distribution system institute a 3% distribution voltage reduction.

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(13)	Issue dispatches to terminate load in the AESO's voluntary load curtailment program as identified by the AESO internal procedures.
(14)	If available transfer capability is limited because of the lack of offers for load shed service for imports, then disregard this constraint and increase the posted Alberta-BC and Alberta-Montana interconnection import available transfer capability up to the limit as if all available load shed service for imports loads are in service. This step is performed as weather and other operating conditions allow.
(15)	If import available transfer capability is available, permit intra-hour interchange transactions up to the posted import available transfer capability limit.
(16)	Declare Energy Emergency Alert 3 in accordance with EOP-011-AB-1.
(17)	Issue directives for supplemental reserves.
(18)	Issue directives for spinning reserves.
(19)	If there is available capacity on the interconnections, request emergency energy from Saskatchewan.
(20)	If there is available capacity on the interconnections, request emergency energy from British Columbia.
(21)	If there is available capacity on the interconnections, request emergency energy from the Northwest Power Pool.
(22)	Issue a directive to curtail firm load and set pool price to \$1000/MWh

Appendix 2

Table 2 – Energy Emergency Alert Notification Methods

Party to be Notified	Notification Method
All market participants with bids or offers in the energy market merit order	Automated Dispatch and Messaging System
Legal owners or operators of transmission facilities	Phone call or posting electronic notifications
Adjacent balancing authorities and adjacent reliability coordinators	Phone call or posting electronic notifications
Legal owners or operators of electric distribution systems that are responsible for implementing firm load curtailment procedures	Phone call
Other entities that the AESO determines may be impacted by the state of supply shortfall	Phone call