

Amendment to the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document Approval



Why am I receiving this information?

On June 18, 2012, the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) approved the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document (NID) in Decision 2012-167, and issued Approval U2012-271 (Approval) as an appendix to that decision.

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) will request minor amendments to the Approval. You are receiving this information because you may be affected by the AESO's proposed amendments.

What is the AESO proposing to amend?

The AESO will request that the AUC amend its Approval by:

1. Specifying single-circuit structures, instead of double-circuit structures with a conductor on only one side, for the approved 240 kV transmission line between the approved Birchwood Creek 960S¹ substation and the approved ELLS River 2079S² substation; and
2. Updating the development sequence described in the Approval to reflect current in-service date estimates:
 - a. the Birchwood Creek 960S substation will come into service in Q3 2014;
 - b. the ELLS River 2079S substation will come into service in Q4 2014;
 - c. the transmission line between the Birchwood Creek 960S and ELLS River 2079S substations will come into service in Q4 2014; and
 - d. the approved transmission line between the ELLS River 2079S substation and the existing transmission line 9L08 will come into service in Q2 2015.

Why is the AESO requesting these amendments?

ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO), as the transmission facilities owner (TFO) in the Fort McMurray area, has informed the AESO that development of the double-circuit 240 kV transmission line connecting ELLS River 2079S to the existing transmission line 9L08 will be delayed due to routing and construction challenges. The TFO will require two winter construction seasons to complete the work and cannot meet the original in-service date of Q3 2013.

To meet the required ELLS River 2079S in-service date as closely as possible, ATCO has proposed to complete the 240 kV transmission line between Birchwood Creek 960S and ELLS River 2079S in 2014, instead of in 2015 as originally scheduled. The AESO has determined that ATCO's proposal will meet the approved need, but has also determined that the proposed route for this transmission line is better served by single-circuit structures, instead of double-circuit structures with a conductor on only one side as described in the Approval.

When will the AESO file its amendment?

The AESO intends to file its amendment application with the AUC in Spring 2013. For more information on the AESO's proposed amendment, please visit <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/23414.html>

¹ Referred to as "NW FMM South" in the Approval.

² Referred to as "NW FMM North" in the 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 69 kV 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 documents.

How is ATCO involved?

ATCO is the TFO in the Fort McMurray area. While the AESO is responsible for identifying the need for transmission system development, ATCO is responsible for detailed siting and routing, constructing, operating and maintaining the associated transmission facilities. The AESO has directed ATCO to provide information to stakeholders on this proposed amendment and to file a facility proposal application with the AUC which will include a detailed description and location of the proposed transmission development.

You may not receive any information from ATCO because they are conducting more targeted mailouts. However, ATCO's materials, including detailed maps of the proposed routing and siting, are available at the following web pages on ATCO's website:

- <http://www.atcoelectric.com/projects/ProjectPages/Birchwood-Creek-Substation-Transmission-Project>
- <http://www.atcoelectric.com/projects/ProjectPages/Ells-River-Substation-Transmission-Project>
- <http://www.atcoelectric.com/projects/ProjectPages/Ells-River-to-Birchwood-Creek-Interconnection-Project>

Further Information

The AESO appreciates the views of stakeholders. Your comments and questions on the proposed amendment are encouraged. If you have any questions or comments regarding the AESO's proposed amendment to the NID Approval, please contact:

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