

May 16, 2017

Wade Vienneau
Executive Director - Facilities
Alberta Utilities Commission
Fifth Avenue Place
Fourth Floor, 425 – 1 Street SW
Calgary, AB T2P 3L8

Dear Mr. Vienneau:

**Re: Alberta Electric System Operator (“AESO”)
Wabasca 720S Substation Alterations**

Application for Cancellation of NID Approval

Introduction

1. Pursuant to Section 10 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, the AESO applies to the Alberta Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for cancellation of Needs Identification Document Approval 20435-D02-2015 (“NID Approval”).¹

Background and Relief Requested

2. In Decision 20435-D01-2015, issued December 14, 2015,² the Commission approved the AESO’s needs identification document (“NID”) application³ and issued the NID Approval for the need to modify the existing Wabasca 720S substation.
3. The NID was submitted by the AESO in response to a request received from ATCO Electric Ltd., acting as the distribution facility owner for the Wabasca area (“ATCO - Distribution”), to supply a new industrial load in the area with a corresponding increase of eight MW of demand transmission service.
4. On February 10, 2017, the AESO received correspondence from ATCO – Distribution confirming that there is no longer a need for system access service for the proposed Wabasca 720S

¹ Needs Identification Document Approval 20435-D02-2015, *Alberta Electric System Operator, Wabasca 720S Substation Alterations* (December 14, 2015).

² Decision 20435-D01-2015, *Alberta Electric System Operator, Needs Identification Document Application, ATCO Electric Ltd., Facility Application, Wabasca 720S Substation Alterations* (December 14, 2015).

³ Exhibits 20435-X0001 to 20435-X0009.

substation alterations. A copy of ATCO - Distribution's notification is attached to this letter as Appendix A.

5. According to the NID Approval, "The Commission may review this approval, in whole or in part, upon its own motion or upon application by an interested party, in accordance with Section 10 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*." Accordingly, the AESO is applying to the Commission for cancellation of the NID Approval pursuant to Section 10 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*. The AESO also requests that the Commission, pursuant to Section 2.4 of Rule 001: *Rules of Practice*, dispense with the requirements of Rule 016: *Review of Commission Decisions*, given the nature of the application.

Directions to ATCO and Request to Combine

6. On May 11, 2017, the AESO directed ATCO Electric Ltd., in its role as the transmission facility owner in the project area ("ATCO – Transmission"), to apply to the Commission for cancellation of the facilities-related approvals that were granted as a result of the NID Approval, as may be required, no later than 30 business days after having received the NID Approval cancellation application number from the AESO. The AESO and ATCO – Transmission have agreed to coordinate submission of this application with ATCO – Transmission's application for cancellation of the applicable facilities-related approvals, and the AESO requests that the Commission combine and consider the applications in a single proceeding as contemplated by Section 15.4 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.

Stakeholder Notification

7. Regarding notification, Section 4(b) of Appendix A2 of Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments* states that "[i]n the event that the [AESO] decides not to proceed with a needs identification document for which a stakeholder notification has been distributed, the [AESO] must notify stakeholders of this decision in writing." The AESO has not yet notified stakeholders who were part of the participant involvement program conducted by the AESO for the NID. However, if the NID Approval is cancelled by the Commission, the AESO will promptly notify stakeholders, in writing, of the same.

We trust the foregoing to be satisfactory. Please contact the following individual with any questions or concerns:

Melissa Mitchell-Moisson
Regulatory Coordinator
need.applications@aeso.ca
403-539-2948

Sincerely,

< *Electronically Submitted* >

Warren Clendinning
Manager, Transmission Connection Projects