

Amendment to the Red Deer Region Transmission Development Needs Identification Document Approval 166L Transmission Line Transmission Development Information for Stakeholders

Why am I receiving this information?

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) advises you of its intention to file an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to amend the Red Deer Region Transmission Development Needs Identification Document (RDTD NID) Approval No. U2012-187.

The amendment will seek approval from the AUC to advance the upgrade of the 166L transmission line, approved as stage 2 of RDTD NID. The AESO is providing this information as an update to landowners, occupants, residents and other stakeholders in the Didsbury area who may be affected by the proposed amendment.

Background

In July 2011, the AESO applied to the AUC for approval of the RDTD NID in Application No. 1607507. This needs identification document addressed the need for transmission system reinforcement in the Red Deer region of Alberta to meet growing demand for electricity and to alleviate existing transmission system constraints. Two stages of developments were proposed in the RDTD NID, with the stage one developments being required immediately and the stage two development being required when load growth in the region approached 850 MW.

On April 10, 2012, the AUC approved the RDTD NID in Decision 2012-098, Appendix 1 – Needs Identification Document Approval No. U2012-187.

Why is an amendment to the RDTD NID Approval required?

Recently, the AESO received a request to connect the Harmattan Energy Centre generating facility, located in Mountain View County, to the Alberta Interconnected Electric System. In preparing to file an application with the AUC for this connection, the AESO conducted planning studies that indicated, following the connection of the Harmattan Energy Centre and depending upon system operating conditions, that the transmission line 166L could become overloaded. The planning studies also indicated that the upgrade of 166L, approved in the stage two development of the RDTD NID, removes these potential overloads. The amendment will seek to advance the upgrade of 166L.

When will the AESO file its amendment?

The AESO intends to file its amendment to the RDTD NID Approval in summer 2013. The amendment will be available at <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/22715.html> at the time of the AESO's application to the AUC. For more information on the need for transmission development in the Red Deer area, please visit <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/22715.html>.

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 responsibilities includes determining the need for transmission system development and the manner in

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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 NID.

How is AltaLink involved?

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

Further Information

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

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The AESO is committed to protecting your personal privacy in accordance with Alberta's Personal Information Protection Act. Any personal information collected by the AESO with regard to this project may be used to provide you with further information about the project, may be disclosed to the Alberta Utilities Commission (and as a result, may become public), and may also be disclosed to AltaLink as the legal owner of transmission facilities in your area. If you have any questions about how the AESO will use and disclose your personal information, please contact us at 1-888-866-2959 or at stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca