

Purpose and background

The purpose of the terms of reference is to define the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) Energy Storage Industry Learnings Forum (ESILF), a forum for energy storage industry leaders to discuss key learnings from energy storage integration in other jurisdictions and provide their perspectives on energy storage topics to assist the AESO in facilitating the integration of energy storage in Alberta.

The AESO is mandated to promote the fair, efficient and openly competitive (FEOC) exchange of electric energy. The current regulatory framework (regulation, legislation and policy) supports a traditional model, where electricity is produced by generators and transported through transmission and distribution systems to customers who purchase the electricity.

Legislation, regulations and AESO Authoritative Documents do not currently fully contemplate the integration of energy storage technologies into the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES).

The AESO published its *Energy Storage Roadmap* in August 2019 and its purpose is to:

- Facilitate the integration of energy storage technologies across the AIES
- Enable energy storage to participate in a reliable and FEOC manner
- Ensure consistency in principles and approach to energy storage across the AESO

The *Energy Storage Roadmap* sets out the AESO's plan to facilitate the reliable integration of energy storage technologies into AESO Authoritative Documents and the AESO grid and market systems. This will improve the clarity required for market qualification and participation, and enable efficient, effective connection, monitoring and control of energy storage facilities when connected.

Scope

The scope of the ESILF is to provide expertise and key learnings to the AESO on targeted matters related to the integration of energy storage in Alberta. The ESILF is an information gathering forum for the AESO, not a decision body.

In seeking and considering the learnings gathered from the ESILF, the AESO will follow the AESO's *Stakeholder Engagement Framework* (Framework).

Principles

The forum will align with the Framework principles:

- Inclusive and Accessible
- Strategic and Coordinated
- Transparent and Timely
- Customized and Meaningful

Transparency

The ESILF recognizes that not all of the AESO's stakeholders will be represented within the ESILF and to support the AESO's commitment to transparency, the forum membership (individual and organization names as relevant), agendas, relevant discussion materials, presentations and meeting summaries will be posted on www.aeso.ca.

As part of this forum, members will be sharing their key learnings. Member presentations and related materials will be posted on www.aeso.ca and should not contain any non-public or confidential information, and any “real-life” case study examples should be anonymized. The AESO reserves the right to redact any information that may compromise the confidentiality or privacy rights of a third party.

To gather feedback from industry stakeholders post forum meetings, the AESO will request written feedback on the meeting summary through a comment matrix posted on www.aeso.ca two weeks following the meeting. All written feedback received will be posted on www.aeso.ca and distributed to forum members.

Transparency measures are intended to allow opportunities for all stakeholders to stay informed and provide their perspectives about forum discussions and learnings.

Members acknowledge and agree that the AESO may collect, use and disclose any information provided by members related to ESILF for the purpose of fulfilling its mandate and facilitating energy storage in Alberta. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this information may be used and referenced by the AESO as part of a regulatory proceeding.

Membership

Members

The membership of the ESILF will broadly represent a cross-section of industry leaders with energy storage experience. To keep topic discussions meaningful and effective, membership will be targeted without compromising stakeholder representation and required expertise. Alberta Energy will also be a member of the forum to share in the key learnings and discussion for the purposes of gaining insights to help inform potential policy or legislative enhancements to facilitate energy storage integration in Alberta.

The AESO is seeking applications for seats on this forum, and will be selecting members based on the following:

- Areas of expertise the applicant will be representing in the matter of energy storage
- Industry categories that apply to the applicant (list all that apply)
- Experience the applicant has in the Alberta power industry
- Energy storage project experience the applicant has been involved with and within what jurisdiction(s)
- How an applicant’s participation will contribute to the facilitation of energy storage integration in Alberta

The AESO may amend the composition of the forum at any time in order to achieve its mandate by providing notice on its website or by email to the members. The AESO reserves the right to appoint any party to the ESILF to ensure the forum has the expertise it requires.

Member conduct

Forum members are expected to contribute to productive and meaningful communications while working collaboratively with other members of the forum and are expected to:

- Participate in good faith and within the established timelines
- Review all discussion materials in advance of meetings
- Present key findings and/or case studies as appropriate and necessary
- Avoid raising topics and issues that are unrelated to the scope of ESILF
- Attend all forum meetings

- Bear their own costs of participating in the forum meetings

Members who are unable to meet these expectations may be removed at the AESO's discretion.

Term

The forum is expected to run for a term of 12-24 months beginning in April 2020. Forum members are expected to serve for the entire term. The AESO may, at any time and for any reason, terminate the ESILF by providing notice on its website or by email to the members.

Meetings

The forum will meet, at a minimum, quarterly over the term and meetings will take place in Calgary. Meeting agendas and related details will be determined by the AESO with input from members. If scheduling conflicts arise, members are permitted to send an appropriate delegate or attend via tele/video-conference/webinar. An alternate is expected to be fully prepared to participate. Members will be required to provide written notice by email to the AESO confirming this delegation.

Roles and responsibilities

The AESO Vice-President (VP), Grid Reliability or the Director, Grid Planning and Operations Engineering will serve as Chair. The AESO will provide a facilitator and scribe(s) as required. All members will have an equal opportunity to share their learnings and discuss their perspectives.

Administration

The AESO will provide administrative support to the forum in the form of meeting logistics, communications and documentation. Agendas and any relevant discussion materials will be distributed to members a week in advance of each meeting, and meeting summaries will be distributed two weeks following each meeting.

Amendments

The AESO, in its sole and absolute discretion, may amend these Terms of Reference at any time by providing notice on its website or by email to the members. The amended Terms of Reference shall become effective ten (10) business days after such notice. Prior to the effective date of the amended Terms of Reference, a member may elect to withdraw from ESILF by providing written notice to energystorage@aeso.ca.