

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

November 2013



In March and April 2013, stakeholders were sent information packages containing an Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) document describing plans for minor amendments to the Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document Approval U2012-271 (Approval). The purpose of this notice is to update you about the AESO's withdrawal of the amendment.

Amendment Withdrawal

The AESO wishes to inform you that it has withdrawn its proposed amendment to the Approval.

In June 2013, the AESO filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to amend the Approval. The amendment proposed to update the timing and sequence of the approved transmission development to accommodate related transmission developments and construction schedules. The amendment also proposed to specify single-circuit structures for the approved 240 kV transmission line between the approved Birchwood Creek 960S¹ and Ells River 2079S² substations. In August 2013, based on further changes to the timing of related transmission developments in the area, the AESO determined that the amendment was no longer needed. The AESO subsequently requested that it be allowed to withdraw the amendment from the AUC. On September 19, 2013 the AUC granted the AESO's request, confirming that the Approval remains in force.

In March 2013, prior to filing its amendment application, the AESO provided information to stakeholders, including landowners, occupants and residents who were potentially affected by the AESO's proposed amendment. The AESO is providing this update information to those same stakeholders. For more information on the AESO's approved Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document, and the Approval, please visit <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/23414.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 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.

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

² Referred to as "NW FMM North" in the Approval.

How is ATCO involved?

ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) is the transmission facilities owner 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 also directed ATCO to provide information to stakeholders on the withdrawal of the amendment. You may therefore receive this same letter directly from the AESO, or in combination with ATCO's project specific materials. ATCO's project materials 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 are encouraged. If you have any questions or comments regarding the AESO's withdrawal of the amendment, 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 ATCO Electric Ltd. 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