

Need for the Nexen Hand Hills Wind Energy Connection in the Hanna Area

Transmission Development Information for Stakeholders

Why is this transmission development needed?

Nexen Inc. has requested connection to the transmission system for its proposed Nexen Hand Hills Wind Power Facility southeast of the Village of Delia in the Hanna area. In response to this request, the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) has determined that the need for transmission system access can be reliably met by expanding the existing Coyote Lake 963S substation and building approximately 17 kilometres of single circuit 240 kV transmission line to connect the Nexen Hand Hills Wind Power Facility to the transmission system.

The AESO is processing Nexen Inc.'s request, including providing information to landowners, occupants, residents and agencies in the Hanna area that may be near the proposed transmission development. The AESO intends to apply to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of this need in spring 2012. The AESO's needs identification document (NID) application will be available at www.aeso.ca/transmission/8969.html at the time of its application to the AUC.

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 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 NID.

How is ATCO involved?

ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) is the transmission facilities owner (TFO) in the Hanna area. While the AESO is responsible for identifying that transmission system development is needed, 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 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 Hanna 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 ATCO 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