

# Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission System Development Needs Identification Document Update for Potentially Affected Stakeholders

This update provides stakeholders with information regarding the Alberta Electric System Operator's (AESO) *Northwest of Fort McMurray 240 kV Transmission Development Needs Identification Document application*, filed with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). In preparation of its application, the AESO conducted a participant involvement program from the spring to fall of 2011, involving landowners, occupants and residents, as well as various agencies in the Northwest of Fort McMurray area.

On November 10, 2011, the AESO filed its application with the AUC; the application seeks approval of the need for transmission system development to serve industrial growth forecasted in the area northwest of the city of Fort McMurray. The AUC is now reviewing the AESO's application. More information on the application and the AUC review process can be found below in the *next steps* section.

## ***Why is transmission system development needed?***

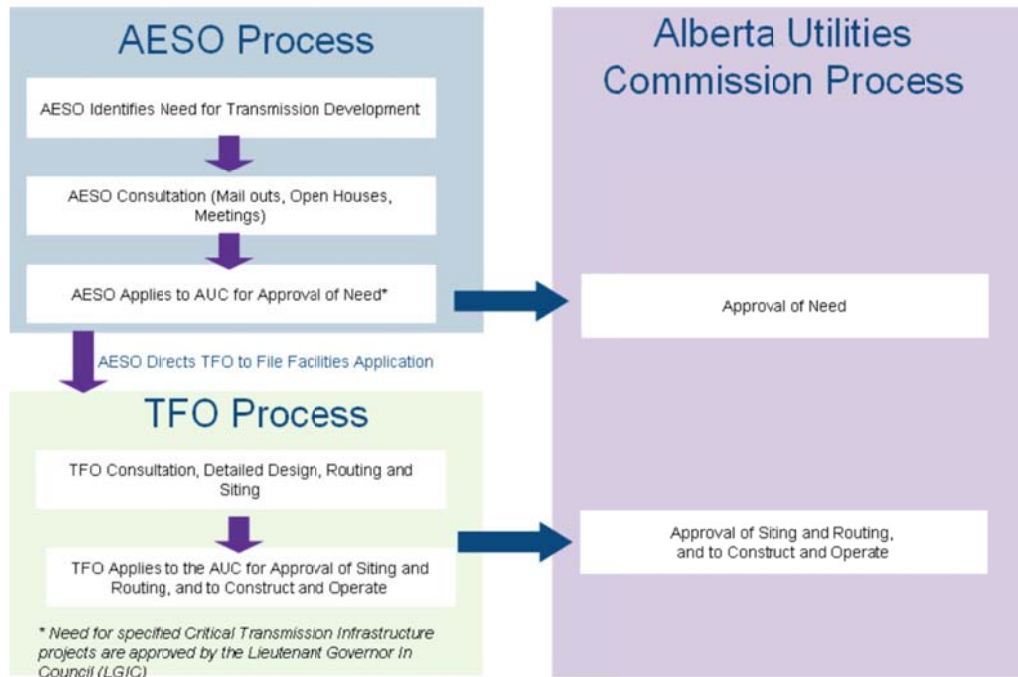
Expansion of the transmission system is needed to serve developing electricity-intensive industrial growth. Oilsands extraction facilities and related industrial developments are proceeding into areas where there are currently no transmission system facilities to provide electrical service and connect future industrial customers. The AESO forecasts that the electricity demand in this area could be in the range of 370 MW to 450 MW by 2020/21. New industrial customers will require connection to the transmission system beginning as early as 2013.

## ***How will the AESO address this need for transmission system development?***

The AESO has proposed a transmission development plan for the area that includes developing a 240kV looped system extending west from existing transmission facilities between Dover 888S and Joslyn 849S substations, to serve future oilsands extraction operations and related industry. This area development plan includes the addition of two new 240 kV substations and approximately 125 – 175 km of 240kV transmission lines. Some modifications to existing transmission facilities will be needed to tie-in new developments to the existing transmission system. Connections of new industrial loads to the proposed transmission system in the area will be driven by the customer requirements and timelines.

## ***What are the next steps?***

The AUC is currently reviewing the AESO's application. A copy of the application can be found at <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/23414.html> or on the AUC website, registered as application number 1607880. Information about AUC proceedings and how to get involved in the AUC application process can be found on the AUC's website at <http://www.auc.ab.ca/involving-albertans/Pages/default.aspx>.



It is noted that while the AESO's application addresses the need for the proposed transmission development, it does not include information on siting and routing of the proposed transmission facilities. This information is determined during the Transmission Facilities Owner (TFO) Facilities Application (FA) process.

The AESO has directed ATCO Electric Ltd., the TFO in the area, to prepare FAs to meet the need for the transmission development identified in the AESO's Northwest of Fort McMurray application. As part of the FA process, the TFOs will consult with the public and interested stakeholders regarding possible transmission line routes and substation locations for the transmission development identified in the AESO's application. When the TFOs have completed consultation and finalized their routing and siting, they will file the FA or FA's with the AUC for approval.

### **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 Needs Identification Document (NID).

## **Further Information**

The AESO appreciates your views on this need for transmission system development and your comments are encouraged. If you have any questions or comments about the need for this transmission system development in this area or the AESO 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 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](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca)*