

Need for the BowArk Queenstown Connection in the Vulcan Area

Update for Stakeholders



In June 2014, the AESO provided project information to you on the need for the BowArk Queenstown Connection in the Vulcan area. Based on further engineering studies, the AESO has determined that telecommunication upgrades and modifications for this project are no longer required.

BowArk Energy Ltd. (BowArk) has requested transmission system access for its proposed Queenstown Power Plant Facility (Facility) in the area northeast of Vulcan. BowArk's request can be addressed by modifying the existing Queenstown 504S substation and constructing a new 138 kV single circuit transmission line to connect the facility to the existing Queenstown 504S substation.

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is processing BowArk's request, including providing information to landowners, occupants, residents and agencies that may be near the proposed transmission developments. The AESO intends to apply to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of this need in the first quarter of 2015. The AESO's needs identification document (NID) application will be available on the AESO's website at www.aeso.ca/nid 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 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 NID.

How is AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) involved?

AltaLink is the transmission facilities owner (TFO) in the Vulcan 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 developments.

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 comments regarding the need for the proposed developments in the Vulcan area or the AESO's application regarding this need, please contact:

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 1-888-866-2959 or at stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca. The AESO is committed to protecting your privacy. Your feedback, comments and/or contact information collected by the AESO will be used to respond to your inquiries and/or to provide you with further information about the project. The AESO will not use your personal information for any other purposes and will not disclose your information without consent or a legal obligation. If you choose to communicate by email, please note, email is not a secure form of communication. Security of your communication while in transit cannot be guaranteed.