

The AESO is transitioning to a cluster assessment approach where projects will be batched (i.e., clustered) and studied together simultaneously. The cluster assessment will include generation and storage projects injecting 5 MW or more into the Alberta interconnected electric system (AIES) at the facility's connection to the AIES (i.e., the transmission or distribution system, as applicable). The fees outlined below in Table 1 are only applicable to projects which meet these criteria and are following the Cluster Assessment Process.

Table 1: Fee Types and Amounts for Cluster Assessment Process

Fee Type	Fee Amount (not including GST)
Processing Fee	\$5,000
Preliminary Assessment Fee	The lower of \$5,000+\$150*(MARP in MW) or \$25,000
Detailed Assessment Fee	The lower of \$20,000+\$300*(MARP in MW) or \$65,000
Reassessment Fee in the event of cancellation	The lower of \$20,000+\$300*(MARP in MW) or \$65,000 (if applicable)
Change Assessment Fee	\$10,000 (if applicable)

Important payment information

- The AESO accepts electronic funds transfers (EFTs) and wire payments from Canadian banks
- The AESO only accepts wire payments from non-Canadian banks
- The AESO only accepts payments in Canadian currency. Foreign currency is not accepted.
- Market participants are advised not to wait until the payment due date to issue payment, as funds can sometimes take a day or two to transfer
- Market participants must cover their bank wire fee or EFT fee when issuing payment, such that the AESO is not short-paid if fees are deducted by banks in transit
- Wire payments and EFTs must be issued by the market participant's bank before the cut-off time specified by their bank
- Market participants must issue remittance advices to the AESO. Remittance advices must be submitted to accounting@aeso.ca

Processing Fee

Amount

The processing fee is \$5000 + GST.

Purpose

This fee is to cover SASR scope review and clarification, ensuring the project is prepared to enter Stage 1 Preliminary Assessment.

Process

Following the submission of a complete SASR, the AESO will issue an invoice for the processing fee according to the schedule in Table 2. Payment is due 30 days after the issuance of the invoice, as indicated in Table 2. See the SASR Guide for a description of a complete SASR.

Table 2: Processing Fee Dates for 2023

SASR Submission Date	Invoice Issue Date	Payment Due Date
April 3 – May 16	May 24	June 23
May 17 – June 14	June 21	July 21
June 15 – July 17	July 24	August 23
July 18 – August 16	August 23	September 22
August 17 – August 31	September 12	October 12

Once the AESO has reviewed and accepted the SASR and the processing fee payment has been received, the project will be shown with a status of “Processed” in the next monthly publication of the AESO’s Project List.

Failure to pay by the due date may result in removal from the target Cluster Assessment and project delays.

Preliminary Assessment Fee

Amount

The preliminary assessment fee is the lower of:

- \$5000 + \$150 x MARP; or
- \$25,000.

MARP is maximum authorized real power in MW. See the [Consolidated Authoritative Document Glossary](#) for a definition of MARP. GST must be added to the preliminary assessment fee.

Purpose

This fee is to cover conducting the preliminary assessment studies and reporting the results.

Process

For all SASRs submitted during the intake window for Cluster 1, the AESO will issue an invoice for the preliminary assessment fee on September 12, 2023. Payment is due 30 days after the issuance of the invoice, on October 12, 2023.

Once the AESO has reviewed and accepted the SASR and the processing fee and preliminary assessment fee has been received, the project will be shown with a status of “Active” in the next monthly publication of the AESO’s Project List.

Failure to pay by the due date may result in removal from the target Cluster Assessment and project delays.

Waiver of fees for Cluster 1

To aid with the transition of in-flight projects to the first cluster assessment, the AESO is offering a one-time waiver of the processing fee and preliminary assessment fee for eligible in-flight projects. This is only being offered for Cluster 1 and will not be offered for subsequent cluster assessments. See the [In-flight Project Guideline](#) for details.

Detailed Assessment Fee

Amount

The detailed assessment fee is the lower of:

- \$20,000 + \$300 x MARP; or
- \$65,000.

MARP is maximum authorized real power in MW. See the [Consolidated Authoritative Document Glossary](#) for a definition of MARP. GST must be added to the detailed assessment fee.

Purpose

This fee is to cover conducting the detailed assessment studies and reporting the results.

Process

The AESO will issue an invoice for the detailed assessment fee as part of the Preliminary Assessment Package. The AESO is targeting December 31, 2023 to issue the Preliminary Assessment Packages. The target payment due date for the detailed assessment fee is January 29, 2024.

Once the detailed assessment fee has been received, the project will be shown in Stage 2 in the next monthly publication of the AESO's Project List.

Failure to pay by the due date will result in the SASR and related Project being cancelled.

Project Change Proposals

Since the detailed assessment fee amount is dependent on MARP, the target due date for Project Change Proposals is January 12, 2024. Upon receipt of a Project Change Proposal to reduce MARP, the AESO will review, and if approved, the AESO will issue a credit note at least one week before the payment due date. The reduced detailed assessment fee amount will be due on the original due date (target due date January 29, 2024).

See the [Project Change Proposal Guidelines](#) for more information.

Further details on the Reassessment Fee and Change Assessment Fee will be added to this document closer to the time when these fees will apply. Refer to the [AESO Engage](#) page materials for the latest information on these fees.

If you have any questions, please contact customer.connections@aeso.ca.