

1. Introduction

From April 2023 to February 2024, the AESO conducted a Participant Involvement Program (PIP) for the *Aira Solar Project Connection*. The AESO directed the legal owner of transmission facilities (TFO), in this case AltaLink Management Ltd., in its capacity as general partner of AltaLink L.P., to assist the AESO in providing notification as part of the AESO's PIP.

The AESO's PIP is designed to notify Stakeholders and Indigenous groups in the area where the AESO has reasonably determined that facilities could be installed to implement the AESO's preferred option to respond to the request for system access service.

The AESO's PIP has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 7.1.2, NID12 and Appendix A2 of the current Alberta Utilities Commission (Commission) Rule 007 (AUC Rule 007), effective April 25, 2022.

2. Stakeholder Notification

The AESO developed a one-page AESO Need Overview document with the purpose of notifying Stakeholders of the following items:

- a description of the need for development;
- a description of the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request;
- identification of the general area where facilities could be installed to implement the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request;
- the AESO's contact information, including telephone, email and website, for further information; and
- the AESO's next steps, including the AESO's intention to consider the project for approval under the Abbreviated Needs Approval Process.

A copy of the Need Overview was posted to the AESO website at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/aira-solar-project-connection-2461/> and a notice was published in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter on April 19, 2023. Copies of the Need Overview posting and the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter notice have been included as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. The Need Overview was also included with the TFO's project-specific information package that was distributed to Stakeholders, as further described in Section 2.1.

2.1 Stakeholders Notified in the TFO's PIP

The TFO has advised the AESO that its PIP included notification within 800 metres of the proposed tap structures and 100 metres of underground fibre optic cable as recommended by the Commission in Appendix A1 of AUC Rule 007.¹

¹ AltaLink has identified its facility application to be of the type: *Overhead transmission line and new substation development – rural or industrial setting*; and for the installation of fibre optic facilities where a direct and adverse effect may occur as categorized in AUC Rule 007, Appendix A1, Section 5.

The TFO notified a total of approximately 18 Stakeholders, of which 4 were classified as private or individual landowners. The other 14 notified Stakeholders are listed below:

- Alberta Environment and Parks – Fish and Wildlife
- Alberta Environment and Parks – Public Lands
- Aira Wind Power Inc
- Canadian Natural Resources Limited
- County of Forty Mile
- Forty Mile Gas Co-op
- Fortis Alberta Inc.
- Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women
- NAV Canada
- Nova Gas Transmission Ltd.
- Orphan Well Association
- South East Alberta Water Co-op Ltd.
- Telus Communications Inc.
- Transport Canada

Attachment 3 includes the TFO's project newsletter, which was included with the AESO Need Overview in the TFO project-specific information package that was distributed to the Stakeholders described above between April 18, 2023 and May 25, 2023. The TFO's project newsletter and the AESO Need Overview were also posted on the TFO's project-specific webpage at <https://www.altalink.ca/projects/view/414/aira-solar-project-connection> on April 18, 2023. The TFO's project newsletter included the AESO's contact information, a description of the AESO's role, a reference to the AESO Need Overview, and an invitation to contact the TFO or the AESO for additional information.

3. Stakeholders Notified by the AESO

The AESO also notified 13 market participants that the AESO determined may have an interest in the Project. The AESO identified that, under certain potential system conditions, these market participants may be affected following the connection of the Aira Solar Project. A Market Participant Notification Letter, which included the AESO Need Overview, was sent to the notified market participants on October 18, 2023.

The 13 notified market participants are:

- Aura Power Renewables
- Capital Power Corporation
- Cypress Renewable Energy Centre
- Dunmore Solar Inc.
- EDF Renewables Development Inc.
- Enfinite LP
- Engie Development Canada LP
- Forty Mile Granlea Wind GP
- Pteragen Canada Inc.
- RESC Forty Mile Wind LP
- TransAlta Corp.
- Wild Rose Wind 1 Wind LP
- Winnifred Wind Project LP

A generic version of the Market Participant Notification Letter was posted to the AESO website on October 18, 2023 at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/aira-solar-project-connection-2461/>. A copy has been included as Attachment 4.

4. Notice of ANAP Consideration

Most recently, the AESO notified Stakeholders of its intention to consider the need for the Aira Solar Project Connection to be approved under the AESO's Abbreviated Needs Approval Process, (ANAP) by posting a Notification of ANAP Consideration to the AESO website at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/aira-solar-project-connection-2461/> and a publishing notice in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter on February 7, 2024. Copies of the Notification of ANAP Consideration posting and the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter notice have been included as Attachments 5 and 6, respectively.

5. Responding to Questions and Concerns

To ensure that Stakeholders had the opportunity to provide feedback, the AESO provided Stakeholders with AESO contact information, including a dedicated, toll-free telephone line (1-888-866-2959) and a dedicated email address (stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca). The AESO Need Overview included this contact information, along with the AESO's mailing address (2500, 330 5th Ave. SW, Calgary) and website address (www.aeso.ca), and a privacy statement that described how the AESO is committed to protecting Stakeholders' privacy.

As directed by the AESO, the TFO was prepared to direct any Stakeholder questions addressed to the AESO, or questions regarding the AESO Need Overview, to the AESO.

6. Questions and Concerns Raised

One market participant that received the AESO's Market Participant Notification Letter raised questions and concerns related to how their operations may be affected following the connection of the Aira Solar Project Connection. The AESO responded by providing information about the following:

- the assumptions and results of the AESO's engineering connection assessment for the Aira Solar Project Connection;
- the application of remedial action schemes and Section 302.1 of the ISO rules, *Real Time Transmission Constraint Management*;
- the AESO's next steps in the regulatory process, including posting the Notice of ANAP Consideration in Q1 2024.

The TFO has advised the AESO that none of the Stakeholders notified by the TFO identified any concerns or objections regarding the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request or the need for development.

Apart from the one inquiry outlined above, the AESO has not received any indication of concerns or objections about the AESO's preferred option to respond to the system access service request or the need for development.

7. List of Attachments

- Attachment 1 – AESO Need Overview (April 2023)
- Attachment 2 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Need Overview Notice (April 19, 2023)
- Attachment 3 – TFO's Project Newsletter (April 2023)
- Attachment 4 – AESO Market Participant Notification Letter (October 18, 2023)
- Attachment 5 - AESO Public Notification of ANAP Consideration Posting (February 2024)
- Attachment 6 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Notice of ANAP Consideration (February 7, 2024)

Attachment 1 – AESO Need Overview (April 2023)

Need for the Aira Solar Project Connection in the Town of Bow Island area

Aira Wind Power Inc (Aira) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its proposed Aira Solar Project (Facility) in the Town of Bow Island area. Aira's request can be met by the following solution:

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Add one 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the Facility to the existing 240 kV transmission line 983L in a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

NEXT STEPS

- In late 2023 the AESO may consider the need for this project for approval under section 501.3 of the ISO rules, *Abbreviated Needs Approval Process* (ANAP Rule), or apply to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of the need.
- The AESO will notify stakeholders via the AESO's website at www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects prior to the project being considered under the ANAP Rule or prior to filing a needs identification document (NID) application with the AUC.

The following organizations have key roles and responsibilities in providing access to the transmission system:

THE AESO

- Must plan the transmission system and enable access to it for generators and other qualified customers.
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ALTALINK

- Is the transmission facility owner in the Town of Bow Island area.
- Is responsible for detailed siting and routing, constructing, operating and maintaining the transmission facilities.
- Is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its transmission facilities applications.

WHO IS THE AESO?

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) plans and operates Alberta's electricity grid and wholesale electricity market safely, reliably and in the public interest of all Albertans. We are a not-for-profit organization with no financial interest or investment of any kind in the power industry.

We appreciate your views, both on the need for transmission system development and proposed transmission plans. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us directly.

CONTACT US

Alberta Electric System Operator

AESO Stakeholder Relations
stakeholder.relations@aes0.ca
 1-888-866-2959

2500, 330-5th Avenue SW
 Calgary, AB T2P 0L4
 Phone: 403-539-2450

www.aeso.ca | [@theaes0](https://twitter.com/theaes0)

Attachment 2 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Need Overview Notice (April 19, 2023)



GRID

Aira Solar Project Connection – Need for Transmission Development in the Town of Bow Island Area

Aira Wind Power Inc (Aira) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its proposed Aira Solar Project (facility) in the Town of Bow Island area. Aira's request can be met by the following solution:

- Add one 240-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the facility to the existing 240-kV transmission line 983L in a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

The AESO has posted a Need Overview for this project on its website. Please [click here](#) to view the document or visit the AESO website at www.aeso.ca and follow the path Grid > Transmission Projects > Aira Solar Project Connection (2461).

Attachment 3 – TFO’s Project Newsletter (April 2023)



April 2023

Electric system improvements near you

Aira Solar Project Connection

You are receiving this newsletter because you are near the Aira Solar Project Connection, and we want your input.

To connect Aira Wind Power Inc's (Aira) Aira Solar Project to the grid, AltaLink is proposing changes to its **transmission** system in the area.

Although AltaLink's project is required to facilitate the connection of Aira's project, it is a separate project. Aira will consult separately on their proposed project. For more information about Aira, see their contact information on the back of this newsletter.

We are providing you with:

- project details
- a map of the proposed project
- information about how you can provide your input
- the project schedule

AltaLink's transmission system efficiently delivers electricity to 85 per cent of Albertans. Dedicated to meeting the growing need for electricity, AltaLink connects Albertans to renewable, reliable, and low-cost power. With a commitment to community and environment, AltaLink is ensuring the transmission system will support Albertans' quality of life for years to come. Learn more at www.altalink.ca.

DEFINITIONS:

Transmission

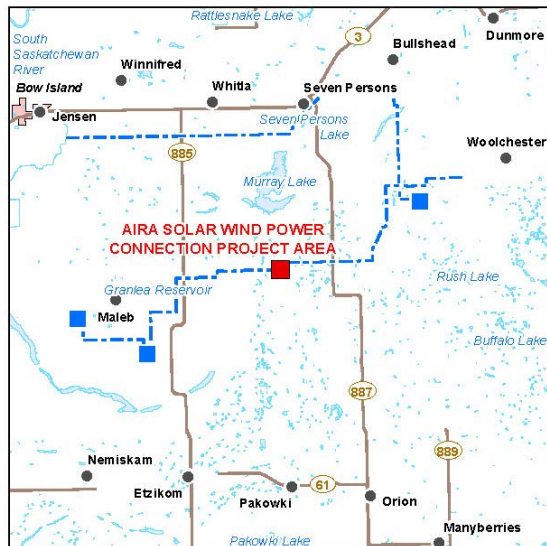
Transmission lines make up Alberta's electric highway, linking the places where power is generated to where power is used. Transmission lines transport large amounts of power over long distances across the province. The transmission system connects diverse sources of power generation including wind, solar, natural gas and more.

CONTACT US

1-877-267-1453

stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca

www.altalink.ca/projects



LEGEND

- Aira Solar Wind Power Connection Project Area
- Existing Substation
- Existing Transmission Line
- Hamlet or Locality
- Road
- Urban Area
- Waterbody

Project details

The proposed project is located in Cypress County in NW-31-8-7-W4, approximately 35 kilometres southeast of the Town of Bow Island. It includes modifying an existing transmission line, constructing a new transmission line, and installing underground **fibre optic cable**.

Transmission line modifications

Aira's proposed project involves building a new transmission line that will connect to AltaLink's existing 240 **kilovolt (kV)** transmission line (called 983L). To accommodate this connection, AltaLink is proposing the following modifications to 983L:

- modifying one structure
- installing approximately 140 metres (m) of new single circuit 240 kV transmission line

Proposed transmission structures

The structures for the new transmission line are proposed to be three angle monopoles, which will be between 18 and 28 m in height.

They will be installed on land leased by Aira and require a **right-of-way** of up to 60 m. Please see the map included in this package for more details.

Fibre optic cable

AltaLink is proposing to install approximately 420 m of underground fibre optic cable between Aira's proposed Moose Tail **Substation** and the existing 983L transmission line. In certain locations along the proposed fibre optic cable route, a small underground conduit box may be required to facilitate construction and maintenance of the cable. These locations will be determined following detailed engineering and discussions with landowners.



The existing structure that will be modified looks similar to the picture on the left. The angle monopole structures will look similar to the picture on the right.



The underground conduit box will look similar to the picture above.

DEFINITIONS:

Fibre optic cable

Fibre optic cable allows us to communicate effectively between a customer connection point or substation and our control centre and provides valuable data used to maintain the reliability of the electric system.

Right-of-way

The right-of-way is a strip of land required for the construction and safe operation of a transmission line. A right-of-way refers to the physical space a transmission line encompasses including areas on either side of the line. The majority of the right-of-way can still be used. Buildings cannot be placed on the right-of-way, but can be built up to the edge of the right-of-way.

Substation

Substations are the connection points between power lines of varying voltages and contain equipment that controls and protects the flow of power.

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

Altalink recognizes that people may have concerns about exposure to EMF and we take those concerns seriously.

Everyone in our society is exposed to power frequency EMF from many sources, including:

- power lines and other electrical facilities
- electrical appliances in your home
- building wiring

National and international organizations such as Health Canada and the World Health Organization (WHO) have been conducting and reviewing research on exposure to EMF for more than 40 years. Based on this research, these agencies have not recommended that the general public needs to take steps to limit their everyday exposure to EMF from high voltage transmission lines, including individuals that are located on the edge of a power line right-of-way.

If you have any questions about EMF, please contact us.

Website: www.altalink.ca/emf

Email: emfdialogue@altalink.ca

Toll-free phone number: 1-866-451-7817

Providing your input

We will contact landowners, residents, and occupants near the proposed project to gather input and address questions or concerns. Our priority is maintaining the health and safety of our employees, contractors, and the general public, while ensuring that we are able to continue to operate our system and keep the lights on for Albertans. We will follow any requested COVID-19 safety protocols for in-person meetings and accommodate your preferred meeting options, including over the phone, virtual or in-person. You can also provide input through our online feedback portal, found here: www.altalink.ca/projectfeedback.

After our consultation and notification process is complete, we will file an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). The AUC ensures the fair and responsible delivery of Alberta's utility services and will review the application through a process in which stakeholders can participate. We will notify stakeholders when we file the application and again once the AUC has reached a decision about the project. To learn more about the AUC process and how you can become involved, please refer to the brochure included in this package titled *Participating in the AUC's independent review process*.

Anticipated project schedule

Notify and consult with stakeholders	April to May 2023
File application with Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)	August 2023
Start construction if project is approved	September 2024
Construction completed	December 2024

Although we attempt to follow the anticipated project schedule it is subject to change. We will continue to provide you with updated schedule information if required as the project progresses

Contact us

To learn more about the proposed project please contact:

ALTALINK

1-877-267-1453 (toll free)

Email: stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca

Website: www.altalink.ca/projects

To learn more about the Aira Solar project, please contact:

AIRA WIND POWER INC.

Samantha Brown

SABR Energy Consulting Inc., on behalf of Aira Wind Power Inc.

587-434-7547

Email: sbrown@sabreenergyconsulting.com

To learn more about Alberta's electric system and the need for the project, please contact:

ALBERTA ELECTRIC SYSTEM OPERATOR (AESO)

1-888-866-2959

Email: stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca

The AESO is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for the safe, reliable, and economic planning and operation of the provincial transmission grid. For more information about why this project is needed, please refer to the AESO's Need Overview included with this package or visit www.aeso.ca. If you have any questions or concerns about the need for this project or the proposed transmission development to meet the need you may contact the AESO directly. You can make your questions or concerns known to an AltaLink representative who will collect your personal information for the purpose of addressing your questions and/or concerns to the AESO. This process may include disclosure of your personal information to the AESO.

To learn more about the application and review process, please contact:

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION (AUC)

780-427-4903 (toll-free by dialing 310-0000 before the number)

Email: consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca

PRIVACY COMMITMENT

Altalink is committed to protecting your privacy. Altalink will collect, use, and disclose personal information in accordance with Altalink's Privacy Policy and the *Personal Information Protection Act* (Alberta). As part of the regulatory process for new transmission projects, AltaLink may provide your personal information to Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). For more information about how AltaLink protects your personal information, visit our website at www.altalink.ca/privacy or contact us directly via e-mail privacy@altalink.ca or phone at 1-877-267-6760.

INCLUDED IN THIS INFORMATION PACKAGE:

- Project map
- AESO Need Overview
- AUC brochure: *Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications*

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PROJECT

- 1) Visit: altalink.ca/projects
- 2) Search for the project title
- 3) Click **Subscribe to Updates**

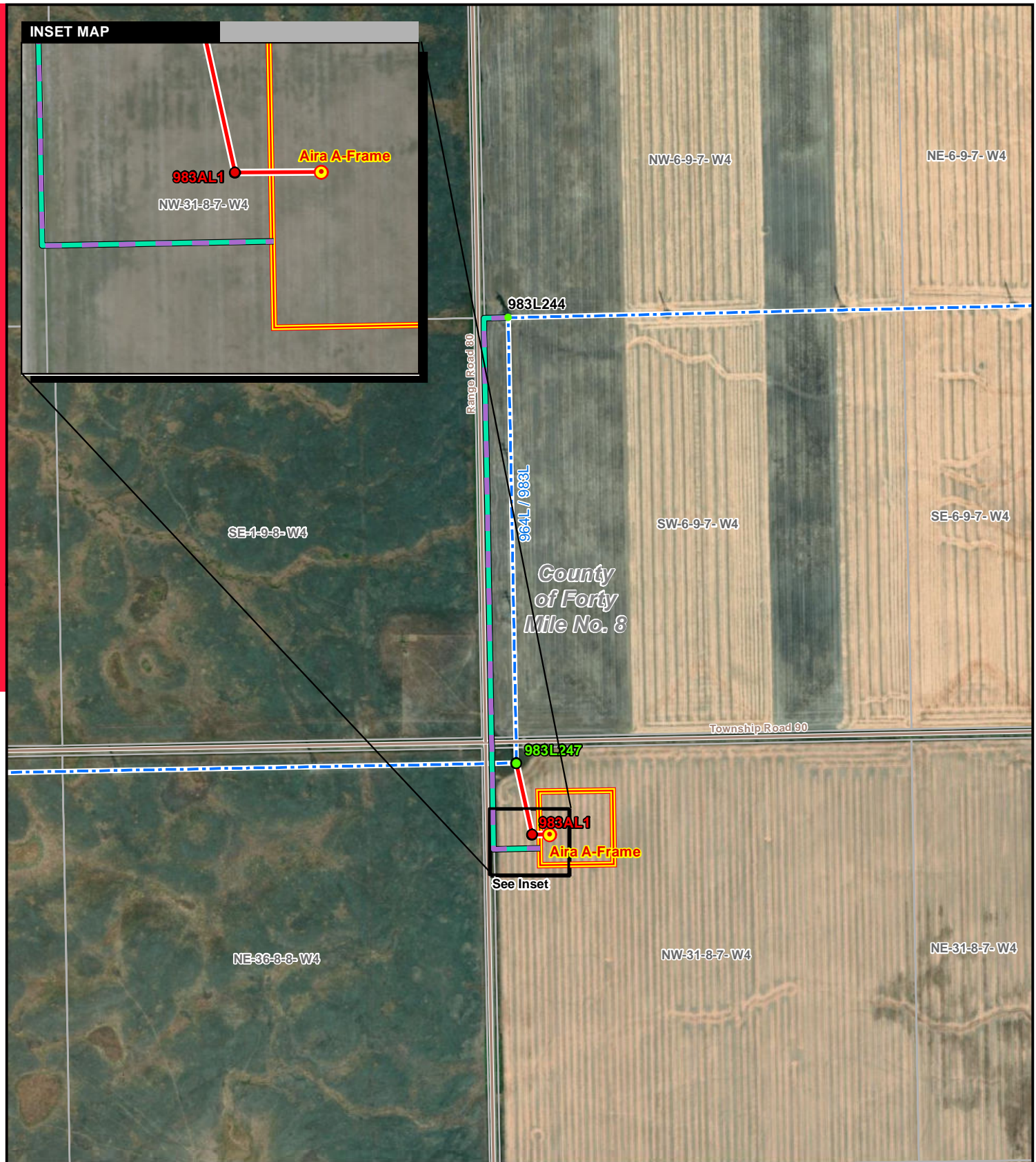
LET'S TALK TRANSMISSION



www.twitter.com/altalink



www.facebook.com/altalinktransmission

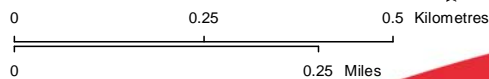


LEGEND

- Potential New Structure
- Potential Structure Replacement
- Potential New Customer Structure
- Existing Structure
- Potential Transmission Line
- Potential Underground Fibre Optic Cable
- - - Existing Transmission Line

- Proposed Customer Substation
- Road

NO.: 35033196 6201
 DRAWN: DS - STN
 FILE NO.:
 REVISION: 0.00.
 AL FOLDER: Aira Solar
DATE: 2023-03-28



DETAIL PHOTO DP1



PROPOSED

**Aira Solar Wind Power
 Connection Project**

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community
 Although there is no reason to believe that there are any errors associated with the data used to generate this product
 or in the product itself, users of these data are advised that errors in the data may be present.

Step 5: Consultation and negotiation (if applicable)*

The Commission supports ongoing efforts to reach an agreeable outcome for the applicant and all affected parties. The Commission encourages the applicant and those who have filed a statement to continue to attempt to resolve any outstanding issues. If all concerns can be satisfactorily resolved this may eliminate the need for a formal hearing. However, if there continues to be unresolved issues, those matters will typically be addressed at an AUC hearing.

Step 6: The public hearing process*

The AUC will issue a notice of hearing if there continues to be legitimate unresolved concerns with the application. The notice of hearing will provide a hearing date and location in addition to a process schedule. The AUC conducts public hearings in its Edmonton and Calgary hearing rooms and, where suitable venues exist, in communities closer to the proposed project area.

The public hearing process allows persons with standing that have unresolved concerns about the application, to express their views directly to a panel of Commission members.

An AUC hearing is a formal, evidence-based, court-like proceeding. The public can attend the hearing in person or listen to hearings online through the AUC’s website.

Participants in a hearing can either represent themselves or be represented by a lawyer. In addition, participants may hire experts to assist in preparing and presenting evidence to support their position.

Cost assistance

A person determined by the Commission to be a local intervener can apply for reimbursement of reasonable costs. Those who hire a lawyer or technical experts must be aware that while reimbursement for the costs of legal and technical assistance is available under AUC Rule 009: *Local Intervener Funding*, recovery of costs is subject to the Commission assessing the value of the

contribution provided by the lawyer and technical experts. People with similar interests and positions are expected to work together to ensure that expenditures for legal or technical assistance are minimized and costs are not duplicated.

Step 7: The decision

The AUC’s goal is to issue its written application decision no more than 90 days after the hearing is complete. The Commission can approve, or deny an application and can also make its approval conditional upon terms or conditions. All AUC decision reports are available to any member of the public on the AUC’s website or by obtaining a printed copy from the AUC.

Step 8: Opportunity to appeal

An applicant or dissatisfied participant may formally ask the Court of Appeal of Alberta for permission to appeal a Commission decision. An application for permission to appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date the decision is issued.

An applicant or dissatisfied participant can also ask the Commission to review its decision. An application to review a Commission decision must be filed within 60 days from the date the decision is issued and satisfy the limited grounds described in AUC Rule 016: *Review and Variance of Commission Decisions*.

Step 9: Construction, operation and compliance

An applicant that receives approval to build and operate a facility from the Commission must adhere to any conditions that were set out in that approval. If concerns about compliance with approval conditions and post-construction operations cannot be resolved with the applicant, they can be brought to the AUC’s attention for consideration. The AUC has significant compliance and enforcement powers for all approved applications. Additional information is available on the AUC website under “Compliance and enforcement.”

***Opportunity for public involvement**

The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial agency of the Government of Alberta that ensures the delivery of Alberta’s utility services take place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public interest.

Contact us

Phone: 310-4AUC (310-4282 in Alberta)
1-833-511-4AUC (1-833-511-4282 outside Alberta)
Email: info@auc.ab.ca

Eau Claire Tower 1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5	106 Street Building 10th Floor, 10055 106 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2Y2
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The Alberta Utilities Commission is committed to ensuring that Albertans whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by a utility development project are informed of the application and have the opportunity to have their concerns heard, understood and considered.



**Participating
in the AUC’s
independent
review process**

Application review process

Step 1: Public consultation prior to application by proponent

Step 2: Application filed with the AUC

Step 3: Public notice issued by the AUC

Step 4: Public submissions to the AUC

Step 5: Consultation and negotiation

Step 6: The public hearing process

Step 7: The decision

Step 8: Opportunity to appeal

Step 9: Construction, operation and compliance

The AUC’s regulatory role in needs and facility applications and its independent review and hearing process:

The AUC uses an established process, outlined in this brochure, to review social, economic and environmental impacts of facility projects to decide if approval is in the public interest. Approvals from the AUC are required for the construction, operation, alteration and decommissioning of transmission lines and electric substations.

- Approvals are required for:
- The need for transmission upgrades.
 - The route and location of transmission facilities.
 - The siting of power plants, including renewables such as wind and solar more than five megawatts.

Sometimes a needs application is considered together with a facility application in a single hearing; sometimes separate hearings may be held to consider each application.

Step 1: Public consultation prior to application*

Prior to filing an application with the AUC for the approval of a proposed utility development, the applicant must engage in a public consultation program in the area of the proposed project, so that concerns may be raised, addressed and, if possible, resolved.

The application guidelines and requirements for facility applications can be found in AUC Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations and Hydro Developments*, and AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*.

Potentially affected parties are strongly encouraged to participate in the initial public consultation, as early involvement in discussions with an applicant may lead to greater influence on project planning and what is submitted to the AUC for approval.

The Alberta Electric System Operator, as the system planner, will notify potentially affected stakeholders of applications on the need for transmission development.

Step 2: Application filed with the AUC

When the participant involvement requirements have been completed, the applicant files its application with the AUC through a public filing system, called the eFiling System, on the AUC website.

The application is then reviewed to ensure the information required by the Commission is included. If the required information is not provided, the AUC may close the application or request more

information from the applicant. In the application, any issues that were raised during the public consultation and any related amendments to the proposal should be identified. All unresolved objections or concerns identified during the public consultation must be described in the application.

Step 3: Public notice

The AUC generally issues a notice by mail directly to those who live, operate a business or occupy land in the project area who may be affected by the Commission’s decision on the proposed project. The notice for larger facility projects with potentially greater impacts may also be published in local newspapers.

The notice will specify a submission deadline. The information required by this deadline is general in nature as outlined in Step 4. Additional opportunities to provide evidence and additional information will arise after this deadline.

Step 4: Public submissions to the AUC*

The AUC review process is referred to as a proceeding. Anyone with unresolved objections or concerns about the application can file a brief written statement with the AUC on the proceeding. The easiest way to file a statement is to fill out the form through the eFiling System found on the AUC website. The statement must include your contact information, where you reside or own property in relation to the proposed facility, your concern or interest in the application, an explanation of your position and what you feel the AUC should decide.

The AUC uses the information it gathers through the forms to decide whether to hold a hearing on the application(s). The Commission must hold a hearing if a person can demonstrate that he or she has rights that may be directly or adversely affected by the Commission’s decision on the application. Such a person is said to have standing before the Commission. If the AUC decides to hold a hearing, the AUC will provide further opportunities for participants with standing to understand the application and present their position on the application either in writing or in person.

Subject to some limited exceptions, all information and materials provided as part of an AUC proceeding will become part of the public record and will be available through the eFiling System. The AUC’s treatment of some types of information as confidential is rare and only available under limited circumstances to ensure that the AUC’s process is open and transparent.

AUC eFiling System

The eFiling System is the tool that the AUC uses to manage applications and submissions in its proceeding-based review. The eFiling System gives access to all public documents associated with an application and is how to provide your input to the AUC and monitor the related proceeding filings. Those who do not have access to the internet can send submissions, evidence and other material by mail and the AUC will upload the submission on their behalf.

***Opportunity for public involvement**

Need for the Aira Solar Project Connection in the Town of Bow Island area

Aira Wind Power Inc (Aira) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its proposed Aira Solar Project (Facility) in the Town of Bow Island area. Aira's request can be met by the following solution:

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Add one 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the Facility to the existing 240 kV transmission line 983L in a T-tap configuration.
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NEXT STEPS

- In late 2023 the AESO may consider the need for this project for approval under section 501.3 of the ISO rules, *Abbreviated Needs Approval Process* (ANAP Rule), or apply to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of the need.
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We appreciate your views, both on the need for transmission system development and proposed transmission plans. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us directly.

CONTACT US

Alberta Electric System Operator

AESO Stakeholder Relations
stakeholder.relations@aes0.ca
 1-888-866-2959

2500, 330-5th Avenue SW
 Calgary, AB T2P 0L4
 Phone: 403-539-2450

www.aeso.ca | [@theaes0](https://twitter.com/theaes0)

Attachment 4 – AESO's Market Participant Notification Letter (October 18, 2023)

SENT VIA EMAIL

October 18, 2023

Notified Market Participant Corporate Legal Name
Address Line 1.
Address Line 2.
City, Province, Postal Code.

Dear Notified Market Participant Primary Contact:

Re: Need for the Aira Solar Project Connection in the Town of Bow Island area

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) would like to advise you that Aira Wind Power Inc. has applied for transmission system access to connect its proposed Aira Solar Project (proposed Facility) to the Alberta interconnected electric system (AIES) in the AESO South Planning Region.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the AESO has identified that, under credible worse case forecast conditions, the **[Effective Generation Facility Name] ([Effective Generation Facility Asset ID])** may be curtailed following the connection of the proposed Facility.

Connection Assessment Findings

An engineering connection assessment was carried out by the AESO to assess the transmission system performance following the connection of the proposed Facility.¹ The connection assessment identified the potential for thermal criteria violations on the 240 kV transmission lines 924L and 927L and the potential for voltage criteria violations on the Cassils-Bowmantown-Whitla (CBW) transmission path (240 kV transmission lines 1034L/1035L and 964L/983L) following the connection of the proposed Facility, under credible worse case forecast conditions, with all transmission facilities in service (Category A).

The approved Bowmantown 244S Substation Voltage Support Project² will help to alleviate the voltage criteria violations at the Bowmantown 244S substation under Category A conditions. Furthermore, the AESO has initiated system transmission development projects in the south-east and south-west planning regions that will address system performance issues.³

In addition, thermal, voltage and transient criteria violations were identified when a single transmission facility is out of service (Category B) following the connection of the proposed Facility. To mitigate these potential system performance issues, planned remedial action schemes (RAS), RAS 175 and RAS 197 will be applied for observed Category B constraints. To mitigate voltage and transient criteria violations, planned RAS 164 will be modified by adding the proposed Facility to the RAS logic, which curtails the approved Facility upon activation. The total megawatts tied to RAS 164 exceeds the Maximum Severe Single Contingency (MSSC)

¹ The studies were performed assuming the Rate STS, *Supply Transmission Service*, contract capacity of 450 MW.

² More information about the approved Bowmantown 244S Substation Voltage Support Project is available on the AESO website.

³ More information about these projects was provided at AESO Stakeholder Symposium held on June 27, 2023; symposium materials are available on the AESO website.

limit. Therefore, pre-contingency curtailment of projects assigned to the RAS may be required under the Category A condition, to prevent generation curtailment above the MSSC limit during Category B conditions.

The AESO may also make use of real-time operational measures to mitigate these potential system performance issues, in accordance with [Section 302.1 of the ISO rules, Real Time Transmission Constraint Management](#) (TCM Rule), which is in effect today. When applied, the TCM Rule could result in the AESO issuing directives for curtailment to source assets that are effective in managing a constraint.

The connection assessment identified source assets, including the **[Effective Generation Facility Asset ID]**, which are effective in mitigating the potential transmission constraints.

If the AESO determines that congestion will arise under Category A conditions before the planned system developments are in place, the AESO will make an application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to obtain approval for an “exception” under Section 15(2) of the *Transmission Regulation*. The AESO will notify market participants if and when the AESO determines it is necessary to apply to the AUC for approval of such an exception.

For Further Information

The AESO Need Overview document is attached for your information. The AESO Need Overview describes the AESO’s proposed transmission development to connect the proposed Facility to the AIES.

To support the AESO’s consideration of the Aira Solar Power Project Connection under the Abbreviated Needs Approval Process, the engineering connection assessment will be posted on the AESO website at: <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/>. Stakeholders will be notified when this occurs via the AESO website and in the AESO stakeholder newsletter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the AESO at 1-888-866-2959 or stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca

Attachments:

AESO Need Overview: *Need for the Aira Solar Power Project Connection in the Town of Bow Island area*

Need for the Aira Solar Project Connection in the Town of Bow Island area

Aira Wind Power Inc (Aira) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its proposed Aira Solar Project (Facility) in the Town of Bow Island area. Aira's request can be met by the following solution:

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Add one 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the Facility to the existing 240 kV transmission line 983L in a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

NEXT STEPS

- In late 2023 the AESO may consider the need for this project for approval under section 501.3 of the ISO rules, *Abbreviated Needs Approval Process* (ANAP Rule), or apply to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of the need.
- The AESO will notify stakeholders via the AESO's website at www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects prior to the project being considered under the ANAP Rule or prior to filing a needs identification document (NID) application with the AUC.

The following organizations have key roles and responsibilities in providing access to the transmission system:

THE AESO

- Must plan the transmission system and enable access to it for generators and other qualified customers.
- Can approve eligible projects through the ANAP Rule and for non-eligible projects, the AESO will prepare and submit a NID to the AUC for approval.

ALTALINK

- Is the transmission facility owner in the Town of Bow Island area.
- Is responsible for detailed siting and routing, constructing, operating and maintaining the transmission facilities.
- Is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its transmission facilities applications.

WHO IS THE AESO?

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) plans and operates Alberta's electricity grid and wholesale electricity market safely, reliably and in the public interest of all Albertans. We are a not-for-profit organization with no financial interest or investment of any kind in the power industry.

We appreciate your views, both on the need for transmission system development and proposed transmission plans. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us directly.

CONTACT US

Alberta Electric System Operator

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Attachment 5 – AESO Public Notification of ANAP Consideration Posting (February 2024)

Aira Solar Project Connection (2461)

Abbreviated Needs Approval Process: Notice of Consideration

The AESO intends to consider the need for the Aira Solar Project Connection (Project) for approval under Section 501.3 of the ISO rules, *Abbreviated Needs Approval Process*, (ANAP Rule) on or after February 22, 2024. If stakeholders have any questions or concerns, please contact the AESO before this date.

The AESO has determined that the Project is eligible for consideration under the ANAP Rule because the following eligibility criteria have been met:

- total project cost is estimated to be approximately \$4.9M with approximately \$4.3 classified as participant-related and \$0.6M classified as system-related;
- the AESO has completed a participant involvement program (PIP) in accordance with the guidelines in Alberta Utilities Commission Rule 007;
- the Project is not anticipated to result in significant environmental effects; and
- no concerns or objections with the need for the Project have been raised. Prior to making its approval decision, the AESO will address additional stakeholder concerns that arise, if any.

Supporting information about this Project is available in the following documents:

- Engineering Connection Assessment
- TFO Cost Estimate
- AESO PIP Summary

Attachment 6 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Notice of ANAP Consideration (February 7, 2024)



GRID

Aira Solar Project Connection | Abbreviated Needs Approval Process Notice of Consideration

The AESO intends to consider the need for the Aira Solar Project Connection for approval under Section 501.3 of the ISO rules, Abbreviated Needs Approval Process, (ANAP Rule) on or after February 22, 2024. If stakeholders have any questions or concerns, please contact the AESO before this date.

Aira Wind Power Inc (Aira) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to connect its approved Aira Solar Project (Facility) in the Town of Bow Island area. Aira's request can be met by the following solution:

- Add one 240 kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect the Facility to the existing 240 kV transmission line 983L in a T-tap configuration.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

More information is available on the AESO website. Please [click here](#) to view the project page or visit the AESO website at www.aeso.ca and follow the path Grid > Transmission Projects > Aira Solar Project Connection (2461) to see relevant supporting documents.