



Project No.2972

Delivered by Email
mbitar@epcor.com

EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc.
North Service Centre
12116 – 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2S7

Attention: Mansur Bitar - Director, Transmission

Dear Mr. Bitar,

Re: Approval by the Independent System Operator, operating as the Alberta Electric System Operator (the “AESO”) under Section 501.3 of the ISO Rules, *Abbreviated Needs Approval Process*, (the “ANAP Rule”) for Meadowlark Substation Upgrade – Project No. 2972 (the “Project”)

1. On October 4, 2024, EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc. (“Market Participant”), submitted a system access service request (“SASR”) to the AESO to reliably serve growing demand for electricity in the Edmonton area (AESO Planning Area 60, Edmonton).
2. For the reasons set out below, the AESO has approved the transmission facility project required to respond to the SASR under the AESO’s abbreviated needs approval process (“ANAP”).
3. The transmission facility project includes:
 - (a) Upgrade the existing Meadowlark substation, including replacing three existing 72/14.4 kV 30/40 MVA transformers with three 72/14.4 kV transformers with a transformation capability of 30/40/50 MVA; and
 - (b) modify, alter, add or remove equipment, including switchgear, and any operational protections, control and telecommunication devices required to undertake the work as planned and ensure proper integration with the transmission system.
4. Supporting materials are available on the AESO website at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/meadowlark-substation-upgrade-2972/> and include:
 - (a) Functional Specification titled, “*Functional Specification SW Edmonton Area Load Meadowlark POD*” dated January 14, 2026, Version V2;
 - (b) Distribution Deficiency Report titled, “*Distribution Deficiency Report (DDR) for Meadowlark Transformer Capacity Increase*” dated December 3, 2025, Revision 1;
 - (c) *Capital Cost Estimate*, prepared by the TFO; and
 - (d) a summary of the AESO’s participant involvement program.
5. In accordance with subsection 3 of the ANAP Rule, the AESO has determined that the transmission facility project is eligible for approval under the ANAP by confirming:
 - (a) the AESO has identified a need consistent with the criteria set out in subsection 34(1) of the *Electric Utilities Act*;



- (b) the AESO has determined that the transmission facility project is an appropriate option to meet the need; and
 - (c) the AESO reasonably expects the costs of the transmission facility project to be less than \$25,000,000, of which system costs are not expected to exceed \$15,000,000.
6. In accordance with subsection 4 of the ANAP Rule, the AESO confirms that the transmission facility project meets the conditions for approval as follows:
- (a) the AESO's participant involvement program complies with the ISO participant involvement program guidelines in Alberta Utilities Commission Rule 007, *Facility Applications*;
 - (b) the transmission facility project is not anticipated to result in significant environmental effects;
 - (c) the AESO provided at least 14 days notice, by way of a posting to the AESO website, of the AESO's intention to consider a transmission facility project for approval under the abbreviated needs approval process, including supporting documentation; and
 - (d) any stakeholder concerns or objections with the need for a transmission facility have been addressed.
7. The AESO has further determined that:
- (a) the Market Participant has made all appropriate applications to the AESO to obtain the system access service requested in the SASR;
 - (b) the transmission facility project will provide the Market Participant with a reasonable opportunity to exchange electricity and ancillary services;
 - (c) the transmission facility project will properly respond to the Market Participant's SASR; and
 - (d) approval is in accordance with the AESO's responsibility to respond to requests for system access service, having determined that the transmission facility project is required and is in the public interest.
8. Pursuant to the ANAP Rule, the AESO approves the transmission facility project.

Should you have any questions regarding this approval letter, please contact Tana Lailan at tana.lailan@aeso.ca.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

 Gillian Barnett, LL.B., C.P.C.D.

2/17/2026

 Gillian Barnett, LL.B., C.P.C.D.
 Vice President, Law and Customer Projects

Date

Cc: Sarah Hanson, P.Eng., Manager, Distribution Planning, EPCOR Utilities Inc.
SHanson@epcor.com

Trevor Richards, P.Eng., Director - Electric Transmission, Facilities Division, Alberta Utilities Commission trevor.richards@auc.ab.ca