

Participant Involvement Program Summary

Meadowlark Substation Upgrade

Date: January 28, 2026

Version: V1

Classification: Public

1. Introduction

From October 2025 to November 2025, the AESO conducted a Participant Involvement Program (PIP) for the Meadowlark Substation Upgrade. The AESO directed the legal owner of transmission facilities (TFO), in this case EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc. (EDTI), 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 November 6, 2025.

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.

A copy of the Need Overview was posted to the AESO website at <https://www.aeso.ca/grid/transmission-projects/meadowlark-substation-upgrade-2972/> and a notice was published in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter on November 5, 2025. 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 the first row of development surrounding the existing Meadowlark substation as recommended by the Commission in Appendix A1 in AUC Rule 007.¹

The TFO notified a total of 1,819 Stakeholders, of which 1,815 were classified as private or individual landowners. The four other notified Stakeholders are listed below:

- Boardwalk Communities
- City of Edmonton
- Edmonton Public School Board
- Lynnwood Community League

¹ EDTI has identified its facility application to be of the type: *Overhead or underground transmission line and/or new substation development and/or substation upgrades and/or minor transmission line replacements within the original right-of-way – urban* as categorized in AUC Rule 007: *Facility Applications*, Appendix A1, Section 5.

Attachment 3 includes the TFO's project information package, which included the AESO Need Overview that was distributed to the Stakeholders described above between October 23, 2025, and November 6, 2025. The TFO's project newsletter was posted on the TFO's project-specific webpage <https://www.epcor.com/ca/en/ab/edmonton/operations/construction/projects/meadowlark-substation.html> on October 29, 2025. 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. Notice of ANAP Consideration

Most recently, the AESO notified Stakeholders of its intention to consider the need for the Meadowlark Substation Upgrade 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/meadowlark-substation-upgrade-2972/> and a publishing notice in the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter on January 28, 2026. Copies of the Notification of ANAP Consideration posting and the AESO Stakeholder Newsletter notice have been included as Attachments 4 and 5, respectively.

4. 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 (3000, 240 4th 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.

5. Questions and Concerns Raised

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.

One stakeholder that received the TFO's materials raised concerns about worker rights and labor group treatment through the construction of the substation upgrades. The AESO responded to the stakeholder by identifying the roles and responsibility of the AESO and explained that these concerns should be directed to EPCOR.

Apart from the 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.

6. List of Attachments

- Attachment 1 – AESO Need Overview (October 2025)
- Attachment 2 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Need Overview Notice (November 5, 2025)
- Attachment 3 – TFO Project Newsletter – Upgrades to the Meadowlark Substation (October 2025)

- Attachment 4 – AESO Public Notification of ANAP Consideration Posting (January 28, 2026)
- Attachment 5 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Notice of ANAP Consideration (January 28, 2026)

Attachment 1 – AESO Need Overview (October 2025)



Need for the Meadowlark Substation Upgrade

EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc. (EDTI) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to reliably serve growing demand for electricity in the Edmonton area. EDTI's request can be met by the following solution:

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Upgrade the existing Meadowlark substation, including replacing three existing 72/14.4 kV with three 72/14.4kV transformers of higher capacity.
- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

NEXT STEPS

- In mid 2026, 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 when 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.

EDTI

- Is the transmission facility owner in Edmonton.
- 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@aeso.ca
1-888-866-2959

3000, 240-4th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 4H4
Phone: 403-539-2450

www.aeso.ca | [@theaeso](https://x.com/theaeso)

Attachment 2 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Need Overview Notice (November 5, 2025)

GRID

Need Overview | Meadowlark Substation Upgrade

EPCOR Distribution & Transmission Inc. (EDTI) has applied to the AESO for transmission system access to upgrade its Meadowlark Substation (Facility) to reliably serve growing demand for electricity in the Edmonton area.

[Click here](#) to view details of the proposed transmission development and access the Need Overview document, or visit www.aeso.ca: Grid > Transmission Projects > Meadowlark Substation Upgrade (2972)

**Attachment 3 – TFO Project Newsletter – Upgrades to the Meadowlark Substation
(October 2025)**

PROJECT NOTICE

Upgrades to the Meadowlark Substation

OCTOBER 2025

EPCOR works to build, maintain and upgrade the electric system to provide safe and reliable power in Edmonton. You are receiving this information because you are near planned upgrades to the Meadowlark Substation (located at 15404 84 Avenue).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The existing transformers in the Meadowlark Substation are reaching their end of life and need to be replaced. We are planning to replace three existing transformers with three new, higher capacity transformers. These new transformers will help improve reliability and meet increased demand for power in the area. If approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission, we will begin replacing the transformers in stages over the next five years, starting in spring 2026. The new transformers would be replaced in the same location as the existing transformers.

WHAT IS A SUBSTATION AND TRANSFORMER?

A substation converts electricity from higher voltage power lines (transmission lines) to lower voltages (distribution lines) so it can be safely used by homes and businesses in the area. This conversion is done using a transformer.

MEADOWLARK SUBSTATION SITE LAYOUT



WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CONSTRUCTION

This work may be noisy at times. We will comply with the City of Edmonton's Community Standards Bylaw for Noise Control. If it is necessary to temporarily exceed noise levels, we will work with the City of Edmonton to obtain the necessary permits.

Hours of Construction

We anticipate our hours of work for this project to be Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; however, occasional evening and weekend work may be required. Each transformer will take approximately 10 months to install. We expect all three transformers to be replaced by the end of 2030.

Transformer 1: Replacement planned for April 2026

Transformer 2: Replacement planned in 2029

Transformer 3: Replacement planned in 2030

Noise levels at the substation are expected to be reduced once all three transformers are replaced.

Power Supply

No power outages are expected as a part of this project.

ABOUT THE ALBERTA ELECTRIC SYSTEM OPERATOR (AESO)

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 you may contact the AESO directly.

You can also make your questions or concerns known to an EPCOR representative who will collect your personal information for the purpose of addressing your questions and/or concerns. This process may include disclosure of your personal information to the AESO.

Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)

Phone: 1 (888) 866-2959

Email: stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca

Website: www.aeso.ca

ABOUT THE ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION (AUC)

Alberta's electric system is regulated by the AUC. The AUC is an independent quasi-judicial agency that ensures that the delivery of Alberta's utility service takes place in a manner that is fair, responsible and in the public's interest. The AUC must approve this project before EPCOR can begin work. For more information about how you can participate in the process, please see the brochure entitled Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications included in this package.

PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS

We are committed to keeping you informed and welcome your questions and feedback. Please contact us if you want to learn more or share your thoughts.

Phone: 780-412-4200

E-mail: epcorprojects@epcor.com

Website: epcor.com/consultation



Need for the Meadowlark Substation Upgrade

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- Add or modify associated equipment as required for the above transmission developments.

NEXT STEPS

- In mid 2026, 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 when filing a needs identification document (NID) application with the AUC.

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WHO IS THE AESO?

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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

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Participating in the AUC's independent review process to consider facility applications

www.auc.ab.ca

The AUC regulatory review process to consider facility applications for utility projects



The AUC uses an established process to review social, economic and environmental impacts of facility projects to decide if approval of a project is in the public interest.

The AUC considers applications requesting approval of the need for transmission development and facilities applications seeking approval to construct, operate, alter and decommission electric and natural gas facilities. Applications, as specified in AUC Rule 007, are required for:

- The need for transmission upgrades.
- The route and location of transmission facilities.
- The siting of power plants.
- The construction of a battery storage system.
- The designation of an industrial system.
- The need for and siting of natural gas utility pipelines.

Sometimes the Alberta Electric System Operator's needs identification document application is considered together with a facility application in a single proceeding; sometimes separate proceedings are held to consider each application.

Application review process



- Step 1: Public consultation prior to applying to the AUC
- Step 2: Application filed to the AUC
- Step 3: Public notice
- 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

Application review process

Step 1: Public consultation prior to applying to the AUC



An applicant seeking approval of a proposed utility development project is required to engage in a participant involvement program prior to filing an application with the AUC. The public involvement program involves consultation with persons whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by 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, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*.

Potentially affected parties are strongly encouraged to participate in the public consultation, also called a participant involvement program. Early, active and ongoing discussions with an applicant may lead to greater influence on project planning and what is submitted to the AUC for approval.

Step 2: Application filed to the AUC



When the applicant has concluded its consultation with potentially affected parties and the participant involvement requirements have been completed, the applicant files its application through the AUC online public filing system, called the eFiling System.

AUC staff members review each application submitted to verify that all of the application requirements in Rule 007 have been met before an application is deemed complete. If all of the required information is not provided, the application may be closed or missing information will be requested of the applicant. Rule 007 specifies, among other requirements, that applicants must submit the results of a public involvement program in its application that includes information about how applicants consulted and notified stakeholders and Indigenous groups and identifies any unresolved objections and concerns about the project.

Step 3: Public notice



When the AUC receives an application it is assigned a proceeding number and the AUC generally mails a notice of application directly to those who live, operate a business or occupy land in the project area who may be directly and adversely affected if the AUC approves the application. The notice initiates the opportunity for formal intervention in the proceeding to consider an application or applications. The notice of application will also set out important dates and information about where to find the application and other items being considered. The five-digit eFiling System proceeding number in the notice is the most efficient way to find information about a proposed project through the AUC website.

Step 4: Public submissions to the AUC



Prior to the submission deadline provided in the notice, formal submissions of outstanding concerns and unresolved objections about a project may be submitted to the AUC. To submit a concern, participants will need to register to participate in the proceeding, which involves providing a brief written statement called a statement of intent to participate. Submissions are filed electronically through the eFiling System. The information filed becomes part of the public record and is an important part of the process to ensure that outstanding concerns are heard, understood and considered.

The AUC uses the information gathered through statement of intent to participate submissions to decide whether to hold a hearing on the application(s). The AUC must hold a hearing if a concerned person can demonstrate that they have rights that may be directly or adversely affected by the AUC's decision on the application. Such a person is said to have standing before the AUC. If the AUC decides to hold a hearing, the AUC will provide further opportunities for participants with standing to ask the applicant questions on the public record and present their position on the application either in writing or in person. Hearings may

be held in writing, in person or virtually through web-conference software.

AUC eFiling System

The eFiling System is the online 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. The system is also used to submit your concerns and provide input to the AUC and can be used to monitor 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.

Step 5: Consultation and negotiation (if applicable)



The AUC supports efforts to reach a mutually agreeable outcome among the applicant and affected parties. The AUC encourages the applicant and those who have filed a statement of intent to participate 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 in an AUC hearing.

Step 6: The public hearing process



The AUC will issue a notice of hearing if a person with standing continues to have legitimate unresolved concerns with the application. The notice of hearing will provide a hearing date and location, or specify if the hearing will be held in writing or virtually. When the AUC holds a public hearing, registered parties are given the opportunity to express their views directly to a panel of Commission members. Any member of the public can listen to an in-person or virtual oral hearing. An oral public hearing operates similar to a court proceeding.

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 AUC to have standing or 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: *Rules on Local Intervener Costs*, recovery of costs is subject to the AUC's assessment of the value of the contribution provided by the lawyer and technical experts in assisting the AUC to understand the specifics of the case. It is also subject to the AUC's published scale of costs.

People with similar interests and positions are expected and encouraged 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 decision no more than 90 days after the close of record. The AUC can approve, or deny an application and can also make its approval conditional upon terms or conditions. AUC decisions are publicly available through the AUC website at www.auc.ab.ca.

Step 8: Opportunity to appeal



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

An applicant or participant in a proceeding can also ask the AUC to review its decision. An application to review a decision must be filed within 30 days from the date the decision is issued and satisfy the limited grounds described in AUC Rule 016: *Review of Commission Decisions*.

Step 9: Construction, operation and compliance



An applicant that receives approval to build and operate a facility from the AUC is expected to follow through on any commitments it has made to parties and 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.

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.

We are 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.



Contact us

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

Eau Claire Tower
1400, 600 Third Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G5

Attachment 4 – AESO Public Notification of ANAP Consideration Posting (January 28, 2026)

Meadowlark Substation Upgrade (2972)

Abbreviated Needs Approval Process: Notice of Consideration

The AESO intends to consider the need for the Meadowlark Substation Upgrade for approval under Section 501.3 of the ISO rules, *Abbreviated Needs Approval Process*, (ANAP Rule) on or after February 12, 2026. 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:

- Project costs are estimated to be \$1M and were classified as participant-related in accordance with the ISO tariff;
- 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:

- AESO Functional Specification
- DFO Distribution Deficiency Report
- TFO Cost Estimate
- AESO PIP Summary

Attachment 5 – AESO Stakeholder Newsletter Notice of ANAP Consideration (January 28, 2026)

GRID

Abbreviated Needs Approval Process | Meadowlark Substation Upgrade

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[Click here](#) to view details of the proposed transmission development and access the Need Overview document, or visit www.aeso.ca: Grid > Transmission Projects > Meadowlark Substation Upgrade (2972)