

ISO Rules

Part 500 Facilities

Division 501 General

Section 501.3 Abbreviated Needs Approval Process

Applicability

- 1 Section 501.3 applies to:
 - (a) the **ISO**.

Requirements

Legislative Authority

- 2 Pursuant to subsection 11.2 of the *Transmission Regulation*, this Section 501.3 and any associated business practices the **ISO** establishes related to a **transmission facility** project outlined in subsection 3 are the sole requirements in respect of an abbreviated needs approval process.

Eligibility Assessment

- 3 The **ISO** may approve a **transmission facility** project under the abbreviated needs approval process set out in subsection 4 if:
 - (a) the **ISO** has identified a need consistent with the criteria set out in subsection 34(1) of the *Electric Utilities Act*;
 - (b) the **ISO** has determined that the **transmission facility** project is an appropriate option to meet the need; and
 - (c) the **ISO** 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.

Conditions for Approval

- 4 The **ISO** must, prior to approving the need for a **transmission facility** project under the abbreviated needs approval process set out in subsection 4:
 - (a) comply with the **ISO** participant involvement program guidelines in **Commission** Rule 007, *Facility Applications*;
 - (b) confirm that the **transmission facility** project is not anticipated to result in significant environmental effects;
 - (c) provide at least 14 **days** notice, by way of a posting to the AESO website, of the **ISO**'s intention to consider a **transmission facility** project for approval under the abbreviated needs approval process, including supporting documentation; and
 - (d) confirm that any stakeholder concerns or objections with the need for a **transmission facility** have been addressed

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5 The **ISO** must, where it approves the need for a **transmission facility** project under this abbreviated needs approval process:

- (a) provide an approval letter certifying that the **ISO** has approved the need for the **transmission facility** project to the **Commission** and to the applicable **legal owner** of a **transmission facility**; and
- (b) post a notice of the approval on the AESO website.

Revision History

Date	Description
2026-04-07	Administrative amendment to correct a naming error in subsection 4(a).
2022-02-09	Simplified eligibility criteria under Section 3. Removed criteria related to facility size, configurations, etc. Updated conditions for approval under Section 4. Removed requirements related to how the ISO conducts its assessment of the need and options. Simplified and updated the approval process set out under Section 5. Removed the requirement to provide an approval letter to the market participant
2018-08-31	Amendments to subsection 2 Addition of subsection 3 Administrative amendments
2015-07-31	Initial release.