



Alberta Electric System Operator

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aeso.ca

Fee Guideline

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1. Overview

The Cluster Assessment Process includes generation and energy storage projects that will inject at least 5 MW of new or additional flow into the Alberta interconnected electric system (AIES) at the facility's connection to the AIES (i.e., the transmission or distribution system, as applicable).

This document will outline the fees that market participants will be required to pay under the Cluster Assessment Process, explain the purpose of each fee and how payment should be made.

At the end of each Cluster, the AESO will assess the Cluster fees and update them if needed.

2. Applicable Fees

Table 1: Fees Applicable until April 29, 2026

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

Table 2: Fees Applicable on or after April 30, 2026

Fee Type	Fee Amount (not including GST)
Preliminary Assessment Fee	The lower of \$5,250+\$160*(MC in MW) or \$29,250
Detailed Assessment Fee	The lower of \$21,000+\$320*(MC in MW) or \$69,000
Change Assessment Fee	\$10,500 (if applicable)
Reassessment Fee in the event of cancellation	The lower of \$21,000+\$320*(MC in MW) or \$69,000 (if applicable)

Notes:

- GST will be added to the fees above
- See the [Consolidated Authoritative Document Glossary](#) for a definition of maximum capability (MC)
- If a project is comprised of multiple source assets, the MC of each source asset will be added together, and the sum will be used for the purpose of calculating the fee amount

3. Important Payment Information

- Fees listed above must be paid by the market participant that has submitted a system access service request (SASR)
- 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 (see Appendix 1 for an example of a remittance advice) to the AESO. Remittance advices must be submitted to accounting@aeso.ca

4. Additional Fee Information

4.1 Preliminary Assessment Fee

4.1.1 Purpose

This fee is to cover conducting the preliminary assessment studies and congestion estimates, reporting the results, preparing cost estimates, and delivering the preliminary assessment packages.

4.1.2 Process

For all SASRs submitted during the intake window for a Cluster, the AESO will issue an invoice for the preliminary assessment fee shortly after the SASR deadline. The date of invoice issuance and payment due date will be published on the [Cluster Assessment](#) page near the time of the SASR deadline. Payment is due no later than 30 days after the issuance of the invoice and funds must be received by the AESO by the due date.

Once the AESO has reviewed and accepted the SASR and the preliminary assessment fee has been received, the project will be shown in Stage 1 with a status of “Active” in the next monthly publication of the AESO’s Project List.

4.2 Detailed Assessment Fee

4.2.1 Purpose

This fee is to cover conducting the detailed assessment studies and congestion assessments, reporting the results, preparing cost estimates, facility scopes, and conceptual system plans, and delivering the detailed assessment packages.

4.2.2 Process

For all projects in a Cluster, the AESO will issue an invoice for the detailed assessment fee along with the preliminary assessment package. The date of invoice issuance and payment due date will be published on the [Cluster Assessment](#) page near the time of the preliminary assessment package being issued. Payment is due no later than 30 days after the issuance of the invoice and funds must be received by the AESO by the due date.

Please note, if a reduction in MC is requested in a project change proposal, the AESO will not reduce the detailed assessment fee amount that is stated in the invoice.

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.

4.3 Change Assessment Fee

4.3.1 Purpose

This fee is to cover reviewing the project change proposal (PCP) and determining what impacts, if any, arise from the PCP.

4.3.2 Process

For PCPs submitted in Stage 1 of a Cluster, the change assessment fee does not apply.

For PCPs submitted in Stage 2 of a Cluster, the AESO will issue an invoice for the change assessment fee. Payment is due no later than 30 days after the issuance of the invoice and funds must be received by the AESO by the due date. For any project change proposals that are submitted after Stage 2, the AESO will continue to issue an invoice for the change assessment fee. Payment is due no later than 30 days after the issuance of the invoice and funds must be received by the AESO by the due date.

Market participants are subject to the change fee in effect at the time the change is requested.

For details about which project changes are allowed and when the change assessment fee applies, see the [Project Change Proposal Guidelines](#).

4.4 Reassessment Fee

4.4.1 Purpose

This fee is to cover conducting an assessment to determine impacts to other projects in the cluster.

4.4.2 Process

When a SASR and related project is cancelled in Stage 2 and beyond, either by market participant request or for market participant inaction, the AESO will include an invoice for the reassessment fee with the AESO's SASR cancellation letter. Payment is due no later than 30 days after the issuance of the invoice and funds must be received by the AESO by the due date.

Market participants are subject to the reassessment fee in effect at the time the cancellation is requested.

5. Failure to Pay

Failure to pay a fee in full by the specified due date will result in the consequences outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: Consequences of Failure to Pay Fees

Fee Type	Fee Amount (not including GST)
Preliminary Assessment Fee	SASR and related project will be cancelled, and invoice will be cancelled.
Detailed Assessment Fee	
Change Assessment Fee	Consequences will be applied in accordance with Section 103.7 of the ISO Rules, <i>Financial Default and Remedies</i> . This may include financial consequences such as interest and late payment charges, or service consequences such as the AESO stopping work on all in-flight projects or new SASRs with the market participant until the fee has been paid in full.
Reassessment Fee in the event of cancellation	

APPENDIX 1 – Remittance Advice Example

REMITTANCE ADVICE

Company Name
Company Address

Alberta Electric System Operator
3000, 240 – 4 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 4H4

Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Invoice Total	Amount Paid
Enter Date			
Enter Date			
		Total	

Payment Sent Date

Enter Date

Payment or Wire Reference No.