



## Transmission Reinforcement in southern Alberta – Proposed Amendment to Application No. 1600862

For more information please contact the AESO at 1.888.866.2959,  
[www.aeso.ca](http://www.aeso.ca) or [stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca)

*The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) advises you of its intention to amend application 1600862, the Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement Needs Identification Document (SATR NID). Although the need for system development at the West Brooks substation was approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) in 2009, the AESO has learned that this substation cannot be expanded to accommodate the required system development. The AESO will file an amendment to the SATR NID seeking the AUC's approval of the need for the new Cassils 324S substation in the Brooks area to meet the need for system development.*

### **Background**

In December 2008, the AESO filed the Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement Needs Identification Document (SATR NID) with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to address the need to add capacity to the transmission system in southern Alberta. The additional capacity is needed to integrate wind power developments proposed for this region. This application was approved by the AUC in September 2009 (Approval No. U2009-340). The AESO directed transmission facility owner AltaLink to prepare and file with the AUC for approval a Facilities Application to determine specific routes and locations for this new transmission infrastructure.

### **Why is an amendment to the original application required?**

In the course of developing its West Brooks to East Medicine Hat Facilities Application, AltaLink advised the AESO the need for system development cannot be met by expanding the West Brooks substation, as the AESO had originally stated in the SATR NID. A new substation, to be called Cassils 324S, is required to meet the need for system development. The AESO intends to file an amendment to the SATR NID with the AUC seeking the AUC's approval of the need for the new Cassils 324S substation in the Brooks area to meet the need for system development.

### **Why is transmission system reinforcement needed for southern Alberta?**

Interest in wind development in southern Alberta is increasing. The existing transmission system in southern Alberta is at capacity; system reinforcement is needed to connect new wind-generated power in this area. The AESO anticipates that up to 2,700 MW of additional wind generation may develop in southern Alberta over the next ten years.

### **When will the AESO file its amendment?**

The AESO intends to file its amendment to the SATR NID in June of this year. AltaLink will file its Facilities Application at the same time.

For more information on the need for transmission development in southern Alberta, please visit <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/16869.html>.

### **Who is the AESO?**

Alberta's transmission system, sometimes referred to as the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES) is planned and operated by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO). The transmission system is comprised of the high-voltage lines, towers and equipment (generally 69 kV and above) that transmit electricity from generators to lower voltage systems that distribute it to cities, towns, rural areas and large industrial customers. Our job is to maintain safe, reliable and economic operation of the provincial transmission grid.

## **How is AltaLink involved?**

AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) is the transmission facility owner (TFO) the Pincher Creek area. While the AESO is responsible for identifying the need for transmission system connections, AltaLink, when directed by the AESO, is responsible for filing a Facilities Application with the AUC for approval to construct and operate facilities that will satisfy the transmission system reinforcement need identified by the AESO. Further consultation with stakeholders, particularly on routing of transmission lines, forms a critical component of the Facilities Application process.

The AESO appreciates the views of stakeholders. Should you have any questions or comments regarding this amendment to the need for transmission system reinforcement in southern Alberta, we encourage you to contact:

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*The AESO is committed to protecting your personal privacy in accordance with Alberta's Personal Information Protection Act. Any personal information collected by the AESO with regard to this project may be used to provide you with further information about the project, may be disclosed to the Alberta Utilities Commission (and as a result, may become public), and may also be disclosed to the eligible transmission facility owner(s). If you have any questions about how the AESO will use and disclose your personal information collected with regard to this project, please contact us at 888-.866-2959 or at [stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca).*