

# Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement Amendment and Fidler Substation

Project Update November 2012



## Project Update

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) would like to thank all stakeholders who participated in the recent Lundbreck open house for the Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement amendment and Fidler substation. We would like to share the feedback we heard at all of the open houses for these two transmission developments, address some of the most commonly asked questions, and outline next steps.

### Fidler 312S Collector Substation Needs Identification Document (Fidler NID)

#### *AESO Application #1*

The Fidler NID proposes the development of a new 240/138 kV substation to be called Fidler 312S that will connect to the existing 1071/1072L transmission line via a double circuit 240 kV transmission line. The Fidler NID also includes proposed modifications to the existing 138 kV 893L transmission line.

The proposed Fidler substation and the 240 kV transmission line connecting the substation to the existing transmission system is needed to facilitate the connection of wind generation in the area northeast of Pincher Creek and to alleviate existing system constraints.

The AESO filed the Fidler NID with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) on October 29, 2012, by Application No. 1608960. The Fidler NID describes the need for the Fidler substation and the transmission developments proposed to meet that need.

Stakeholder feedback on the Fidler NID was primarily concerned with routing and siting and was referred to AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink), the transmission facilities owner (TFO) in the Pincher Creek area. Stakeholders also had questions about the future capability and expandability of the Fidler substation.

### Goose Lake to Chapel Rock Amendment to Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement Approval No. U2011-115 (SATR Amendment)

#### *AESO Application #2*

The Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement (SATR) Needs Identification Document (NID), approved by the AUC in September 2009 by Approval No. U2011-115, describes the need to alleviate existing system constraints and integrate wind developments throughout southern Alberta.

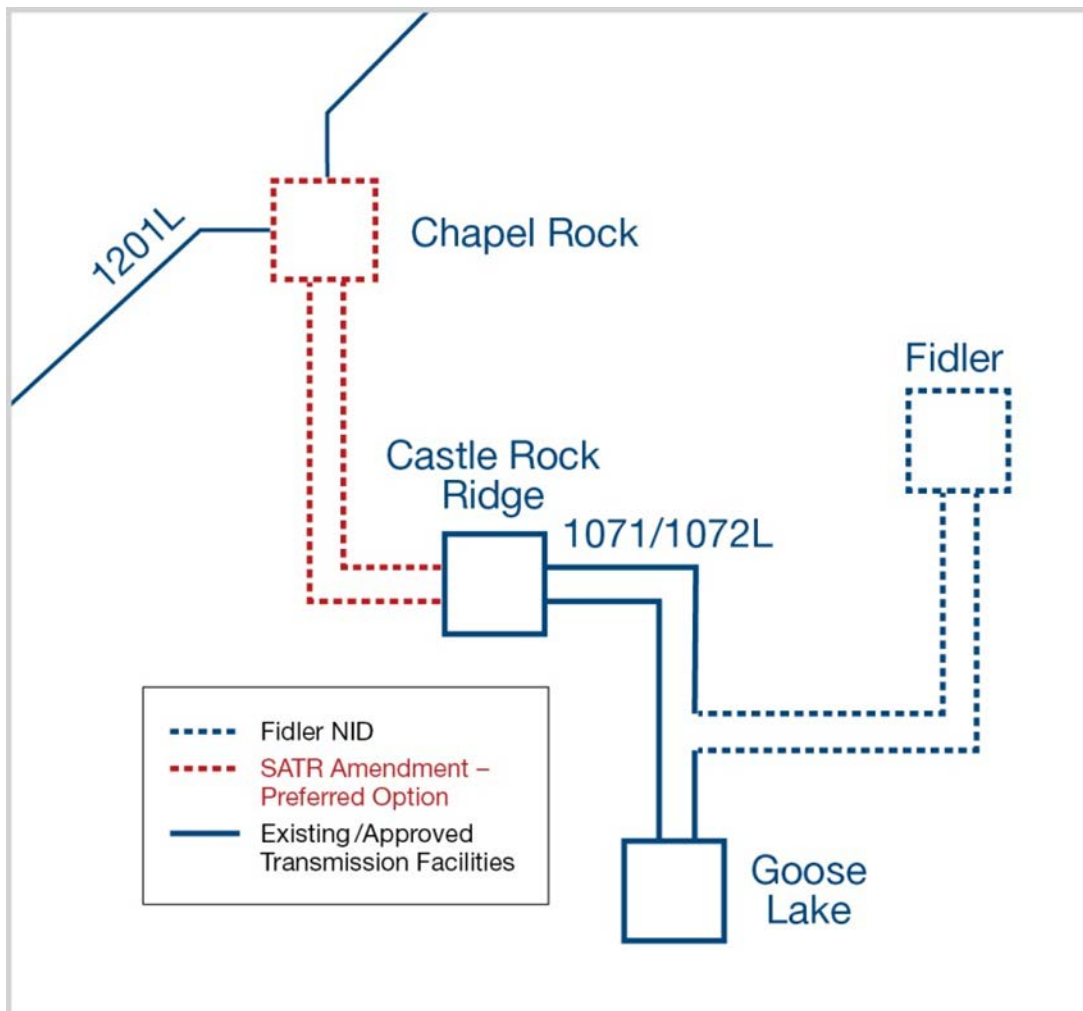
Although there has been no change to the need for SATR, the SATR Amendment will propose changes to certain components of Approval No. U2011-115, including proposing the 500/240 kV Chapel Rock 491S substation in lieu of the approved Crowsnest substation. The SATR Amendment will also describe the AESO's preferred option for connecting the Chapel Rock substation to the transmission system and ultimately to the existing Goose Lake substation. The two options considered were a 240 kV transmission line connecting the Chapel Rock substation to **either** the existing Castle Rock Ridge substation or to the proposed Fidler substation.

### Preferred Option

In preparing the SATR Amendment, we sought stakeholder input on the two options through a series of open houses held in Pincher Creek, Cowley and Lundbreck. Information was also provided in newsletters sent throughout the area via postal code mailout (unaddressed mail) in August (revised from a July newsletter), October and November 2012.

As part of its planning process, the AESO considered stakeholder feedback and the technical, economic and potential land impact considerations of both options for the Goose Lake to Chapel Rock transmission line and determined the preferred option to be a 240 kV transmission line **connecting the Goose Lake and Chapel Rock substations through the existing Castle Rock Ridge substation** (please see diagram below).

*The recent Lundbreck open house confirmed our choice of preferred option.*



## What We've Heard from Stakeholders

Approximately 175 stakeholders attended our three rounds of open houses held in July, September and November 2012. Open house participants were invited to fill out surveys to provide feedback on the information presented during the open houses. In the AESO's September 2012 open houses, we received 27 surveys from stakeholders. Since then, the AESO received two additional surveys from stakeholders through the mail and 34 surveys from our most recent open house in Lundbreck on November 20, 2012. Approximately 70 people attended the November open house. The information below summarizes all of the feedback collected from surveys during the three rounds of open houses.

## Stakeholder Information

The majority (31%) of respondents were from Pincher Creek. Other communities represented included Cowley (20%) and Lundbreck (13%).

When asked what they were hoping to learn at the open house, the majority (43%) responded that they attended to gain information on the routing and siting of facilities, 27% attended to learn about the need for transmission development and 19% attended to gather general information. Other information respondents were hoping to learn at the open house includes timelines for the projects and information on underground transmission.

Most respondents (35%) learned of the open houses through newspaper advertisements, 33% through direct mail, 24% via word of mouth and 1% through the AESO website. Other means included posters at the post office and the municipal office in Pincher Creek.

## Preferred Alternative

When asked which of the two alternatives for connecting Goose Lake 103S substation to Chapel Rock 491S substation respondents preferred, 58% preferred the Goose Lake to Chapel Rock via Castle Rock Ridge alternative, 17% preferred the Goose Lake to Chapel Rock via Fidler alternative and 25% of respondents had no response.

## Open House Evaluation

Just under half of the respondents (44%) agreed or strongly agreed that the information presented helped them understand the need for the projects. The majority (68%) agreed or strongly agreed that the AESO staff adequately answered questions. The majority (58%) agreed or strongly agreed that the information was presented in a way that was easy to understand.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why does the AESO support wind generation?

The decision to build power generation of any type in Alberta is made by investors who bear the risk and reward of those decisions, and not by the AESO or any central government-related planning body.

As part of its legislated mandate, the AESO is required to connect generation to the transmission system, regardless of the type or location of generation.

### Why doesn't the AESO put this underground?

Currently, the AESO will only recommend underground if it is not feasible to put it above ground. If underground is required to mitigate siting and routing concerns, it is the responsibility of the TFO, in this case AltaLink, to recommend.

Ultimately, the AUC will make the final decision regarding the location of the line and the appropriateness of using underground, including any cost allocation considerations.

### Will either of these projects be used to export power?

The AESO plans the transmission system to meet the needs of Alberta and to ensure that the transmission system in Alberta continues to be adequate, reliable and robust, now and in the future. The need for the SATR project is driven predominantly by the need to connect the large amount of wind-powered generation planned for southern Alberta, and move it to major load centres such as the Calgary area. The Fidler substation is needed to facilitate the connection of wind generation in the area northeast of Pincher Creek.

Alberta currently imports more power than it exports and has been a net importer of electricity since 2002. In 2011, total imports increased 63 per cent over 2010 to 3,591 gigawatt hours (GWh), while total exports decreased 74 per cent over the same time period to 119 GWh.

## Where will the new lines and substations be located?

Many stakeholders wanted more information on specific siting and routing of transmission facilities for the Fidler substation and SATR Amendment. Detailed siting and routing is the responsibility of the TFO in the area, in this case AltaLink, who will evaluate route options and recommend a preferred route as part of its facilities application to the AUC. AltaLink submitted its Fidler substation facilities application to the AUC at the end of October 2012 and will submit another facilities application for the SATR Amendment at a later date. Facilities applications include detailed design, siting and routing.

## What's Next?

### Fidler NID

The AESO filed the Fidler NID with the AUC on October 29, 2012, by Application No. 1608960 which can be found on the AESO website at <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/20554.html> The AUC is currently reviewing the application and will issue a Notice of Application once they deem the application complete.

For more information on public involvement in the AUC process, please visit <http://www.auc.ab.ca/involving-albertans/getting-involved/Pages/default.aspx>

### SATR Amendment

Having consulted with the public and considered the feedback, the AESO is preparing the SATR Amendment. Once completed, the AESO will submit the amendment to the AUC for review and approval.

The AESO intends to file its SATR Amendment with the AUC before the end of 2012. Once filed, the SATR Amendment will be posted to the AESO website at <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/16869.html> When the AUC deems the application complete, it will issue a Notice of Application inviting potentially affected parties to become involved in the process.

For more information on public involvement in the AUC process, please visit <http://www.auc.ab.ca/involving-albertans/getting-involved/Pages/default.aspx>

Please note that the AESO's SATR Amendment will not include specific locations of transmission facilities. Route selection and facility siting are the responsibility of AltaLink. AltaLink will submit a facilities application to the AUC for specific transmission facilities related to the AESO's SATR Amendment. Further information on AltaLink's facilities application can be obtained from AltaLink; please contact them directly by email at [stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca](mailto:stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca) or by phone at 1-877-269-5903.

## For More Information

We believe anyone potentially affected by transmission planning should have the opportunity to participate in the process and provide input. The AESO appreciates your views on the need for transmission system development and encourages your comments and participation. Please contact **Megan Harris** through [stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca) or call our stakeholder relations toll-free line at 1-888-866-2959 if you have any questions or suggestions.