

## Amendment to the Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement Needs Identification Document Approval

### Why am I receiving this information?

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) advises you of its intention to file an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to amend the Southern Alberta Transmission System Reinforcement Needs Identification Document (SATR NID) Approval No. U2010-264.

The amendment will clarify that the location of the previously identified “Crowsnest” substation is not restricted to the Crowsnest Pass area.

### Background

The AESO filed the SATR NID with the AUC in December 2008 to address the need for transmission system reinforcement in southern Alberta. The transmission system in southern Alberta is at capacity and reinforcement is primarily needed to integrate proposed wind power developments in the area. The AESO discussed this need with our stakeholders, including potentially affected landowners, throughout 2008. A public hearing was held to consider the NID application in June, 2009.

The AUC approved the SATR NID in September 2009 in *Decision 2009-126* and further approved the AESO’s SATR milestones and monitoring process in *Decision 2010-343* and Approval No. U2010-264 (SATR NID Approval).

### Why is an amendment to the SATR NID Approval required?

The SATR NID Approval describes the planned SATR transmission system development including various references to the Crowsnest substation, and in particular, to a “new 500-kV Crowsnest substation to be located near Crowsnest Pass.” The AESO will seek to amend the SATR NID Approval to clarify that the location of the new 500/240 kV substation is not restricted to the Crowsnest Pass area and to amend the name of the substation to “Crowsnest/Chapel Rock”.<sup>1</sup>

The AESO is responsible for identifying the need for transmission development and potential solutions to the identified need. Preferred and alternative solutions to meet the need presented in the AESO’s need identification documents are not intended to restrict transmission facility owners (TFO) to specific transmission line routes or facility siting, provided such locations meet the need identified.

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<sup>1</sup> The Crowsnest/Chapel Rock substation name is used for reference purposes only and may change as engineering and siting progress. The configuration and proposed siting of equipment will be more specifically described in the TFO transmission facility proposal.

AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink), the TFO in the area, will file a facilities application with the AUC that will include specific locations for the Crowsnest/Chapel Rock substation and associated transmission facilities. For more information on AltaLink's facilities application, please contact AltaLink directly by phone at 1-877-269-5903 or by email at [satrinfo@altalink.ca](mailto:satrinfo@altalink.ca)

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

The AESO intends to file its amendment application with the AUC in Summer 2011. 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 AESO. The transmission system comprises the high-voltage lines, towers and equipment (generally 69kV and above) that transmit electricity from generators to lower voltage systems that distribute electricity to cities, towns, rural areas and large industrial customers.

The AESO's role is to maintain safe, reliable and economic operation of the AIES. The AESO's planning responsibility includes determining the need for transmission system development and the manner in which that need is met. The AESO is also mandated to facilitate the interconnection of qualified market participants to the AIES. The AESO is regulated by the Alberta Utilities Commission and must apply to the AUC for approval of its needs identification documents. The NID process is described on the AESO's website at: <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/8969.html>

### **How is AltaLink involved?**

AltaLink is the legal owner of transmission facilities in the Pincher Creek area. While the AESO is responsible for determining the need for transmission system development, AltaLink, when directed by the AESO, is responsible for filing an application with the AUC for approval of the transmission facilities that will satisfy the transmission system development need determined by the AESO.

The AESO appreciates the views of stakeholders. Your comments and questions on the proposed amendment are encouraged. If you have any questions or comments regarding the AESO's proposed amendment to the SATR NID Approval, please 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 AltaLink Management Ltd. as the legal owner of transmission facilities in your area. If you have any questions about how the AESO will use and disclose your personal information, please contact us at 1-888-866-2959 or at [stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca)*