

# Guide for Distribution Connected Generation less than 5MW



Distribution connected generators are connected to local electric distribution systems at 25 kilovolts (kV) or less. Generators export electrical energy to the distribution lines in distribution service areas. These generators must register with the AESO to settle in the wholesale market. This guide is intended for generating units that are below 5 MW in Maximum Capability (MC). Generating units that are 5 MW or greater in Maximum Capability (MC) should work with the Wire Service Provider applicable to their area to initiate a project. See the [Connecting to the grid](#) section on the AESO website for information on how to initiate a project.

## What is required to connect a distribution connected generator less than 5 MW?

### Step 1

Generators in Alberta must obtain approval from the [Alberta Utilities Commission](#) (AUC), unless they are excluded under the Hydro and Electric Energy Regulation or other legislation.

### Step 2

There are several distribution zones in Alberta that are managed by Wire Service Providers (WSP). The generator owner must determine which zone their facility will be in, and contact the appropriate WSP. If the generator is connecting to lines owned by a Rural Electrification Association (REA), the generator owner should also determine whether the REA should be contacted. Contact information for WSPs and REAs can be found below.

#### Wire Service Providers (WSP) in Alberta

<b>EPCOR Distribution Inc.</b>	<i>Serves Edmonton</i>	Call (780) 310-4300 or toll free in North America at 1-800-667-2345
<b>ATCO Electric</b>	<i>Serves northern and east central Alberta</i>	Call 1-800-668-2248
<b>City of Lethbridge</b>	<i>Serves the City of Lethbridge</i>	Call (403) 320-3111
<b>ENMAX Power Corporation</b>	<i>Serves Calgary, Red Deer, Cardston, and Ponoka</i>	Call 1-877-571-7111 in North America and follow the voice prompts to reach their metering department
<b>FortisAlberta</b>	<i>Serves the remainder of Alberta</i>	Call 310-WIRE (9473)
<b>REA district locator tool</b>	<i>See contact information for your REA in the provided list</i>	<a href="http://www.afrea.ca/district_locator">http://www.afrea.ca/district_locator</a>

#### Rural Electrification Associations in Alberta

Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations (AFREA) members are listed on their website [here](#).

### Step 3

The generator owner contacts the AESO to register as a Pool Participant if they wish to sell energy to the power pool. The AESO operates the wholesale electricity market and clears all generation in Alberta. The [Information Document](#) entitled #2010-002R Becoming a Pool Participant offers useful information pertaining to the steps required to become a pool participant. Also, the list of required documentation for small distribution generators (less than 5 MW) can be found on the [Joining the energy market](#) section of the AESO website.

### **Generating Unit Owner's Contribution (GUOC)**

Under the ISO Tariff effective January 1, 2021, the owner of a proposed generating unit or aggregated generating facility with a maximum capability greater than 1 MW is required by the ISO tariff to make a Generating Unit Owner's Contribution (GUOC). Generator owners may visit the AESO's [GUOC Estimate Calculator](#) to estimate the amount of GUOC that may be required.

## Frequently asked questions

### **How much will I be paid for my electricity?**

The price of electricity fluctuates according to supply and demand. The pool price is calculated in megawatt hours (MWh). There are 1,000 KWh to one MWh so you divide the pool price by 1,000 to get a per KWh rate (i.e., \$60 / MWh pool price will equal \$0.06 in KWh). Our guide for [Wholesale Market Price](#) contains helpful information on explaining how the pool price is determined.

When selling energy directly to the wholesale market, you will receive the pool price minus the energy market trading charge for each hour of generation. The [trading charge](#) is reviewed annually.

To view historical pool prices, select Historical from the [reports section](#) of our Energy Trading System (ETS) website, then use the pull down menu to select *Pool Price*.

### **What if my generator is transmission connected?**

If your generator is transmission connected, you will need to initiate a project with the AESO. See the [Connecting to the grid](#) section of the AESO website for information about how to initiate a project.

### **When and how do I receive my pool statement?**

Preliminary pool statements are available on the 5<sup>th</sup> business day of each month for your review. The final statement is available on the 15<sup>th</sup> business day and payment is required by the participant on the 20<sup>th</sup> business day. All financial transactions are done via wire transfer.

Pool statements are available on the secure Energy Trading System (ETS), along with participant specific reports and information related to financial settlement. Please see the [settlement and credit](#) section of the AESO website for more information.

### **I am considering using an agent. Does the AESO require notification of this relationship?**

Yes. You will be required to complete an [agent appointment request form](#). The agent may need access to ETS to obtain your confidential settlement reports.

## For Further Information

**AESO FirstCall** is your one-stop information resource for doing business at the AESO. Call us Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-888-588-AESO (2376) or email us at [info@aeso.ca](mailto:info@aeso.ca).

## Helpful Links

- [Understanding the market](#)
- [Joining the energy market](#) as a Pool Participant
- [Settlement and Credit](#)
- Alberta Utilities Commission [Rule 021](#) Settlement System Code
- [Utilities Consumer Advocate](#)