

Key Messages

- Consistent with our previous communications, the AESO is planning to issue the Detailed Assessment Packages for Cluster 1 on June 28, 2024.
- The AESO's current schedule for Cluster 1 allows Market Participants (MPs) up to 10 weeks to finalize their decision to advance to Stage 3. In other words, to stay in the AESO Connection Process and advance to Stage 3, MPs are currently required to provide their Generating Unit Owner's Contribution (GUOC) evidence or payment, and Stage 3 & 4 Security to the Transmission Facility Owner (TFO) by September 6, 2024.
- The AESO has received many requests from MPs asking for additional time to finalize their decision after receiving the Detailed Assessment Packages. MPs have indicated they wish to gain a better understanding of the Restructured Energy Market (REM) and other potential framework changes before advancing in the AESO Connection Process.
- The AESO has previously communicated that engagement on REM technical design is planned to be complete by the end of October 2024, with detailed design and rules to follow from November 2024 to April 2025. More information on REM is available at <https://www.aesoengage.aeso.ca/rem-technical-design>.
- To provide MPs with additional flexibility, the AESO is providing a one-time, 12-week extension to the deadline for MP decision making. Therefore, to stay in the AESO Connection Process and advance to Stage 3, MPs in Cluster 1 now need to provide GUOC evidence or payment and Stage 3 & 4 Security to the TFO by November 29, 2024.
 - MPs are reminded that in alignment with the ISO tariff, if the project is cancelled following the payment of GUOC, the full GUOC amount will be forfeited.
 - The project change proposal submission deadline for projects in Cluster 1 is also extended by 12 weeks to October 18, 2024.
 - Projects in Cluster 1 can proceed into Stage 3 at any point prior to the November 29, 2024 deadline, once GUOC evidence or payment is provided and Stage 3 & 4 Security to the TFO has been confirmed by the AESO.
 - Projects that do not provide GUOC evidence or payment and Stage 3 & 4 Security to the TFO by November 29, 2024, will be cancelled.
- To provide MPs additional flexibility to enter Cluster 2, the AESO is also extending the closure of the intake window of Cluster 2 by 12 weeks. Therefore, the intake window for Cluster 2 is planned to close on October 18, 2024.
- Finally, upon request, the AESO will assess up to a 12-week extension to the stage maximum timeline for projects currently in Stage 3 of the AESO Connection Process.
- Questions regarding the above can be directed to your assigned AESO Project Manager or customer.connections@aeso.ca.