



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

For more information please contact the AESO at 1.888.866.2959,  
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*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 a new piece of transmission equipment, a phase shifting transformer, was approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) in 2009, the location of this piece of equipment has changed. The AESO will file an amendment to the SATR NID seeking the AUC's approval to change the location of this transformer from the Coleman 799S substation to the proposed Russell 632S substation, in the Pincher Creek area.*

### **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 Facilities Application, AltaLink has advised the AESO that an essential piece of transmission equipment, a phase-shifting transformer, could not be sited at the Coleman 799S substation, near the Town of Coleman, as the AESO originally stated in the SATR NID. After further technical study, however, the AESO and AltaLink agreed that another site, near the Castle River 239S substation northwest of Pincher Creek, may be suitable. It is proposed that a new substation, Russell 632S, be constructed at this site to house the phase-shifting transformer and related equipment to enhance system reliability. The AESO intends to file an amendment with the AUC to reflect the proposed change in location of the phase-shifting transformer.

### **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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