

**August 13, 2019**

**To:** Market Participants and Other Interested Parties

**Re:** Alberta Electric System Operator (“AESO”) - Notice of Intent to enter into the “Western Interconnection Data Sharing Agreement (“WIDSA”)

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The AESO is providing this notice to advise market participants and other interested parties (collectively, “Stakeholders”) that the AESO intends to enter into the WIDSA on or about August 27, 2019. The WIDSA will replace the existing Universal Data Sharing Agreement (the “UDSA”) which is administered by Peak Reliability.

### **Background**

The AESO and other reliability entities in the Western Interconnection have shared and continue to share certain reliability data, including market participant data, for the overall purpose of protecting and enhancing the reliability of the Western Interconnection, which includes the Alberta interconnected system. In particular, the sharing of this reliability data enhances the level of sophistication of the reliability entities’ analysis, operational assessments, and the monitoring of reliable operations. This reliability data includes but is not limited to: (i) synchrophasor data; (ii) operating reliability data, including information or data related to voltages, line flows, interchange schedules, e-tags, load projections, planned generation and transmission outages, and breaker status; (iii) remedial action scheme data; and (iv) transmission network model data.

To facilitate the sharing of reliability data, the reliability entities, including the AESO, and other permitted entities, entered into the WECC Synchrophaser and Operating Reliability Data Sharing Agreement (“WECC Agreement”) in 2012. The WECC Agreement was administered by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (“WECC”) from 2012 to 2015. Effective January 1, 2016, Peak Reliability assumed the reliability coordinator role from WECC. The WECC Agreement was ultimately replaced with the USDA, with Peak Reliability as the administrator.

On or around the end of 2019, Peak Reliability intends to cease its business operations and will no longer be a reliability coordinator. As a result, the USDA will be terminated and it is proposed that it will be replaced with the WIDSA.

### **WIDSA**

The AESO, California Independent System Operator (“CAISO”) and other reliability entities have spent several months negotiating the WIDSA to arrive at terms and conditions acceptable to all, and which is substantially similar to the USDA except as follows:

1. The CAISO instead of Peak Reliability will be responsible for the overall administration of the agreement.
2. For reliability coordinators who are signatories to the WIDSA and whose footprint also extends to include part of the Eastern Interconnection, such reliability coordinators may also share their real-time system conditions studies or analysis, including any underlying data, with respect to their (i) real-time contingency analysis results; (ii) state estimator results; and (iii) energy management system and supervisory control and data acquisition models with their transmission operators and balancing authorities and adjacent reliability coordinators in the Eastern Interconnection as

necessary for reliability related purposes and provided that such entities are subject to certain confidentiality requirements.

### **Stakeholder Questions and Comments**

The AESO has satisfied itself that market participants' data will continue to be treated with the appropriate level of confidentiality under the WIDSA. As a result, market participants should not experience any change in operations or administration from this development.

Stakeholders who may have questions or comments may submit them in writing to the AESO to [diana.wilson@aeso.ca](mailto:diana.wilson@aeso.ca). The deadline for Stakeholders to provide any questions or comments is 5:00 P.M. (MST) on August 26, 2019.

Sincerely,

Diana Wilson

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