

To: Market Participants
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020
Subject: COVID-19-Related Waivers and Variances

The AESO would like to remind market participants of the opportunities available to them under Section 103.14 of the ISO rules, *Waivers and Variances*, and under certain reliability standards and the ISO tariff to request a waiver or variance if they anticipate that they will be unable to fulfill the requirements set out in specified ISO rules and sections of the reliability standards and ISO tariff.

Building upon our efforts to support market participants during the COVID-19 pandemic, the AESO will be prioritizing waiver and variance requests related to the impacts of COVID-19. For such cases, market participants should continue to submit their requests through the AESO's current [RFI process](#) and requests are expected to include the following information, as applicable:

- Evidence of how COVID-19 has affected the market participant's compliance;
- Steps being taken by the market participant to reach compliance;
- Details of any mitigation plan; and
- A timeframe by which the market participant expects to be able to reach compliance.

While market participants are free to submit a request for a waiver of payment in lieu of notice for contract reductions to the AESO as a result of the COVID-19 situation, the AESO does not consider that a load reduction would, solely as a result of COVID-19, give rise to transmission system benefits. Further, the AESO does not consider it appropriate to use the discretion afforded to it in the ISO tariff in a manner that will result in transferring costs from one party to others.

The AESO continues to explore options to reduce or defer transmission costs to all consumers in light of the COVID-19 situation.