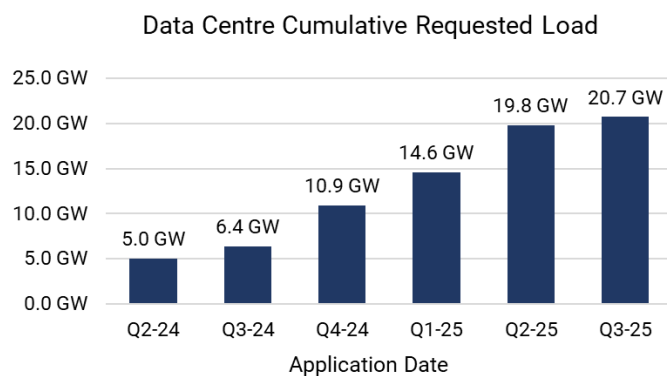


The process for connecting data centres to Alberta’s electricity grid continues to evolve. Interest remains high, and the AESO continues to advance technical and framework initiatives to provide clarity while ensuring a safe, reliable and affordable grid.

## Continued Data Centre Interest in Alberta

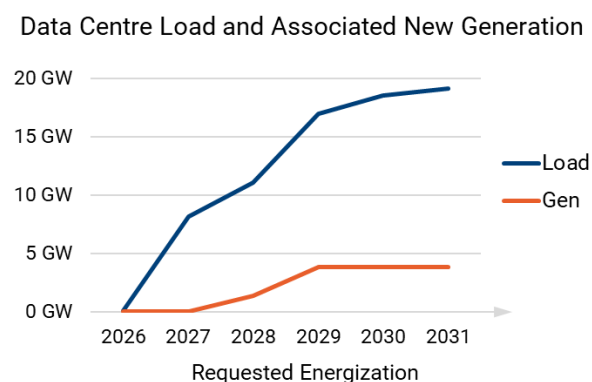
### Data centres continue to apply

New and significant requests for connection continue to arrive, with over 20,000 MW of data centre load now on the AESO project list.



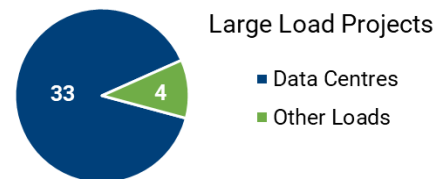
### Load is outpacing generation

Data centres continue to request load service without matching generation, and new supply will be required to meet requested load growth.



### There are other large loads to consider

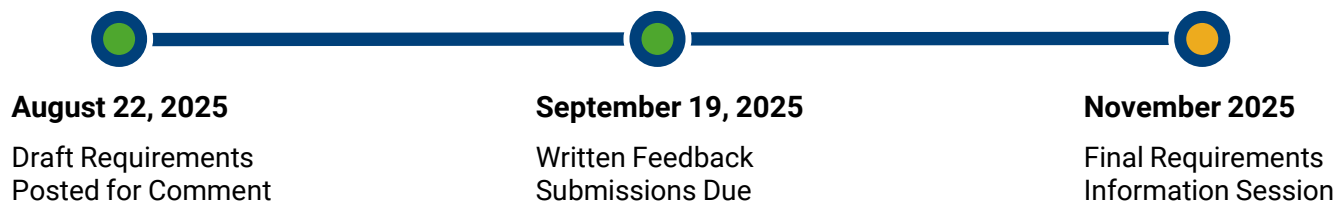
While data centres remain the dominant type of load project, there are other large loads requesting service that need to be accounted for in a long-term framework.



## Connection Requirements for Data Centres

The AESO is developing technical connection requirements for transmission connected data centres. This work supports project advancement while safeguarding system reliability. Draft requirements were released in August for written comment, and the AESO is now reviewing the feedback. Requirements will be revised as needed, followed by an information session to share the final approach.

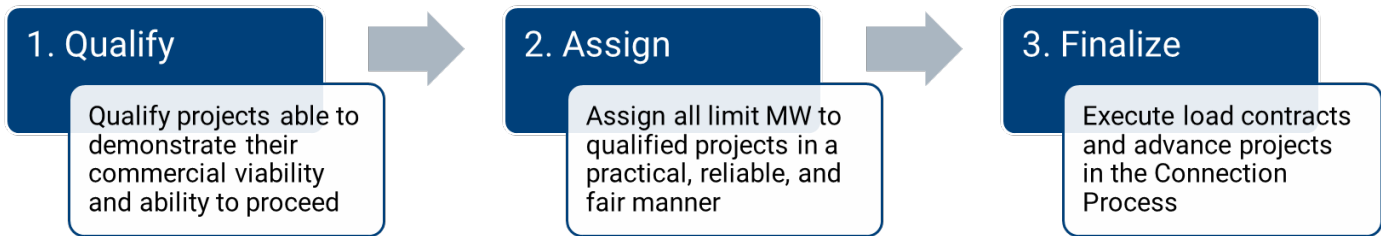
More information on the connection requirements can be found on the AESO Engage site [here](#).



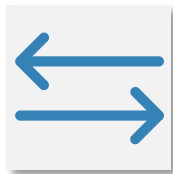
## Large Load Integration Phase I Update

The AESO rolled out Phase I of the Large Load Integration Program at a June 4, 2025, information session, which included a 1,200 MW interim large load connection limit and the process for allocating that load among the applicable project developers.

More information on the interim limit and Phase I process can be found on the AESO Engage site [here](#).

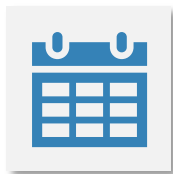


### The AESO accommodated reasonable requests for flexibility in the process



#### Allocated MW Trading Period

Qualified developers requested the ability to exchange their initial MW assignments with each other prior to final allocation. This approach supports optimal market outcomes within the Phase I framework.



#### Load Contract Execution Extension

The contract execution deadline was extended from August 4 to October 2025, supporting developer participation in the provincial government's data centre levy engagement and allowing time to assess the impact on project economics.

### Phase I proceeded as planned and we're waiting for final contract execution



#### Qualify Complete

- 15 Projects
- 5 Developers
- 4,800 MW Qualified



#### Assign Complete

- 3 Projects
- 2 Developers
- 1,200 MW Assigned



#### Finalize October

Load contracts have been issued for assigned MW and are pending execution

The AESO Connection Project List will be updated after the Finalize step is complete. If any MW from the interim connection limit remain after the completion of Phase I, they will be carried over into Phase II.

*Phase I was a fit-for-purpose solution that allows Alberta to advance a meaningful volume of data centre load while respecting existing grid capability and regulatory frameworks.*

## Large Load Integration Phase II Update

Phase II of the program will explore changes necessary to create the long-term framework for all large loads, including data centres. Integration will occur across the AESO's mandate, including connections, planning, operations, markets, tariff and reliability. We are committed to working with stakeholders to:

- » Enable as much load as possible within reliability guardrails
- » Develop clear and efficient pathways to connection
- » Explore opportunities for innovative grid partnerships

## Phase II Key Questions to Address and Related Topics

The AESO has identified three high-level questions to guide what we need to solve for and inform how we organize the engagement process.

### How can the grid reliably serve additional large load requests?



#### Bring Your Own Generation

Clear pathways for large loads to supply their own electricity, both on-site and off-site.



#### MW Allocations

Clear processes and mechanics for assigning additional load-serving capability from the grid.



#### Connection Process

Clear application, study, and regulatory processes and mechanics for large loads.



#### Planning & Forecasting

Understanding how large load is forecast and considered in optimal transmission planning.

### How do we ensure large loads are a benefit to the grid?



#### Technical Requirements

Clear requirements to ensure large loads can connect and operate in a reliable manner.



#### Operations & Market

Operating procedures and services that allow large loads to help the grid in real-time.

### Are large loads paying their fair share of transmission costs?



#### ISO Tariff Contributions

Appropriate upfront payments large loads make to connect to the transmission system.



#### ISO Tariff Demand Rates







Appropriate rates large loads pay on an ongoing basis for transmission system access.

## Phase II Interactions and Timelines

Developing a long-term framework for large loads is not a simple or isolated activity, and numerous complex interactions will need to be considered. These can be grouped into three core dependencies that will shape the structure, timing and sequencing of Phase II engagement and implementation:

- 1 Alignment with ongoing AESO engagements covering interdependent topics
- 2 Government legislative schedules, if policy changes are necessary for solutions
- 3 Determination of whether solutions require regulatory filings or can proceed through AESO process documentation

Coordinated planning across these areas is essential to ensure a coherent and effective Phase II rollout.

2025			2026												2027		
OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN		
	Internal Demand Rates: Cost-of-service studies feedback		Internal Demand Rates: Options analysis, bill impact, mitigation						Internal Demand Rates: Application preparation						★		
			Internal Demand Rates: DOS evaluation														
Cost Allocation & Investment: Working Group (WG) Prep			Cost Allocation & Investment: WG Options Development & Analysis												★		
									Cost Allocation & Investment: Application preparation						File in Q1		
Rec. Paper			ISO Rule Development				★										
	Fall Legislature 2025				Spring Legislature 2026 (estimated)								Fall Legislature 2026 (estimated)				
	 ISO Tariff Streams		 OTP	 Policy												★ AUC Applications	 Framework Paper

ISO Tariff Streams

OTP

Policy

★ AUC Applications

Framework Paper

## Phase II Next Steps and Call to Action

The engagement design is still in development. To help shape its scope and direction we are seeking stakeholder input on the key questions to address and related topics, and input on the structure and timing considering the interdependencies with other engagements.



### Pre-Engagement Survey

The AESO invites all stakeholders to complete a survey and share their insights for integrating large loads into Alberta's electricity system. You can find the survey on the AESO Engage site [here](#).

