Applying for a Digital Certificate

aeso

What are digital certificates?

The process to submit bids and offers to the energy and ancillary service markets, register/accept net settlement instructions (NSI), and retrieve statements/reports is handled through the AESO's Energy Trading System (ETS). To ensure internet-based communication between participants and the AESO is secure, participants must purchase a digital certificate.

A digital certificate is your assurance that the website you access is the secure AESO ETS. At the same time, the certificate allows the ETS to recognize authorized system users and allow access to appropriate information.

For security integrity, certificates require renewal on the anniversary date of the installation. DigiCert PKI Client application will automatically notify you 5 days prior to the annual expiry date.

The AESO administers digital certificate issuance, renewal, and revocation. DigiCert is the provider of the encrypted digital signature services.

How do I apply for a digital certificate and how much do they cost?

You apply by accessing the Energy Trading System (ETS) digital certificate enrolment procedure at: https://www.aeso.ca/market/market-participation/system-tools/energy-trading-system-tools/. Follow the instructions on how to complete the digital certificate application form and the online enrollment. If you require multiple certificates, you will need to submit multiple application forms and enrollment requests (one form per user/Participant ID).

The certificate application form should be submitted by an authorized contact. If you do not know who the authorized contact is for your organization, you can lo ok it up by referencing our Pool Participant list.

The information submitted in both the application form and online enrollment should match exactly. If the information does not match, the online enrollment request may be rejected.

Each digital certificate costs $100, plus GST/year and is renewed annually. Charges will appear on monthly pool statements.

How many digital certificates will my company require and how do I install them?

It is up to each company to determine how many digital certificates will be required. For security reasons and audit purposes, the AESO recommends one certificate per user, as individual digital certificates can be set up with different access levels. The user access levels are determined by your organization's authorized contact.

Certificate holders are responsible for maintaining internal security relating to their digital certificate. Be aware that certificates can be installed or shared on computers outside of an organization. Therefore, individuals who leave your company may still have access to your confidential information. Contact the AESO if you need to revoke a digital certificate or if you require changes to security access levels. The AESO also recommend periodic review of current authorized users. A list can be obtained by sending a request to info@aeso.ca.

Changes to the certificate holder's original information (i.e. email address, name, and computer) may result in the applicant needing to obtain a new certificate. It is the certificate holder's responsibility to send these changes to cert.admin@aeso.ca to verify whether a new certificate is required.