



Need for a telecommunication system upgrade in Athabasca area

For more information please contact the AESO at 1-888-866-2959, www.aeso.ca or stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca

Why is a telecommunication system upgrade needed in the Athabasca area?

A reliable telecommunications service for electrical substations in the Athabasca area ensures that operators can run the transmission system effectively. As demand for electricity in this area continues to grow, improvements to the telecommunications system are required. The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) has verified the need to upgrade the telecommunications system in the Athabasca area.

Who is the AESO?

Alberta's transmission system, sometimes referred to as the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES) or "grid", is planned and operated by the 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. Our planning responsibility includes identifying needed transmission reinforcement and recommending preferred options to meet these needs. We are regulated by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) and must apply for approval of the transmission system needs we identify. Further, the AESO is also mandated to facilitate the interconnection of qualified electricity generators and new load customers to the provincial transmission grid.

The AESO intends to apply to the AUC for approval of the need identified for a telecommunications system upgrade in the Athabasca area in December 2009.

How is AltaLink Management Ltd. involved?

AltaLink Management Ltd. is the Transmission Facility Owner (TFO) in the Athabasca Area. While the AESO is responsible for determining the need for transmission system reinforcement, AltaLink, when directed by the AESO, is responsible for filing an application with the AUC for approval of the transmission facilities that will satisfy the transmission system reinforcement need identified by the AESO.

The AESO appreciates the views of stakeholders. Your comments and suggestions on the plan for transmission system reinforcement are encouraged. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the need for transmission system reinforcement in the Athabasca area or the AESO's application regarding this need, please contact:

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The AESO is committed to protecting your personal privacy in accordance with Alberta's Personal Information Protection Act. Any personal information collected by the AESO with regard to this project may be used to provide you with further information about the project, may be disclosed to the Alberta Utilities Commission (and as a result, may become public), and may also be disclosed to the local Transmission Facility Owner. If you have any questions about how the AESO will use and disclose your personal information collected with regard to this project, please contact us at 888-866-2959 or at stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca.