

Need for the RESL McLaughlin Wind Energy Connection in the Pincher Creek Area

Transmission Development Information for Stakeholders



Why is this transmission development needed?

Renewable Energy Services Ltd. (RESL) has applied to the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) for transmission system access to connect its proposed McLaughlin Wind Generating Facility (Facility) in the Pincher Creek area. RESL's request can be met by constructing a short 138 kV transmission line to connect the Facility to the existing 164L transmission line.

The AESO is processing RESL's request, including providing information to landowners, occupants, residents and agencies that may be near the proposed transmission development. The AESO intends to apply to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for approval of this need in late 2015. The AESO's needs identification document (NID) application will be available on the AESO's website at www.aeso.ca/nid at the time of its application to the AUC.

Who is the AESO?

Alberta's transmission system, sometimes referred to as the Alberta Interconnected Electric System (AIES), is planned and operated by the AESO. The transmission system comprises the high-voltage lines, towers and equipment (generally 69 kV and above) that transmit electricity from generators to lower voltage systems that distribute electricity to cities, towns, rural areas and large industrial customers.

The AESO's role is to maintain safe, reliable and economic operation of the AIES. The AESO's planning responsibility includes determining the need for transmission system development and the manner in which that need is met. The AESO is also mandated to facilitate the interconnection of qualified market participants to the AIES. The AESO is regulated by the AUC and must apply to the AUC for approval of its NID application.

How is AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) involved?

AltaLink is the transmission facilities owner (TFO) in the Pincher Creek area. While the AESO is responsible for identifying that transmission system development is needed, AltaLink is responsible for detailed siting and routing, constructing, operating and maintaining the associated transmission facilities. The AESO has directed AltaLink to provide information to stakeholders on this need and to file a facility proposal application with the AUC, which will include a detailed description and location of the proposed transmission connection.

Further Information

The AESO appreciates your views on the need for transmission system development and your comments are encouraged. If you have any questions or comments regarding the need for the proposed transmission system development in the Pincher Creek area or the AESO's application regarding this need, please contact:

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 1-888-866-2959 or at stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca. The AESO is committed to protecting your privacy. Your feedback, comments and/or contact information collected by the AESO will be used to respond to your inquiries and/or to provide you with further information about the project. The AESO will not use your personal information for any other purposes and will not disclose your information without consent or a legal obligation. If you choose to communicate by email, please note, email is not a secure form of communication. Security of your communication while in transit cannot be guaranteed.