

# Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement Stakeholder Update

August 2013



## Why am I receiving this information?

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) wishes to provide you with a status update on various components of the Southern Alberta Transmission Reinforcement (SATR). SATR, which is needed to alleviate existing system constraints and to integrate wind developments throughout southern Alberta, was approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) in Approval No. 2011-115.

The AESO is providing this information to landowners, occupants, residents and other stakeholders that may be affected by the SATR components described below. The AESO will continue to update stakeholders as new information becomes available.

## Temporary Delay of Certain SATR Components

The AESO is currently conducting analysis related to its intertie restoration initiative that may affect the timing of the following three planned SATR components:

- Picture Butte to Etzikom Coulee - includes the new Journault substation in the Etzikom Coulee area and a new 240 kV transmission line between the Picture Butte and Journault substations.
- Goose Lake to Etzikom Coulee - includes a new 240 kV transmission line between the Goose Lake and Journault substations.
- Etzikom Coulee to Whitla - includes a new 240 kV transmission line between the Journault and Whitla substations.

Consequently, the AESO has temporarily delayed proceeding with these SATR components until the analysis is completed. The AESO has also requested that AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) delay filing its facilities applications with the AUC for these three SATR components until 2014. AltaLink's facilities applications will include detailed descriptions and locations of these SATR components.

## Cancelled SATR Component

The AESO has reviewed its plans for Stage 3 of SATR, which is comprised of a new 240 kV transmission line connecting Ware Junction substation to the Langdon substation. As a result of its long-term regional transmission plans, the AESO has determined that SATR Stage 3 is no longer needed and will apply to the AUC for approval to cancel this stage.

## The AESO's Planning Process

The AESO's transmission planning processes are purposefully flexible with system upgrades planned in stages to accommodate changes in transmission infrastructure and demand for transmission access. The temporary delay and cancellation described above have resulted from the AESO's ongoing monitoring of the transmission system conditions.

## SATR Background

SATR is needed to alleviate existing system constraints and to integrate wind generation throughout Alberta. As part of the regulatory process, the AESO consulted from October 2007 to October 2008 on the need for SATR and the proposed developments to meet the need. In December 2008, the AESO

applied to the AUC for approval of the need and the AESO's preferred SATR developments. The AUC granted that approval in September 2009. Most recently in 2012, the AESO provided further information to potentially affected stakeholders regarding a change in the potential development area for the Goose Lake to Etzikom Coulee and Picture Butte to Etzikom Coulee transmission developments.

The SATR Needs Identification Document, as well as the AESO's original and more recent consultation material, can be found on the AESO website at <http://www.aeso.ca/transmission/24767.html>

## 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.

## How is AltaLink Management Ltd. involved?

AltaLink is the transmission facilities owner in the 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.

## For More Information

The AESO's view is that anyone potentially affected by transmission planning should have the opportunity to participate in the process and provide input. The AESO appreciates your views on the need for transmission system development and encourages your comments and participation. Please contact **Megan Harris** through [stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca) or call our stakeholder relations toll-free line at 1-888-866-2959 if you have any questions or suggestions.

*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 AltaLink as the legal owners of transmission facilities in your area. If you have any questions about how the AESO will use and disclose your personal information, please contact us at 1-888-866-2959 or at [stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca](mailto:stakeholder.relations@aeso.ca)*