



## **Alberta Electric System Operator**

**Leduc 325S Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line  
Interconnection**

**Needs Identification Document**

**July 12, 2011**

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 2011-280: Alberta Electric System Operator  
Leduc 325S Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Interconnection  
Needs Identification Document  
Application No. 1606704  
Proceeding ID No. 737

July 12, 2011

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## **1 Introduction**

1. The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval of the needs identification document (NID) for the construction of a new 138/25-kilovolt (kV) substation, designated as Leduc 325S (the substation), and a new 138-kV double-circuit transmission line near Leduc, Alberta (the project). This application was registered on July 16, 2010, as Application No. 1606373, but later withdrawn on October 15, 2010. An amended NID was registered on October 25, 2010 as Application No. 1606704.
2. Pursuant to Section 35 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the AESO directed AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) to submit a facility proposal to the Commission to meet the need identified in the NID application. On July 23, 2010, AltaLink filed Application No. 1606386 (the facility application) with the AUC seeking approval to construct and operate the substation and the transmission line.
3. Both the AESO and AltaLink requested that the Commission consider the NID application and the facility application jointly, pursuant to Section 15.4 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.
4. On February 4, 2011, the Commission issued information requests to the AESO. The AESO responded to the information requests on February 23, 2011.
5. The Commission issued a notice of applications on February 24, 2011, to occupants, residents and landowners located within 800 metres of the substation and right-of-way of the transmission line. In its notice, the Commission advised that it would consider the AESO's NID application and AltaLink's facility application jointly as Proceeding ID No. 737.
6. On April 8, 2011, the Commission issued a second round of information requests to the AESO. The AESO responded to the information requests on April 21, 2011.
7. On May 4, 2011, the Commission issued a ruling on the AESO's request of April 21, 2011, for approval of the NID application. The ruling stated that considering that no objections or concerns had been established by interveners regarding the AESO's NID application pursuant to Section 38(e) of the *Transmission Regulation*, the Commission approved the NID application and reasons were to follow in a decision to be issued at a later date.

## 2 Discussion

8. The AESO's NID application was prepared in response to a request by FortisAlberta Inc., the distribution facilities owner, to develop a new 138/25-kV source of supply in the Leduc area from which to serve the growing distribution system load.

9. The AESO directed AltaLink to assist the AESO in conducting a participant involvement program to notify stakeholders of the need for transmission development in the Leduc area. The AESO stated in its NID application that there were no outstanding concerns related to the AESO's assessment of the need for this development.

10. In response to the notice of applications, the Commission received six submissions from individuals who raised the issue of need regarding the AESO's NID application. In a standing ruling issued by the Commission on April 8, 2011, these parties were directed to file written submissions to the Commission, on or before April 18, 2011, indicating what right(s) they were asserting and how such right(s) may be directly and adversely affected by the Commission's decision on the NID application. No further submissions were received.

## 3 Commission findings

11. The Commission reviewed the NID application and determined that it contains the information required by the *Electric Utilities Act*, the *Transmission Regulation* and AUC Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, and Industrial System Designations* (AUC Rule 007).

12. The AESO conducted a participant involvement program which identified no outstanding objections or concerns related to the AESO's assessment of the need for the proposed development.

13. None of the submissions received by the Commission in response to the notice of applications indicated how the interveners might be directly or adversely affected by a decision of the Commission with respect to the AESO's NID application or that the NID application was technically deficient.

14. The Commission finds that the NID application meets the requirements of AUC Rule 007.

15. The Commission has reviewed the NID in light of the mandatory principles and matters it is required to consider pursuant to Section 38 of the *Transmission Regulation*. No party has satisfied the Commission that the AESO's assessment of the need to expand and enhance the transmission system in the Leduc area is technically deficient or is not in the public interest.

16. Considering that no objection or concern has been established by the interveners regarding the AESO's NID application and the requirement pursuant to Section 38(e) of the *Transmission Regulation*, the Commission approves the AESO's NID application.

#### 4 Decision

17. Pursuant to Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the Commission approves the NID for the project and grants the AESO the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Needs Identification Document – Approval No. U2011-220 – July 12, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on July 12, 2011.

#### The Alberta Utilities Commission

*(original signed by)*

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Panel Chair

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Neil Jamieson  
Commission Member

*(original signed by)*

Kay Holgate  
Commission Member