



## **Alberta Electric System Operator**

**Currant Lake 896S Substation, Armitage 949S Substation  
and 144-kV Transmission Line Interconnections**

**Needs Identification Document Applications**

**September 12, 2011**

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 2011-372: Alberta Electric System Operator  
Currant Lake 896S Substation, Armitage 949S Substation  
and 144-kV Transmission Line Interconnections  
Needs Identification Document Applications  
Applications No. 1607014 and No. 1607015  
Proceeding ID No. 979

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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 144/6.9-kilovolt (kV) substation, designated as Currant Lake 896S, the connection of Currant Lake 896S substation to the Alberta Integrated Electric System (AIES) via a tap to transmission line 7L110, and for approximately 9 kilometres of 144-kV transmission line near Monitor, Alberta. This application was registered on February 9, 2011 as Application No. 1607014. This application will be referred to as the Currant Lake NID application.

2. The AESO also filed an application with the AUC seeking approval of the NID for the construction of a new 144/6.9-kV substation near Oyen, Alberta, designated as Armitage 949S, the connection of Armitage 949S substation to the AEIS via a connection to proposed Lanfine 959S substation, and for approximately 12 kilometres of 144-kV transmission line. This application was registered on February 9, 2011 as Application No. 1607015. This application will be referred to as the Armitage NID application.

3. Applications No. 1607014 and No. 1607015 will be referred to collectively as the NID applications.

4. Pursuant to Section 35 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the AESO directed ATCO Electric Ltd. (ATCO) to submit a facility proposal to the Commission to meet the need identified in the Currant Lake NID application. On March 25, 2011, ATCO filed Application No. 1607150 with the AUC seeking approval to construct and operate the Currant Lake 896S substation and the 144-kV transmission line, to be designated as 7LA110, for the purpose of connecting the Currant Lake 896S substation to the AEIS.

5. Pursuant to Section 35 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the AESO directed ATCO to submit a facility proposal to the Commission to meet the need identified in the Armitage NID application. On March 9, 2011, ATCO filed Application No. 1607093 with the AUC seeking approval to construct and operate the Armitage 949S substation and the 144-kV transmission line, to be designated as 7L150, for the purpose of connecting the Armitage 949S substation to the AEIS.

6. Both the AESO and ATCO requested that the Commission consider the Currant Lake NID application and the related facility application jointly, pursuant to Section 15.4 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.

7. Both the AESO and ATCO requested that the Commission consider the Armitage NID application and the related facility application jointly, pursuant to Section 15.4 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*.

8. The two facility applications associated with their respective NID applications are connected to or dependent upon concurrent facility applications before the Commission that make up a part of the Hanna Region Transmission Development, and as such, eight other facility applications in the region were considered jointly as Proceeding ID No. 979.

9. The Commission issued a notice of applications on May 6, 2011, to occupants, residents and landowners located within 800 metres of the Currant Lake 896S substation, Armitage 949S substation and right-of-way of the transmission lines 7LA110 and 7L150, among other developments in Proceeding ID No. 979. In its notice, the Commission advised that it would consider the AESO's NID applications, ATCO's facility applications and the eight other facility applications from ATCO and AltaLink Management Ltd. jointly as Proceeding ID No. 979.

10. The AUC held information sessions on public involvement in the AUC application process in Consort, Oyen and Hanna on May 31, 2011 to June 2, 2011, as announced in the notice of applications.

11. On July 15, 2011, the Commission issued the first round of information requests to the AESO regarding the NID applications. The AESO responded to the first round of information requests on July 21, 2011.

12. On July 26, 2011, the Commission issued the second round of information requests to the AESO regarding the NID applications. The AESO responded to the second round of information requests on July 28, 2011.

13. On August 2, 2011, the Commission issued a ruling on the AESO's request of July 27, 2011, for approval of the NID applications. The ruling stated that considering that no objections or concerns had been established by interveners regarding the AESO's NID applications pursuant to Section 38(e) of the *Electric Utilities Act Transmission Regulation*, the Commission approved the NID applications and reasons were to follow.

## **2 Discussion**

14. The AESO's NID applications were prepared in response to a request by ATCO, the transmission and distribution facilities owner in the area, for transmission system access service to supply two TransCanada Corporation Keystone XL Pipeline pump stations via a new substation and transmission line at each pump station.

15. The AESO directed ATCO to assist the AESO in conducting a participant involvement program to notify stakeholders of the need for transmission development in the Monitor and Oyen areas. The AESO stated in its NID application that there were no outstanding concerns related to the AESO's assessments of the need for either the Currant Lake NID application development or the Armitage NID application development.

16. The AESO conducted a participant involvement program for both the Currant Lake NID application and the Armitage NID application which identified no outstanding objections or concerns related to the AESO's assessment of the need for either of the proposed developments.

17. The estimated cost of the developments proposed in the Currant Lake NID application is \$7,646,433 (+20/-10%) in 2010 dollars and is entirely to be borne by the customer. There is no system cost associated with the developments in the Currant Lake NID application.

18. The estimated cost of the developments in the Armitage NID application is \$10,124,856 (+20/-10%) in 2010 dollars, with \$881,798 designated as system cost. In response to the Commission information requests, the AESO stated that system costs estimated in the Armitage NID application could be eliminated with the use of a tap connection instead of connecting to the proposed Lanfine 959S substation. The AESO stated that a tap connection was technically feasible but was not considered for reliability reasons.

19. In response to the notice of applications, the Commission received 18 submissions from individuals that indicated potential objections regarding either of the AESO's NID applications. In a standing ruling issued by the Commission on July 8, 2011, these parties were directed to file written submissions to the Commission on or before July 22, 2011 indicating how they may be directly and adversely affected by the Commission's decision on the NID applications. No further submissions were received regarding the NID applications, and on August 2, 2011, the Commission issued a ruling on standing for the NID applications finding that no party had standing with regard to the NID applications.

### **3 Commission findings**

20. The Commission reviewed the NID applications and determined that they each contain the information required by the *Electric Utilities Act*, the *Electric Utilities Act Transmission Regulation*, and AUC Rule 007: *Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, and Industrial System Designations*.

21. 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 applications.

22. The Commission has reviewed the NID applications in light of the mandatory principles and matters it is required to consider pursuant to Section 38 of the *Electric Utilities Act Transmission Regulation*. No party has satisfied the Commission that the AESO's assessments of the need to expand and enhance the transmission system in the Monitor or Oyen areas are technically deficient or are not in the public interest.

23. Given that no objection or concern has been established by an interested party regarding the AESO's NID applications and given that the NID applications meet the requirements of Section 38(e) of the *Electric Utilities Act, Transmission Regulation*, the Commission approves the AESO's NID applications.

## 4 Decision

24. Pursuant to Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the Commission approves the NID for the Currant Lake 896S substation and related 144-kV transmission lines and grants the AESO the approval set out in Appendix 1 – Needs Identification Document – Approval No. U2011-262 – September 12, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

25. Pursuant to Section 34 of the *Electric Utilities Act*, the Commission approves the NID for the Armitage 949S substation and related 144 kV transmission lines and grants the AESO the approval set out in Appendix 2 – Needs Identification Document – Approval No. U2011-263 – September 12, 2011 (Appendix 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated September 12, 2011.

### The Alberta Utilities Commission

*(Original signed by)*

Anne Michaud  
Panel Chair

*(Original signed by)*

Neil Jamieson  
Commission Member

*(Original signed by)*

Cliff Goerz  
Acting Commission Member