

AESO Interconnection Process

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the electric system in Alberta, FortisAlberta advises all proponents to refer to the AESO's website for most current interconnection process updates.

<https://www.aeso.ca/grid/connecting-to-the-grid>

While a Distributed Energy Resources (DER) is only directly interconnected with FortisAlberta's electric distribution system, any DER interconnection project may be subject to the Alberta Electric System Operator's (AESO) interconnection process, regardless of generation type and/or commercial function. The AESO's interconnection process is required to ensure safe and reliable interconnection of DER's to the overall electric system, including FortisAlberta's electric distribution system.

Generally, DER projects with proposed nameplate rating of 1 MW and greater require AESO's involvement, while DER projects with proposed nameplate rating of less than 1 MW are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. It is important to note that FortisAlberta's and the AESO's interconnection process includes all DER interconnection types. (micro-generation, small-scale generation, community generation, commercial, etc.)

For projects that require AESO's involvement, a project is typically initiated with a System Access Service Request (SASR) that is submitted by FortisAlberta to the AESO. FortisAlberta conducts a comprehensive review of the project prior to submission of the SASR. To ensure timelines are met, timely requests are advised. For developments past the SASR submission stage, see AESO's website linked above to ensure most up-to-date information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does our DER project require a AESO involvement?

A: FortisAlberta's Planning Studies identifies whether an AESO project is required for the DER interconnection.

Q: How is FortisAlberta involved throughout the AESO project?

A: As FortisAlberta remains the Market Participant throughout the project, FortisAlberta will need to facilitate technical and commercial arrangements with the customer.

Q: Is there additional cost if AESO is involved?

A: Yes, for services provided by FortisAlberta, the AESO, and external team members involved. See Appendix A for details. Note: To efficiently deliver on the AESO's interconnection process and its associated requirements, FortisAlberta assigns appropriate personnel to manage the project. FortisAlberta Study and Construction fees only cover costs associated with the distribution system.

