

Public Consultation

All of the AESO's transmission reinforcement projects include a participant involvement program to share information, gather feedback and address questions the public may have about transmission development. The specific scope, approach and consultation methods used for each project differ depending on the needs of the stakeholders involved and the type of transmission reinforcement being planned.

Over 2,000 landowners, stakeholders and members of the general public participated in approximately 300 open houses and group meetings as part of the transmission system development consultation process during 2007 and 2008.

Stakeholders were identified as:

- residents, occupants, landowners and businesses
- elected and administrative government officials at local, municipal and provincial levels
- industry and associations
- First Nations and Métis with interests in the project
- advocacy and environmental groups

The AESO used a variety of methods to notify, consult and engage stakeholders including:

- mailings
- newspaper and radio ads
- news releases
- website postings
- meetings and presentations
- correspondence (email and mail)
- telephone
- industry sessions
- open houses

Based on feedback received, there is a general recognition that Albertans' growing demand for additional power must be addressed. Many stakeholders supported the AESO's conclusion that transmission reinforcement is necessary.

A commonly-held stakeholder view was that Albertans prefer reinforcements with higher capacity to accommodate long-term growth that also mitigates the need for repeatedly returning to build more transmission lines in the future. Stakeholders said if they must have towers on their land, they would rather have fewer, large towers than many small towers with lower capacity resulting in additional development in the future.

AESO public involvement principles:

- All stakeholders have the right to comment on the AESO's plans, decisions and actions.
- All stakeholders have the right to be informed of the AESO's directions, plans, status of issues, and decisions in a timely manner.
- The AESO uses the experience and expertise of stakeholders to improve the quality and implementation of decisions.
- The AESO's consultation process and rationale for the AESO's decisions are transparent.

These principles are available on the website at www.aeso.ca.

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2007 – 2008 AESO CONSULTATION STATISTICS

| Year | 2007 | 2008 |
|--|---|--|
| Open Houses | 21 | 71 |
| Registered attendees at open houses | 480 | 2, 111 |
| Powering Albertans magazine distributed (by edition) | 2007 Summer edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mailed to 550,000 households in Edmonton, central and NE Alberta Mailed/distributed to 76 organizations throughout the province including: libraries, chambers of commerce and town councils | 2008 Spring edition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2 million copies mailed to all homes in Alberta Additional copies distributed at all open houses (approximately 2,000 copies) Mailed/distributed to over 150 organizations throughout the province including libraries, chambers of commerce and town councils Teachers across Alberta requested 1,200 copies |
| AESO DVDs distributed | N/A | Distributed at 12 open houses, and over 120 copies distributed to schools and libraries across the province |
| Small group meetings | Attended/completed 12 small group meetings | Attended/completed 36 small group meetings/events throughout the province |
| Presentations and discussions with municipalities | 64 presentations | 84 presentations |
| Letters, open houses, invitations and project backgrounders | A total of 2.1 million distributed during 2007 and 2008 | |