

Letter to the Editor

Re: Sherwood Park News

“AUC sets public record”

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) wishes to address inaccurate information that appeared in your November 12 publication.

In the article, “AUC sets public record,” a representative from the Responsible Electricity Transmission for Albertans group indicated that the Heartland line will be 15 per cent utilized during the first 10 to 15 years. This is not the case.

Barring any planned or unplanned maintenance outages, the Heartland project will be utilized and will be supporting the Alberta Interconnected Transmission system 100 per cent of the time, meaning the lines will normally be energized and carrying power at all times.

The AESO is responsible for ensuring a robust and reliable electricity system to meet the needs of all Albertans, today and in the future. In doing so, we need to build a system that is capable of operating and transporting power during peak consumption periods and when instances such as line outages occur. We also need to take the lifespan of these lines into consideration when planning and developing contingencies, as it is anticipated that these lines will be in place for the next 40 to 60 years.

As the organization that manages Alberta’s power grid on a 24/7 basis, the AESO has an accountability to provide factual information about the electricity industry and how it works. We encourage you to visit our public engagement website for more information about the need for transmission upgrades in our province. Please go to www.poweringalberta.com to learn more.

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