



Suite 1510, 540 -5 Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P 0M2 Phone: (403) 264-6514 Fax: (403) 263-3576

To Whom It May Concern,


As President of Access Pipeline, I am writing in support of the AESO's long term transmission plan and the importance of the development of a robust electrical grid in Alberta. Access Pipeline is a joint venture company that operates a dual pipeline system between the Christina Lake area in Northeastern Alberta and Edmonton, some 350 kilometres in length, and employs 50 full time staff. We transport diluent from south to north to the SAGD (Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage) facilities of our Owners and take blended bitumen south to the Edmonton markets.

Adequate electricity supply is critical to our operation as all the pumping units in our pipeline system are driven by electricity. We currently have 15 operational pumps with 10 to 12 always running and are building two additional pump stations which will house eight additional high pressure pumps. Any interruption in electricity supply or delay in transmission connections has immediate and financially significant impacts on our Owners.

As an example, if we are transporting 100,000 barrels of blend and lose power for any more than 12 hours, our Owners have to shut down their SAGD operations as Access is their only transportation provider. Not only would they lose revenue from the loss of production of approximately 4,100 barrels per hour thereafter but, as restarting a SAGD production area is a slow process, they would continue to lose production over the next one to two weeks as the field returns to full production. All this has commercial impacts as well as causing a loss of royalty and tax revenues to governments, and impacting other businesses that support us/our work.

Delays in connecting to the grid are also consequential. As our Owners increase production, we build additional infrastructure to provide increased pumping capacity. There is no realistic alternative for us or our Owners other than electrically driven pumps. Because of delays in getting a transmission line to one of our new pump stations this year, we will be installing temporary generation facilities which increase costs and only provide adequate power for a short time.

Access Pipeline and the producers who rely on us are dependent on adequate and reliable electricity supply, and we support the efforts of AESO and others to ensure this supply into the future.

  
Gordon Kyle  
President  
Access Pipeline