



Alberta Electric System Operator

**Approval of New Alberta Reliability Standard
CIP-012-AB-1**

June 8, 2022

Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 27372-D01-2022

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Approval of New Alberta Reliability Standard

CIP-012-AB-1

Proceeding 27372

Application 27372-A001

June 8, 2022

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1 Introduction

1. On May 12, 2022, pursuant to Section 19(4)(b) of the *Transmission Regulation*, the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)¹ forwarded a recommendation to the Alberta Utilities Commission to approve the new Alberta Reliability Standard CIP-012-AB-1, *Cyber Security – Communications between Control Centers* (proposed new CIP-012-AB-1).² The AUC registered this filing as Application 27372-A001, and designated it as Proceeding 27372.

2. Pursuant to Section 19(4) of the *Transmission Regulation*, before adopting or making reliability standards, the independent system operator (ISO) must consult with those market participants that it considers are likely to be directly affected. It must also forward the proposed reliability standards to the Commission for review, along with the ISO's recommendation that the Commission either approve or reject each of them.

3. Pursuant to sections 19(5) and 19(6) of the *Transmission Regulation*, the Commission must approve or refuse to approve each reliability standard in accordance with the recommendation of the ISO, unless an interested person satisfies the Commission that the ISO's recommendation is:

- (a) technically deficient, or
- (b) not in the public interest.

4. On May 13, 2022, the Commission issued a notice of application for proposed new CIP-012-AB-1 by uploading the notice to the Commission's eFiling System.

5. No objections were filed with the Commission by the May 27, 2022 deadline, specified in the notice of application.

2 Background

6. The AESO submitted that the purpose of proposed new CIP-012-AB-1, applicable to the AESO and market participants, is to protect the confidentiality and integrity of real time assessment and real time monitoring data transmitted between control centres. It requires

¹ The ISO is established under Section 7(1) of the *Electric Utilities Act* and operates under the trade name AESO. For the purposes of this decision, AESO and ISO are used interchangeably.

² Note: The various types of reliability standards approved by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation are outlined at <http://www.nerc.com/page.php?cid=2|20>.

applicable entities to have documented plans to mitigate the risks posed by unauthorized disclosure and unauthorized modification of these data.

7. In developing proposed new CIP-012-AB-1, the AESO redrafted the applicability section and made minor administrative amendments that were required to ensure that the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standard CIP-012-1, *Cyber Security – Communications between Control Centers* (NERC CIP-012-1), can be applied in Alberta without a material change in the framework for the electric energy market.

8. After consulting with stakeholders, a clarifying sentence was added to requirement R1 in proposed new CIP-012-AB-1 from requirement R1 in NERC CIP-012-1, stating that the responsible entity is not required to include oral communications in its plan.

9. Regarding consultation, on November 3, 2021, the AESO posted a consultation letter on its website requesting comments from interested parties. Stakeholder comments were posted on the AESO's website on December 3, 2021. On April 27, 2022, the AESO's replies to stakeholder comments, and the final version of proposed new CIP-012-AB-1, were posted on the AESO's website, along with a rationale for why certain positions were accepted or rejected.

10. The AESO submitted the proposed new CIP-012-AB-1 with its application on May 12, 2022, and indicated that the proposed changes comply with the requirements of the *Transmission Regulation*, are not technically deficient and are in the public interest. The AESO recommended that the Commission approve the proposed new CIP-012-AB-1.

3 Does the AESO's recommendation align with the criteria in the Transmission Regulation

11. Section 19(4) specifies that before adopting or making reliability standards, the ISO must consult with those market participants that it considers likely to be directly affected and forward the proposed reliability standards to the Commission for review, with the ISO's recommendation that the Commission approve or reject them. The Commission is satisfied that the ISO has fulfilled these requirements.

12. Pursuant to sections 19(5) and 19(6) of the *Transmission Regulation* the Commission must follow the recommendation of the ISO to either approve or reject proposed reliability standards unless the recommendation is demonstrated to be technically deficient or not in the public interest:

Reliability Standards

[...]

19(5) Subject to subsection (6), the Commission must approve or refuse to approve the reliability standards, agreements, criteria or directives, and must inform the ISO of its decision.

(6) The Commission must follow the recommendation of the ISO that the Commission approve or reject the proposed reliability standards, agreements, criteria or directives unless an interested person satisfies the Commission that the ISO's recommendation is

- (a) technically deficient, or
- (b) not in the public interest.

13. The ISO forwarded the proposed new CIP-012-AB-1 to the Commission with a recommendation that the Commission approve it. No interested party filed an objection with the AUC indicating that proposed new CIP-012-AB-1 is either technically deficient, or not in the public interest.

4 Order

14. Accordingly, pursuant to Subsection 19(6) of the *Transmission Regulation*, and based on the recommendation of the ISO, the Commission approves proposed new CIP-012-AB-1, effective as of July 1, 2022.

Dated on June 8, 2022.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Fino Tiberi
Executive Director, Market Oversight and Enforcement
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission