

Who pays for the transmission system in Alberta?

Alberta's transmission system, sometimes referred to as the interconnected electric system, is planned and operated by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO). The transmission system is comprised of the high-voltage lines, towers and equipment (generally 69 kV and above) that transmit electricity from generators to lower voltage systems that distribute it to cities, towns, rural areas and large industrial customers. Our job is to maintain safe, reliable and economic operation of the provincial transmission grid.

Over the last ten years the province has grown at an astonishing pace, matched only by an ever increasing demand for electricity. While the more localized transmission system in various areas of the province has been reinforced, there has been only one major transmission line built in the last 20 years and it is located between Fort McMurray and the Edmonton area. Alberta's transmission system requires reinforcement and expansion to ensure we can continue meeting the needs of the province's growing population and flourishing economy efficiently and reliably.

WHO BENEFITS? WHO PAYS?

All Albertans benefit from safe, reliable, and efficient electric service wherever they live and work in the province. Albertans also benefit from the fact that having a robust transmission system with sufficient capacity provides a platform for economic development and a competitive wholesale market. Transmission costs are charged to electricity consumers based on their use of the transmission system. In Alberta, the system that delivers electricity to consumers is owned, built and maintained by investor owned companies known as Transmission Facility Owners (TFO's). TFO costs, as well as other costs of planning and operating the transmission system, are recovered through transmission charges paid by all electricity consumers in the province. All consumers – whether industrial, residential, commercial, farm or irrigator – have always paid for transmission service.

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) continues to regulate Alberta's transmission system, as it always has.

Alberta consumers pay for transmission upgrades and expansions to the extent they make use and benefit, such as reliability improvements. The chart below demonstrates an approximation of who pays for all transmission costs in Alberta.

Who Pays for Transmission Costs in Alberta

