

March 30, 2020

The Coronavirus and Specified Penalties

Under Alberta Utilities Commission Rule 27 the Market Surveillance Administrator is responsible for determining specified penalties for breaches of the Alberta Reliability Standards including the Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards.

During the month of March Alberta experienced an outbreak of the coronavirus representing an unprecedented public health emergency. This created serious challenges to compliance with the Reliability Standards.

In order to assist the operators and users of the bulk power system the MSA is exercising its regulatory discretion to advise market participants and the Alberta Electric System Operator that effective today the effects of the coronavirus will be considered an acceptable reason on a case- by- case basis for non-compliance with the Reliability Standards.

This consideration will be limited to self reports relating to events taking place between March 1, 2020, and July 31, 2020. To qualify, the self reports must contain answers to three questions:

1. How has the coronavirus impeded compliance?
2. What are the steps you are taking to get back into compliance?
3. When do you expect to be back into compliance?

The MSA recognizes that the coronavirus recovery date is uncertain. The MSA will continue to monitor events and will change the end date if that becomes necessary. Note however that the time period with respect to Alberta Reliability Standards PER-003-AB-1 and PER-004-AB-2 is March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

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Market Surveillance Administrator