

SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO RENEWABLES AT THE LEAST COST

Generator technical performance standards draft determination 31 May 2018

SETTING NEW TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR CONNECTING GENERATORS TO SUPPORT POWER SYSTEM SECURITY

The power system is transitioning, with a large number of new generators like wind and solar farms set to connect in coming years, while older generators are retiring.

We need to have the right technical standards so these new generators can join the power system at the lowest possible cost while maintaining system security.

Technical performance standards include things like voltage control, frequency control and the ability to stay connected even when there's a major disturbance to the power system.

Keeping the lights on at the lowest cost WHAT THE DRAFT RULE IS ABOUT

This new rule provides clear boundaries for negotiations to connect new generators to the power system



Generators without technical capabilities to support system security can't connect



Generators must negotiate with AEMO and networks to match their technical capabilities to local power system needs



Generators with technical capabilities to support system security are able to connect no matter where they are located

MATCHING TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS TO LOCAL SYSTEM NEEDS

Generators that don't meet 'automatic' access standards must negotiate with networks and the market operator, AEMO, to agree on what technical capabilities they need to bring when they connect. This depends on power system conditions in the local area such as levels of system strength and inertia, and the mix of network and generation equipment.

We propose to:



set clearer roles and responsibilities so all parties - generators, networks and AEMO - know what they have to do when negotiating



set clearer goal posts for 'minimum' and 'automatic' access standards



tighten some standards where needed

This flexible approach to setting standards enables targeted, least cost ways of connecting new generation.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The draft rule proposes a transition period of 8 weeks after the final rule is made to give everyone time to adjust. Submissions on the draft rule are due by 13 July 2018.



OTHER WORK UNDERWAY

This rule change request addresses the Finkel Panel recommendation to update generator connection standards.

It is also part of the AEMC's security and reliability action plan to ensure AEMO has the tools it needs to manage a power system with a growing share of renewables. This includes new rules starting in July 2018 to make networks maintain minimum levels of system strength and inertia.