



INFORMATION

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Enhancing information on generator availability in MT PASA — Draft determination

The AEMC has decided to make a more preferable draft rule to increase the scope of information gathered through AEMO's MT PASA. This includes information from scheduled generators on the reasons for future periods of unavailability and the expected time it would take to become available again. These changes would ensure market participants, stakeholders, policymakers and market bodies have access to more detailed information on unit availability and should contribute to better operational, planning, policy and investment decisions as less flexible generators continue to change their operating schedules as they near the end of their technical life.

Better information for the market and policy-makers will contribute to more efficient decisions and better outcomes for consumers

The lack of detailed information on generator availability is becoming an issue, where it has not been in the past, due to the ongoing transition in the power system. As older generators approach the end of their technical life, their operators may shift to cyclical operating regimes, opting only to generate for certain periods of the year to maximise their profitability. This is due to large amounts of renewable energy generators entering the market and applying downward pressure on prices, especially at particular times of the day and year. As more generators move to cyclical operating regimes the challenge of operating the power system to deliver reliable, secure supply is expected to grow.

This rule change seeks to improve understanding about why particular generators are unavailable and how long they would take to come back online. In doing so this rule change would address one of several recommendations that the ESB made as part of the resource adequacy stream of its post-2025 reform package.

Under the draft rule, scheduled generators would submit two new pieces of information on their availability through MT PASA

The draft rule would require scheduled generators to submit **reason codes** and **recall times** to accompany the daily MW availability they already submit in MT PASA. The reason codes would be defined such that they distinguish between an economic outage and a physical outage, while the recall time would represent the time the participant expects the unit to take to return the unit to full availability under 'normal conditions'.

The process for, and the form of, reason and recall time information would be defined by AEMO in its Reliability standard implementation guideline (RSIG). AEMO would be required to consult with stakeholders on the detailed changes to the RSIG as per the consultation procedures in the Rules.

There are three key milestones in relation to the Commission's draft rule

- Updates to the RSIG and MT PASA process description by **30 April 2023**
- Updates to other relevant AEMO guidelines and processes to streamline the collection of generator availability information where practical
- Expected commencement of the rule (if made) on **9 October 2023**. This date should allow AEMO and participants sufficient time to make changes to systems and processes including sequencing and/or bundling changes to systems and processes to reduce costs.

The Commission is interested in your feedback on the draft rule

The Commission invites **submissions** on this draft rule determination, including the more preferable draft rule, **by 7 July 2022**. Any person or body may request that the Commission hold a hearing in relation to the draft rule determination. Any **request for a hearing** must be made in writing and must be received by the Commission **by 2 June 2022**. Submissions and requests for a hearing should quote project number **ERC0338** and may be lodged online at www.aemc.gov.au.

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