



INFORMATION

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Enhancing information on generator availability in MT PASA — Final determination

The AEMC has made a more preferable final rule to increase the scope of information gathered from scheduled generators through AEMO's MT PASA. This includes information on the reasons for future periods of unavailability and the expected time it would take to become available again. These changes will ensure market participants, stakeholders, policymakers and market bodies have access to more detailed information on unit availability. This 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.

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

The final rule requires scheduled generators to submit their "unit state" in the form of **reason codes** and, for applicable reason codes, "unit **recall times**" to accompany the daily MW availability they already submit in MT PASA. The reason codes will be standardised and defined such that they distinguish between an economic outage and a physical outage, while the recall time will 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 will be defined by AEMO in its *Reliability standard implementation guideline* (RSIG). AEMO is required to consult with stakeholders on the detailed changes to the RSIG as per the consultation procedures in the Rules.

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 generating units approach the end of their technical lives, their operators may shift them from full time operation 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.

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

- **Daily PASA availability** (an existing requirement under MT PASA) indicates whether a unit could be available or not during that period.
- **Reason codes** can indicate how possible it is that a unit's availability may change and under what conditions. For example, a generating unit that is unavailable for **economic reasons** (e.g. due to sustained low prices making operation uncommercial) may be more likely to respond to changes in market conditions than one that is unavailable for **physical reasons** (e.g. planned maintenance).
- **Recall times** can indicate how quickly a unit's availability could change if market conditions change. For example, a unit with a recall time of 48 hours could fill a gap left by a forced

outage or a short-term price increase, whereas a unit with a recall time of six months may only return early from its planned period of unavailability if there was a more permanent change in market conditions.

Together, these three pieces of information allow stakeholders to form a more nuanced view of what the supply outlook may look like under different future scenarios. With better and more transparent information, participants, market bodies, policymakers and other interested stakeholders will be able to make more informed and better decisions. This will ultimately lead to a more coordinated approach to delivering a decarbonising, affordable, and reliable energy system for all consumers.

There are three key milestones in relation to the Commission's final 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 and efficient
- Commencement of the rule on **9 October 2023**. This date allows 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 commencement of each of the individual schedules of the rule is schedule 1 on 9 October 2023, schedule 2 on 3 June 2024, schedule 3 on 31 July 2025 and schedule 4 on 18 August 2022.

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