



INFORMATION

AUSTRALIAN ENERGY MARKET COMMISSION LEVEL 15, 60 CASTLEREAGH STREET SYDNEY NSW 2000
T: 02 8296 7800 E: AEMC@AEMC.GOV.AU W: WWW.AEMC.GOV.AU

Proposed rule change to remove the transmission information guidelines

Consultation starts on a proposal to remove the Transmission Information Guidelines

The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC or Commission) has published a consultation paper on a rule change request from the Australian Energy Regulator (AER)(the proponent). The rule change request seeks to remove the obligations on the AER to publish the Electricity Transmission Information Guidelines (the Information Guidelines) and on transmission network service providers (TNSPs) to report against them. The AER considers that it can seek information it requires by using Annual Information Orders (the Orders), and that the Information Guidelines are no longer needed. The AER considers the National Electricity Rules (NER), unless amended to remove the Information Guidelines, will create a duplicate reporting burden.

We are proposing to progress this as an expedited rule change. Objections to the expedited process are due by **13 February 2025**. Stakeholder submissions on the consultation paper are due by **27 February 2025**.

The AER has proposed to remove the Information Guidelines to prevent the duplication of information reporting requirements

The AER has submitted a rule change request to the AEMC, proposing that the Information Guidelines should be removed from the NER. The AER considers that the Orders provide for a more efficient and streamlined process for the collection of information from TNSPs. The AER considers that the change would create more benefits, reducing cost and complexity and promoting simplicity and transparency in regulatory practice.

Under the current rules, the AER foresees that a problem will exist from 1 April 2025 - being the duplicate reporting obligations under both the Information Guidelines and the Orders. This is because the Orders supersede the information requirements in the Information Guidelines.

The AER is currently unable to remove the reporting obligation from TNSPs to report against the Information Guidelines, because this obligation sits within the rules.

The AER has therefore proposed a change to the rules, to delete the information guidelines and associated reporting obligations, thereby removing any inefficiencies that may arise under duplicate reporting requirements.

The Commission has decided to use the expedited rule change process

On request from the AER, the AEMC has progressed this rule change request using an expedited rule change process. The expedited rule change process is shorter than the standard process, running for eight weeks and is used when a rule change request is either urgent or non-controversial.

The Commission agreed with the AER's proposal that the request is non-controversial. We consider that the rule change request would be unlikely to have a significant effect on the NEM because the scope of the request is limited and does not call for greater reform to the NER. The AER also consulted on the proposed rule change as part of a recent review into their network information requirements, that was supported by stakeholders.

Participants can object to the Commission treating this on an expedited basis. **Objections are due by 13 February 2025.**

Given the use of the expedited process, which does not include a draft rule stage, we have also published the indicative drafting of a final rule (if made) with a mark-up of the NER. This is based on the solution proposed by the proponent, for stakeholder information and comment.

For information contact:

Graduate Adviser, **Chloe Skewes-Weir** (02) 8296 0617

Director, **John Mackay** +61 2 8296 7821

Media enquiries: media@aemc.gov.au

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