

6 June 2012

Mr Neville Henderson
Chairman
Reliability Panel
Australian Energy Market Commission
Level 5
201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Via website: www.aemc.gov.au

Dear Mr Henderson

Review of the Guidelines for identifying reviewable operating incidents (REL0048)

Grid Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the Reliability Panel's review of the Guidelines for identifying reviewable operating incidents (the Guidelines). As the Panel is aware, Grid Australia represents the owners of all major electricity transmission networks in the National Electricity Market.

Grid Australia supports AEMO's proposal to alter the Guidelines, as detailed in Matt Zema's letter to you as Chair of the Reliability Panel, dated 31 January 2012.

As a matter of course, Grid Australia members investigate all power system incidents on their networks, regardless of voltage, to confirm that protection systems and other controls operated correctly as intended, and that operating procedures were appropriately followed. Actions to prevent or mitigate future incidents are also identified and acted on. Where customers – which in this context may include generators – are affected, TNSPs provide an explanation of incidents to those customers.

AEMO's proposal to limit its own involvement to non-credible or security-threatening incidents involving only 220kV and higher voltage networks will result in reduced effort for AEMO and TNSPs, whilst not reducing the quality of service to affected customers. Grid Australia therefore considers AEMO's proposal supports the National Electricity Objective, and endorses the proposal.

In addition to reporting to directly affected customers, some member TNSPs have jurisdictional obligations to report on events above a given severity threshold. For example, Transend and TransGrid are both required to report to their relevant jurisdictional entity for system events which result in loss of load greater than 0.1 system minute, regardless of network voltage. Such obligations would remain unchanged as a result of AEMO's proposal.

Grid Australia also supports the minor amendments described in Section 4.2 of the Reliability Panel's Final Issues Paper. Notably, the Tasmanian frequency standards have changed since the Guidelines were published, making the numerical values defined in clause 3 of the Guidelines incorrect. The minor amendments proposed by the Panel will rectify this inconsistency.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Paul Rayner on 03 6274 3689 or alternatively myself on 08 8404 7983.

Yours sincerely



Rainer Korte
Chairman
Grid Australia Regulatory Managers Group