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Ref:
File:

The Chairman
Australian Energy Market Commission
Level 5, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Dr Tamblyn

CONFIDENTIALITY ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPECT OF INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR POWER SYSTEM STUDIES

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this response to the Second Round Consultation regarding a proposed Rule change in relation to confidentiality arrangements in respect of information required for power system studies.

As mentioned in our submission to the first round consultation, WorleyParsons is a leading Australian-based, global provider of professional services to the resources and energy sectors and complex process industries. In Australia we have been closely involved with the power industry for many years, with large power engineering offices in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. Our clients include power utilities, government regulatory and planning bodies, and private sector enterprises including power generators, mining and industrial operations. We have provided comprehensive power system studies services to clients in all of these sectors, being recognised as a leader in this field. It is in this context that we believe WorleyParsons has a stake in the outcomes of this consultation.

WorleyParsons has reviewed the proposed Rule changes and is generally supportive of them with the exceptions as outlined hereunder.

A.3 Software Products for Release of Model Data

In the draft determination the Commission has accepted NEMMCO's proposed amendment to the NGF's proposed clause 3.13.3(k2)(2)¹.

This allows NEMMCO the option of providing the releasable user guide in a form that can be interpreted by a software simulation product nominated by NEMMCO.

¹ Page 31 Draft Rule Determination, National Electricity Amendment (Confidentiality Arrangements in Respect of Information Required for Power System Studies) Rule 2008



While this partially addresses the underlying issue, the principle that should be explicitly catered for in the rules is that the specific software simulation packages that are used in system planning are not relevant, while it is of crucial importance that the mathematics underlying a specific software simulation is known. The proposed rule changes seem to imply that if the model is only available in encrypted format, it may only be known to the generator supplier, or the original developer of the model. In order to allow NEMMCO (or any other party) to convert a model from one software platform to another, WorleyParsons proposes that the draft Rules changes need to be augmented with words so that the underlying mathematics of the model are always available to a central authority such as NEMMCO.

A.4 Expanding Information Access Beyond Registered Participants.

In the draft determination the Commission has stated that:

"Consultants work with Registered Participants and/or Intending Participants directly and therefore should be able to obtain the required information from their clients."²

Whilst WorleyParsons agrees with the sentiment of this view of the Commission, the key problem under the Rules as they currently stand is that our clients (Registered Participants and/or Intending Participants) have often not been given access to the required information. Under the proposed Rule changes, the intent of the Commission is that required information should in future be released to our clients by NEMMCO or the relevant NSP, but there is no provision in the proposed Rule changes that sanctions the passing on of the confidential information to us by our client.

WorleyParsons proposes that the draft Rules changes need to be augmented with words that sanction consultants who work with Registered Participants and/or Intending Participants being given access to the required information, subject to appropriate confidentiality clauses if necessary. This will formalise the intent of the Commission in allowing the necessary planning information to be released to system planning professionals.

I trust that these comments will assist you to make a determination that enhances the efficiency of the NEM for all associated parties and consumers.

Yours sincerely
WorleyParsons

Steve HARRIS
Regional Director Power

² Page 33 Draft Rule Determination, National Electricity Amendment (Confidentiality Arrangements in Respect of Information Required for Power System Studies) Rule 2008