



## Enhanced information for gas pipeline capacity trading

### Publication of final rule determination and final rule

**The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) has made a rule to improve the information provided to the east coast gas market via the Natural Gas Services Bulletin Board (or Bulletin Board), following a rule change request submitted by the COAG Energy Council. The rule also addresses information gaps identified during Stage 1 of the AEMC's East Coast Wholesale Gas Market and Pipelines Framework Review.**

### The Bulletin Board

The Bulletin Board is an information website operated by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). It provides gas system and market information to facilitate trade in natural gas and a market for natural gas services.

The operators of transmission pipelines, storage facilities and production facilities are required to provide certain information for publication on the Bulletin Board.

The rule responds to concerns that the information currently provided is inadequate to support efficient decision making by market participants and other stakeholders in an evolving market where gas and pipeline capacity are more actively traded.

This issue is also an area of focus for the AEMC as part of the ongoing East Coast Wholesale Gas Market and Pipelines Framework Review. This rule change process has been conducted in coordination with the review. Several information gaps identified during Stage 1 of the review were considered as part of this rule change process.

### The Commission's decision

The rule requires the following additional information to be reported by gas market participants:

- **Transmission pipeline operators** - 12 month uncontracted capacity outlook, the names of contracted shippers, data from their capacity trading platforms, additional gas flow data and more detailed facility data.
- **Production facility operators** - more detailed information on network connection points.
- **Storage facility operators** - the actual volume of gas held in the facility; aggregated injections and withdrawals for the previous gas day, nominated for each gas day and a 7-day forecast; and a 12 month outlook of uncontracted storage capacity.

Storage facilities that are used solely as part of production facilities will be required to provide the same information as non-exempt facilities other than aggregated injection and withdrawal nominations for each gas day, and a seven day forecast.

- **All facility operators** - medium term capacity outlooks using a new standard format.

### Reasons for the Commission's decision

The Commission considers that it is in the long term interests of gas consumers for this additional information to be made available. The information is likely to:

- provide stakeholders with a better understanding of the current and expected supply and demand balance for gas in the east coast market;
- make it easier for stakeholders to use the Bulletin Board as a central repository of information required to trade in pipeline and storage capacity;
- enable AEMO to undertake more thorough data monitoring, which is likely to increase the accuracy of data published on the Bulletin Board; and
- make it easier for new participants to enter the market.

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**The new rule  
comes into effect  
from 6 October  
2016**

The rule is likely to contribute to better informed decision making by stakeholders and lower transaction costs. These are likely to result in more efficient investment in and use of gas services, which would have long term benefits for consumers. Consumers are also expected to benefit from greater competition in the use and provision of gas services.

During this rule change process, the Commission also identified several new issues that will be considered further during Stage 2 of the East Coast Wholesale Gas Market and Pipelines Framework Review. One of these issues is the lack of a short term forecast of gas production and gas expected to be injected into transmission pipelines.

The new rule comes into effect from 6 October 2016, so that AEMO and market participants can undertake changes to their data collection and reporting processes.

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