



Reliability Panel public meetings

Stakeholder submissions invited on rule change request

The AEMC has commenced consultation on a rule change request from the Reliability Panel which seeks to allow more flexible meeting arrangements for the Reliability Panel and its stakeholders.

Details of the rule change request

The key function of the Reliability Panel is to monitor and report on the safety, security and reliability of the electricity system. In performing this function, the Panel is currently required under the National Electricity Rules (NER) to hold a public meeting for each of its reviews and determinations. The Panel is required to hold these meetings in the NEM jurisdictions on a rotating basis.

The proposal seeks to amend the NER so that the Panel will have the flexibility to determine the location of, and the way in which it carries out its meetings. In addition, the proposed rule would allow the Panel to invite all interested parties to its public meetings, instead of just Registered Participants.

The Panel considers that if implemented, the rule would reduce the potential financial costs faced by the Panel and its stakeholders in organising and travelling to attend public meetings, by allowing more flexible meeting arrangements for the Panel and its stakeholders. The Panel considers that the proposed rule will not impose any additional costs on stakeholders or the market.

Request for expedited process

The Reliability Panel has requested that the rule change request be treated as a non-controversial rule under section 96 of the National Electricity Law (NEL). Under section 87 of the NEL, a non-controversial rule is defined as a rule that is unlikely to have a significant effect on the NEM. The AEMC intends to expedite the rule change proposal on the grounds that it considers the proposal to be non-controversial, subject to consideration of any written objections.

Consultation process

The AEMC has now initiated its consultation process on this rule change request. To facilitate stakeholder submissions, the AEMC has published a consultation paper. This paper:

- Sets out a summary of, and a background to the rule change request;
- Identifies a number of questions and issues to facilitate the consultation on the rule change request; and
- identifies the process for making submissions.

The rule change request and consultation paper are available to view on the AEMC's website. Submissions to the expedited process are invited by 18 July 2013. Submissions on the content of the rule change proposal are due by no later than close of business 1 August 2013.

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