



18 July 2013

Mr John Pierce
Chairman
Australian Energy Market Commission
PO Box A2449
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Via www.aemc.gov.au

Dear Mr Pierce,

Proposed National Electricity Amendment (Reliability Panel Public Meetings) Rule 2013

Alinta Energy welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Australian Energy Market Commission's (AEMC) rule change consultation: *National Electricity Amendment (Reliability Panel Public Meetings) Rule 2013*.

Alinta Energy is an active investor in energy retail, wholesale and generation markets across Australia, including the National Energy Market. Alinta Energy has over 2500 megawatts of generation facilities in Australia (and New Zealand), and over 700,000 retail energy customers.

Alinta Energy appreciates the work of the AEMC in improving the consultation and public meeting processes undertaken by the Reliability Panel.

Alinta Energy supports the proposed change

Alinta Energy notes the rule change proposal aims to allow the Reliability Panel greater discretion to determine the manner in which it conducts its public meetings, by removing the requirement for meetings to be conducted in capital cities on a rotating basis and allowing greater usage of technology such as tele-conferencing and video conferencing.

Assuming the frequency and quality of the Reliability Panel's public meetings do not in any way decrease, Alinta Energy supports this proposal and agrees with the Reliability Panel's rationale that the rule change will achieve the benefits outlined below.

- Reduce the financial costs for Reliability Panel members and participants in travelling to public meetings.
- Allow all interested parties to attend meetings, not just registered participants.
- Give the Reliability Panel greater discretion in choosing the location of public meetings in order to tailor consultations to jurisdictions in which the level of interest is highest.
- Increase the amount of interested stakeholders participating in public meetings, through the greater usage of communication technologies.



Alinta Energy understands that the content of this rule change is largely immaterial and non-controversial, as defined under section 87 of the National Electricity Law. As such, Alinta Energy supports the AEMC's decision to expedite the rule change process.

Alinta Energy shares the AEMC's view that the proposed changes will contribute (although only marginally) to the achievement of the National Electricity Objective. Additionally, the proposed changes are compatible with the performance of the Reliability Panel's defined functions.

Alinta Energy does not expect this minor rule change to alter market incentives or behaviour when participating in the National Energy Market.

Conclusion

Alinta Energy understands and appreciates the need for the rule change, and supports the enhanced clarity and flexibility in consultation arrangements which the minor rule change will provide.

Should you have any queries in relation to this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Anders Sangkuhl on (02) 9375 0962.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Lowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Jamie Lowe
Manager, Market Regulation