



Improvements to National Gas Bulletin Board Capacity Outlooks

Publication of final rule determination and final rule

The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC or Commission) has made a rule that increases the level of short- and medium-term capacity outlook information that is required to be published on the National Gas Bulletin Board (Bulletin Board) by gas pipeline, production and storage facility operators.

Final rule

The Commission has determined to make a rule (a more preferable rule) that improves short- and medium-term information in gas markets. The rule relates to the level of public information that is required to be published on the Bulletin Board by gas pipeline operators, production facility operators and storage providers (collectively termed, "facility operators").

The rule as made:

- increases the existing short-term capacity outlook from three days to seven days;
- implements a new medium-term capacity outlook, utilising existing maintenance reports that are created and provided by facility operators to their shippers; and
- allows market participants to better manage any confidentiality or commercial-in-confidence concerns that may be associated with increased information provision to the Bulletin Board.

The rule as made will commence on 8 January 2015, with the additional information being provided from that time.

The rule as made provides for a clear principle relating to the provision of confidential information by facility operators to the Bulletin Board. This better achieves the National Gas Objective than the rule proposed by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). This is because more efficient decisions are made, since there is an increased level of information available to market participants, and market participants are provided with certainty that commercially sensitive information will not be disclosed to the wider market.

Background

AEMO submitted a rule change request to the AEMC in late 2013, seeking to make a rule relating to information disclosure of short- and medium-term information on the Bulletin Board.

AEMO considered that as public information on future capacities on Bulletin Board facilities is limited to a three-day capacity outlook, gas wholesale market participants have limited information on which to base their market bids and offers. Further, AEMO noted that this situation is further exacerbated since there is no public information on capacity reductions in the medium term, despite this information being routinely provided to shippers at individual facilities.

The AEMC assessed this rule change as a non-controversial rule under an expedited rule making process.

For information contact:

AEMC Director, **Slavko Jovanoski** (02) 8296 7800
AEMC Adviser, **Victoria Mollard** (02) 8296 7800

Media: Communication Manager, Prudence Anderson 0404 821 935 or (02) 8296 7817

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