



Reliability Panel

National Transmission Planner: Transmission Reliability Standards AEMC Terms of Reference (17 August 2007)

Introduction

In its 13 April 2007 Communique, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) asked the Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE) to request the AEMC to develop a detailed implementation plan for the national transmission planning function. COAG also indicated in its response to the final report of the Energy Reform Implementation Group (ERIG), contained in its 13 April 2007 Communique, that it agreed with the ERIG report that the Reliability Panel (Panel) should review the jurisdictional transmission reliability standards and develop a consistent national framework.

On 3 July 2007 the MCE requested the AEMC, pursuant to Section 41 of the National Electricity Law (NEL), to:

- Conduct a review into the development of a detailed implementation plan for the national electricity transmission planning function.
- Conduct a review into electricity transmission network reliability standards, with a view to developing a consistent national framework for network security and reliability.

The AEMC is therefore requesting the Panel, in accordance with section 38 of the NEL, to undertake the review of the jurisdictional transmission reliability standards for the MCE and to provide advice to the AEMC.

Scope

The AEMC requests the Panel, in accordance with section 38 of the NEL, to provide advice to the AEMC, and to this end, to undertake a review of the jurisdictional transmission reliability standards with a view to developing a consistent national framework for network security and reliability.

The Panel is requested to undertake the following:

- prepare a work program and timetable for undertaking this review;

- release an Issues Paper covering the National Framework for Electricity Transmission Reliability Standards
- by 31 March 2008 – hold at least one public forum
- by 31 July 2008 – release a Draft Report on the National Framework for Electricity Transmission Reliability Standards for public consultation
- by 23 September 2008 – provide a Final Report on the National Framework for Electricity Transmission Reliability Standards to the AEMC who will provide this report to the MCE by 30 September 2008.

Process

Consultation

The review of the jurisdictional transmission reliability standards is likely to have important implications for NEM stakeholders. Consistent with its philosophy of engaging with those parties, the AEMC requests the Panel to plan to involve stakeholders by seeking submissions and holding forums on the main review issues paper and on each of its draft decisions.

Resourcing, planning and communication

The Panel is requested to:

- provide the AEMC with a detailed project plan and budget by 21 September 2007; and
- brief the AEMC on progress in relation to the review from time to time as appropriate.

The Panel may choose to utilise consultant support engaged and provided by the AEMC to assist the Panel in the preparation of scoping and issues papers, draft and final review documents, and undertaking research and analysis.