



Removal of Gas Bulletin Board emergency information page

Publication of final rule determination and final rule

The Australian Energy Market Commission has removed rules that required the provision of a redundant emergency information web page.

Final rule determination

The Commission has made a rule which removes the requirement in the National Gas Rules for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to maintain an emergency information page on the Natural Gas Services Bulletin Board (or Gas Bulletin Board). The rule change request was submitted by AEMO.

Current arrangements

AEMO is required to maintain a section on the Gas Bulletin Board for the publication of emergency information provided by Gas Bulletin Board participants. The page has not been activated in a real incident.

There is an existing emergency management process for multi-jurisdiction incidents that does not rely on the emergency information page. Instead, this involves communication via text message, email and teleconference.

The National Gas Rules do not cover other aspects of multi-jurisdiction emergency management besides the provision of the emergency information page.

AEMO's rule change request

AEMO has identified three issues with the emergency information page currently specified in the National Gas Rules:

- the page introduces undue complexity and risk in the emergency management process;
- the use of the page alongside other means of communication could lead to multiple sources of emergency information, which may result in conflicting messages, confusion and sub-optimal decision making; and
- an estimated \$180,000 would have to be spent to include the emergency page in the recently re-developed Gas Bulletin Board.

AEMO's proposed solution was to remove the National Gas Rules requirement for it to maintain an emergency information page. This proposal was supported by stakeholders.

Commission's reasons

The Commission considers that the rule will benefit consumers by promoting the efficient use and operation of natural gas services. It is likely to result in:

- clearer emergency information and management roles by removing an unnecessary and potentially unreliable information source; and
- reduced administrative costs for AEMO.

Consumers may benefit from clearer emergency management arrangements through more effective responses to emergency incidents.

The final rule is the same as the rule proposed by AEMO, except for some minor drafting amendments. It will commence on 7 May 2015.

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