



Access to NMI Standing Data Rule Change

Final determination and rule

The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) has published its final determination and rule regarding retailers' entitlement to National Metering Identifier (NMI) Standing Data. The rule clarifies that retailers and their service providers' may access NMI Standing Data. The rule promotes the efficient delivery of electricity retail services and facilitates retail competition. Consumers will benefit from this rule change as it allows retailers to provide them with accurate quotes and information. Consumers will then be better able to choose electricity offers that are best suited to them.

What is NMI Standing Data

NMI Standing Data is the information related to a customer's connection point.¹ The information is about the physical location and properties of a customer's meter and includes the applicable network tariff and the customer's consumption threshold bands. It does not include the customer's consumption data.

The rule change request

EnergyAustralia (EA) submitted a rule change request that sought to clarify ambiguities and uncertainty under the National Electricity Rules (NER) with regards to retailers' entitlement to NMI Standing Data. The rule change request also sought to clarify the ability of retailers to disclose NMI Standing Data to their service providers (including agents of retailers) who are acting on behalf of retailers.

EA considered that retailers (and their service providers) need access to NMI Standing Data so that they can undertake various retail functions including, but not limited to, customer acquisitions and transfers.

The final rule

The Commission's final rule clarifies that retailers and their service providers are entitled to access NMI Standing Data. The final rule provides certainty for retailers in performing their retail functions. The rule makes a number of changes to existing provisions and the key features of the rule are:

- it entitles retailers to NMI Standing Data subject to whatever may be required under the applicable privacy legislation; and
- it authorises retailers to disclose to their service providers NMI Standing Data or the means to directly gain electronic access to that data.

The rule also provides for a transitional provision that enables the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to amend its systems and procedures to reflect the rule under a simplified consultation procedure.

The Commission notes that the rule does not address the issue of third party service providers offering general products and services or acting on behalf of consumers. This issue will be addressed in a separate rule change on third party access to data arising from the AEMC's Power of Choice review.

The rule commences on 31 October 2013.

¹ Connection point is defined as the agreed point of supply, for example by the retailer and network service provider.

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