



## Removal of Gas Bulletin Board emergency information page

Stakeholder submissions invited on new rule change request

**The Australian Energy Market Commission has commenced consultation on a rule change request from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) which seeks to remove the requirement in the National Gas Rules for an emergency information page on the Natural Gas Services Bulletin Board.**

### The rule change request

The National Gas Rules require AEMO to maintain an emergency information page on the Natural Gas Services Bulletin Board (or Gas Bulletin Board).

The intention of the emergency information page was to provide a place for gas market participants to exchange information during a multi-jurisdiction emergency incident, however it has not been used during a real incident and is not relied on by current multi-jurisdiction emergency management processes.

AEMO has identified three issues with the emergency information page which is currently specified in the National Gas Rules. First, the page introduces undue complexity and risk in the emergency management process. This is due to:

- The absence of a central co-ordinating authority to verify information posted on the emergency information page.
- The page must be frequently refreshed to see the most recent information.
- Users must be logged-on to receive updates, which creates a risk of participants being unable to log on.

Second, other means of communications established since the emergency information page was adopted have superseded the use of the page. The use of the page alongside these other means of communication could lead to multiple sources of emergency information, resulting in conflicting messages, confusion and sub-optimal decision making.

Third, AEMO estimates it would have to spend up to \$180,000 to include the emergency page in the recently re-developed Gas Bulletin Board. All Gas Bulletin Board costs are recovered from pipeline shippers.

AEMO's proposed solution is to remove the requirement in the National Gas Rules for it to maintain an emergency information page.

The rule change request only concerns the requirement in the National Gas Rules for the Gas Bulletin Board to include an emergency information page. The National Gas Rules do not cover other aspects of multi-jurisdiction emergency arrangements and these are therefore outside the scope of this rule change process.

### Expedited rule making process

The AEMC will assess this rule change request as a non-controversial rule under an expedited rule making process, subject to any written objections by 26 March 2015. If no written objections to the expedited process are received, the AEMC will publish a final rule determination and any final rule by 23 April 2015.

### Submissions

Submissions on the rule change request are to be lodged by 9 April 2015.

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