



INFORMATION

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System restart services, standards and testing draft determination

The AEMC has made a draft rule to improve the processes for restoring supply to customers following a major blackout. Submissions are due by 20 February 2020.

The draft rule proposes changes to the frameworks for the procurement, testing and deployment of system restart ancillary services (SRAS). These changes will allow AEMO, transmission network service providers and other parties involved in the restoration of the power system to more effectively prepare for, and respond to, a major supply disruption. This will increase the likelihood that energy supply can be restored promptly following a major blackout.

Proposed enhancements to the SRAS frameworks

Changes in the generation mix are making it harder to prepare for major blackouts and to restore the power system if such an event occurs. The Commission has proposed changes to the rules to address these challenges, by providing AEMO with the tools that will be needed to effectively prepare for and respond to major supply disruptions in the future. In particular, the draft rule:

- allows AEMO to procure a broader range of services from generators and other types of plant, such as batteries, to effectively and promptly restore supply to consumers
- makes it clear that AEMO can consider the full range of costs associated with sourcing different kinds of SRAS
- sets out the arrangements that apply to testing of the physical paths along the network AEMO plans to use to restart the system
- clarifies the roles and obligations of parties involved in system restoration and the communication processes these parties must follow in relation to SRAS.

The Commission considers that these changes are necessary to make sure that the SRAS frameworks in the rules can adapt as needed as the power system continues to change. Taken together, these changes are expected to improve the security and resilience of the power system and reduce costs for consumers over the long term.

The draft rule determination, draft rule and the rule change requests are available on the AEMC's website. Stakeholders are invited to provide submissions by **20 February 2020**.

Background

SRAS is a service currently provided by generators with the ability to start, or remain online, without drawing electricity from the grid. SRAS providers help to kick-start the power system by providing energy to other generators following a major blackout, which in turn restore supply to consumers.

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