



# INFORMATION

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## DWGM maintenance planning

### Overview of the rule change request

On 30 June 2020, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) submitted a rule change request to the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC or Commission) seeking to amend Part 19 of the National Gas Rules (NGR) to improve and clarify AEMO's existing maintenance coordination function in the NGR and to remove inconsistencies between the National Gas Law (NGL) and the NGR. Part 19 of the NGR covers the Victorian Declared Wholesale Gas Market (DWGM) only.

### Issues for consultation

AEMO identified three key issues in the current legal framework for maintenance planning in the DWGM:

1. There are different thresholds for system security in different places in the NGR (no threat v minimise any threat).
2. Producers are not expressly included in the parties identified as required to cooperate with AEMO over system security issues from proposed maintenance, requiring AEMO to issue Producers with separate directions to cancel, delay or suspend maintenance.
3. There is inconsistency in the definitions of Producer and Storage Provider in the NGL and Part 19 of the NGR.

AEMO stated that there is an inconsistency between rules 326(1) and 326(4) of the NGR, which affects the safe, reliable and secure supply of natural gas by introducing a lack of clarity in the standards that apply to market participants, and increasing the administrative and operational costs associated with AEMO issuing directions to Producers.

### Treatment as non-controversial

The Commission considers that the rule change request should be subject to the expedited rule making process under section 304 of the NGL on the grounds it is non-controversial and is unlikely to have a significant impact on a market for gas or the regulation of pipeline services. This is because the rule change is narrow in scope and does not propose any changes to the underlying or existing policy intent of the relevant rules in the NGR.

### Key deadlines

Submissions on this consultation are due by **19 November 2020**. Written requests objecting to the use of the expedited process need to be received by **5 November 2020**. A final determination is expected to be published by **17 December 2020**.

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