



## Testing of system restart ancillary services capability

### Final determination and final rule published

**The Australian Energy Market Commission has made a rule that removes regulatory uncertainty for providers of system restart ancillary services (SRAS) when required to undertake testing at short notice.**

#### Final rule

As part of the SRAS Guideline 2017, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) introduced an enhanced testing regime for SRAS. This new regime includes a 'short notice test' of SRAS capability, where AEMO will nominate a test date in consultation with the relevant network service provider, and the SRAS provider will receive at least five business days' notice of the test date.

Under the National Electricity Rules (NER), SRAS providers must give the relevant network service provider at least 15 business days' notice of any test of connected equipment that would require changes to its normal operation at the connection point. As SRAS providers would only receive notification of a short notice test five business days before the test date, they would not be able to provide the relevant network service provider with the required 15 business days' notice.

The final rule amends the NER to create an exception to the requirement that SRAS providers must notify network service providers of a test of connected equipment that would require changes to its normal operation at the connection point. This new exemption only applies to short notice tests of SRAS capability.

AEMO's enhanced SRAS testing regime will be included in SRAS agreements between generators and AEMO with a service commencement date on or after 1 July 2018.

The final rule has been made in response to a rule change request submitted by AEMO. It commences on 10 April 2018.

#### Commission's reasons

The Commission determined that the final rule would promote the efficient operation of electricity services with respect to the security of the supply of electricity and the security of the national electricity system. The primary reason for this is that the final rule will provide regulatory certainty for SRAS providers regarding their obligations by aligning the NER and the SRAS guideline 2017.

The effect of the exemption created by the final rule is that SRAS providers will be able to meet their obligation to conduct a short notice test, as required under the SRAS guideline 2017. The Commission determined that this would support the efficient operation of SRAS testing, thus supporting the power system's restart capability and improving energy security.

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