Keeping the lights on at the lowest cost

WHAT THE DRAFT RULE IS ABOUT

This new rule provides clear boundaries for negotiations to connect new generators to the power system.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The draft rule proposes a transition period of 8 weeks after the final rule is made to give everyone time to adjust. Submissions on the draft rule are due by 13 July 2018.

MATCHING TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS TO LOCAL SYSTEM NEEDS

Generators that don’t meet ‘automatic’ access standards must negotiate with networks and the market operator, AEMO, to agree on what technical capabilities they need to bring when they connect. This depends on power system conditions in the local area such as levels of system strength and inertia, and the mix of network and generation equipment.

We propose to:

- set clearer roles and responsibilities so all parties - generators, networks and AEMO - know what they have to do when negotiating
- set clearer goal posts for ‘minimum’ and ‘automatic’ access standards
- tighten some standards where needed

This flexible approach to setting standards enables targeted, least cost ways of connecting new generation.

OTHER WORK UNDERWAY

This rule change request addresses the Finkel Panel recommendation to update generator connection standards. It is also part of the AEMC’s security and reliability action plan to ensure AEMO has the tools it needs to manage a power system with a growing share of renewables. This includes new rules starting in July 2018 to make networks maintain minimum levels of system strength and inertia.