



## 2022 Review of the guidelines for identifying reviewable operating incidents final report

### The Reliability Panel has published its final report for the 2022 review of the guidelines for identifying reviewable operating incidents

The Reliability Panel (The Panel) is responsible for publishing the guidelines for identifying reviewable operating incidents (the guidelines) that are used by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to determine when a power system security incident is considered a 'reviewable operating incident'. Reviewable operating incidents are unusual or 'significant' events on the power system that impact system security, which AEMO is required to investigate and publicly report on under the National Electricity Rules (NER).<sup>1</sup>

The Panel considers that the revised guideline will increase the efficiency of the guidelines and ensure only necessary reviews are undertaken and participant costs are minimised.

### The Panel's final decision is to amend the guidelines to implement the following changes to the guidelines

On 25 March 2022, AEMO sent a letter to the Chair of the Reliability Panel proposing five changes to the guidelines. The Panel conducted a review of the guidelines as it considered AEMO's proposals were justified for further consideration and that it was timely to update the guidelines given the transition underway. In addition to AEMO's proposed changes, the Panel also identified changes made in the *enhancing operational resilience in relation to indistinct events* ('indistinct events') rule<sup>2</sup> and System Restart Ancillary Services (SRAS) boundary changes also warranted consideration in this review.

The Panel's final decision is to amend the guidelines to implement the following changes:

- exclude non-credible contingency events where successful auto-reclose occurred and the system remained in a secure operating state. The Panel considers these incidents are not significant events on the power system, and that this change would help streamline the efficiency of the guidelines to ensure AEMO only undertakes necessary reporting.
- exclude events where a transmission line trips at one end only or a single circuit breaker trips and where the system remained in a secure operating state. The Panel considers these incidents are not significant events on the power system, and that this change would help streamline the efficiency of the guidelines to ensure AEMO only undertakes necessary reporting.
- exclude events where under-frequency load shedding (UFLS) schemes operated correctly and only tripped contracted load. The Panel considers that the correct operation of such schemes does not itself indicate a power system that is operating outside of normal operating conditions, and would therefore serve to ensure only necessary reports are produced by AEMO.
- amend guideline section 6(c) on distribution system incidents, and the definition of multiple contingency events, to update and clarify requirements:
  - clarify that 'distribution network incidents' involve an initiating event that occurs within the distribution system
  - amend the threshold for reporting on distribution network incidents under 6(c) from the capacity of the largest generating unit in a region with the largest credible contingency in a region
  - remove reference to 'embedded' generation in section 6(c) of the guidelines, to include

<sup>1</sup> NER Clause 4.8.15(a)(3).

<sup>2</sup> AEMC, *Enhancing operational resilience in relation to indistinct events*, final determination, 3 March 2022, available [here](#).

events on the distribution network that affect all generating units whether they are embedded or connected to the transmission network.

- clarify that the definition of multiple contingency events in guideline section 1 is not limited to events on the transmission system.
- exclude non-credible events under the second limb of the new definition of contingency event (i.e., non-credible contingency or multiple credible contingencies resulting from sudden or unplanned changes in energy flow)<sup>3</sup> as a new reviewable operating incident report trigger at this time, given changes to the definition of 'contingency event' made in the indistinct events rule. The Panel recommends that AEMO requests a subsequent review be conducted once the indistinct events rule has been fully implemented and appropriate operational experience with the new framework has been gained.
- retain a requirement for AEMO to report on major supply disruptions in north, central and south Queensland. The Panel has updated the guidelines to define the boundaries of these three Queensland regions as an addendum to the guidelines for the purposes of identifying reviewable operating incidents following AEMO's determination to merge the central, south, and north SRAS subnetworks into a single Queensland wide SRAS subnetwork. The Panel considers this approach provides a simple way to ensure major supply disruptions across the Queensland regions continue to be reviewed by AEMO.

The Panel elected not to implement AEMO's fifth proposal to limit reporting in respect of non-secure or non-satisfactory operation of the power system to only where critical transmission elements are impacted or affected at this time. The Panel recommends AEMO request another review of the guidelines in the next few years should the issues motivating AEMO's request become problematic.

### **The amended guidelines will be effective from 29 September 2022**

The amended guidelines for identifying reviewable operating incidents will be in effect from the publishing of this report on 29 September 2022. All reviewable operating incidents from this date will be identified according to these guidelines.

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<sup>3</sup> NER Clause 4.2.3 of the NER to take effect on 9 March 2023.