

Rescheduling the generator compliance programs review

Consultation starts on a proposal to delay the Reliability Panel's review of the template for generator compliance programs by 12 months

The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC or Commission) has published a consultation paper on a rule change request from the Reliability Panel (Panel) that seeks to delay the Panel's upcoming review of the template for generator compliance programs by 12 months. The Panel considers that under existing National Electricity Rules (NER) arrangements, the review deadline of 19 December 2024 would not allow for efficient consideration of any potential changes to the NER from two packages of rule changes submitted by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) that seek to amend technical access standards.

We are proposing to progress this rule change as an expedited rule change. Objections to the expedited process are due by **18 October 2024.** Stakeholder submissions on the consultation paper are due by **1 November 2024.**

AEMO have proposed two packages of rule changes that are important considerations for the upcoming review

AEMO have submitted two rule change requests to the AEMC with two packages of proposed changes to the NER's technical access standards for connections. These two packages propose a number of changes to technical access standards that are important considerations for the Panel's upcoming review. This is because the template provides guidance and test methods for registered participants to use to demonstrate compliance with each access standard in the NER and as negotiated in their connection agreement.

The Panel has proposed to delay commencing the upcoming review by 12 months

The Panel considers that the current timing for the review does not allow efficient consideration of the upcoming proposed changes to the technical standards. The current timing would result in either: not allowing any changes from the rule changes to be considered; or an uncertain and possibly extended review duration and complex review process including redundant public consultation.

The Panel considers that delaying the commencement of the upcoming review to 19 December 2025 could allow sufficient time for the AEMC to make rule changes in relation to the first package of technical access standards before the Panel commences the review. The Panel proposes this delay would minimise Panel and stakeholder time and resource requirements, maximise stakeholder engagement and ultimately lead to the most fit-for-purpose template that best supports participant compliance and system security.

The Commission has decided to use the expedited rule change process

The Panel requested that the AEMC progress this rule change request using an expedited rule change process. The expedited rule change process is shorter than the standard process, running for eight weeks, and is used when a rule change request is either urgent or non-controversial.

The Commission agrees with the Panel's proposal that this request is non-controversial. We consider that the rule change request would be unlikely to have a significant effect on the NEM because the scope of the request is limited and does not call for greater reform to the NER.

Participants can object to the Commission treating this on an expedited basis. **Objections are due by 18 October 2024.**

Given the proposed use of the expedited process, which does not include a draft rule stage, we have also published indicative drafting for a final rule (if made), based on the solution proposed by the proponent for stakeholder information and comment.

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