



14 May 2026

Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC)

Via AEMC website: [www.aemc.gov.au](http://www.aemc.gov.au)

## Compliance Template Review 2026

Alinta Energy welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed reforms to the Template for Compliance Programs and two potential rule changes relating to the compliance framework.

Alinta Energy broadly supports the updates aimed at improving guidance on performance standard compliance monitoring. Notwithstanding this support, we consider there is further scope to minimise potential risks and enhance the Template's effectiveness. To that end, we make the following recommendations for the Commission's consideration.

### Key points:

- **We broadly support the updated principles but recommend narrowing the scope of principle 5, to avoid inadvertently requiring unnecessary assessments and a minor edit to principle 7.**
- **We recommend clarifying the expectation in relation to continuous monitoring. While data compilation can be continuous, often accurate identification and analysis cannot be immediate.**
- **The Template should adopt sufficient flexibility with proposed compliance methods to allow participants to adopt suitable solutions over time.**
- **We support the proposal to amend the NER to promote flexibility in the Panel's review of the Template.**
- **We caution against broadening the scope of the Template to allow monitoring requirements for all "related" NER obligations, and recommend that perceived monitoring or information gaps may be better addressed through targeted changes to rules and access standards.**

**We broadly support the updated principles but recommend narrowing the scope of principle 5 to avoid inadvertently requiring unnecessary assessments, as well as a minor edit to principle 7.**

Alinta Energy is broadly supportive of the revised compliance principles. We consider that the consolidation of the principles enhances simplicity for participants in developing their compliance programs.

However, we recommend the following further refinements to improve clarity and avoid interpretive errors:

- In relation to principle 5, we recommend that the requirement to promptly assess whether a plant change could have an impact on compliance or require updates to any data or models should be limited to circumstances where it is *reasonably likely* that plant performance may be affected. The proposed drafting would require this assessment for any changes that may affect plant performance, and we consider that this could be interpreted as necessitating assessments wherever there is a possibility that plant performance may be affected, regardless of how unlikely, and may inadvertently include routine maintenance and like-for-like replacements. Further, we recommend that the circumstances in which updates to “data and models” are required be clarified by reference to the relevant Rules and procedures. The current drafting does not specify what “data” it is referring to or identify the source of this obligation and the circumstances in which it would require updating. We note that these updates must also be reflected in, and be consistent with, Section 3.1 of the Draft Template.
- In relation to principle 7, we recommend clarifying that principle 5 is not relevant to this requirement.

**We recommend clarifying the expectation in relation to continuous monitoring. While data compilation can be continuous, often accurate identification and analysis cannot be immediate.**

We recognise the preference for continuous monitoring in the Template. We recommend that the Template clarify that continuous monitoring should not be interpreted as requiring potential non-compliances to be identified immediately. While it is generally practicable for participants to create continuous performance data and implement automation to identify potential non-compliance, reviews by personnel are often required for proper identification, and these reviews cannot be conducted continuously. Instead, they will either take place after issues are initially flagged in continuous data feeds or be conducted periodically.

**The Template should adopt sufficient flexibility with proposed compliance methods to allow participants to adopt suitable solutions over time.**

We broadly support the inclusion of new suggested compliance methods in the Template. However, noting the operational and practical constraints in adopting certain methods across different plant types, the Template should clearly emphasise its role as guidance rather than prescribing mandatory approaches.

While we support the expansion of scope and additional compliance tables to reflect evolving plant types and requirements, these should prioritise clarity and structure without constraining participant flexibility, including by balancing expectations with the associated compliance burden and enabling participants to leverage existing systems and proportionate approaches aligned to risk.

**We support the proposal to amend the NER to promote flexibility in the Panel’s review of the Template.**

Alinta Energy is broadly supportive of amending the NER to provide additional flexibility to align the Panel’s review with AEMO’s review of the access standards and any final rule made in response. We consider that coordinating the timing of these reviews would improve the effectiveness of the Template by ensuring it reflects the current state of the technical standards.

We note prior feedback supported less frequent Template reviews and support this change on the basis that the Panel seeks flexibility in scheduling reviews, rather than increasing their frequency. In introducing a flexible review conducted on an 'as needs' basis, the Panel should seek to provide participants with maximum notice as practicable prior to instigating its review.

**We caution against broadening the scope of the Template to allow monitoring requirements for all “related” NER obligations, and recommend that perceived monitoring or information gaps may be better addressed through targeted changes to rules and access standards.**

While we recognise the intent to allow the Template to provide broader guidance on related NER and market obligations, we are cautious that expanding its scope in the manner proposed risks creating unclear boundaries and scope creep. Given compliance programs must be consistent with the Template under the NER, an expanded remit could enable monitoring requirements to be introduced for an increasingly wide range of obligations without the scrutiny of a rule change process, potentially undermining participants' ability to apply a risk-based approach across their broader compliance. We note that a large number of NER obligations could be considered to relate to performance standards.

Electricity market participants are subject to a large and diverse set of obligations, and it is important that they retain flexibility to prioritise monitoring activities based on risk.

Introducing more prescriptive expectations and monitoring requirements through the Template on how a broad set of obligations should be monitored may inadvertently disrupt this prioritisation and lead to poorer compliance outcomes.

Rather than amend the scope of the Template to fit with the rules, we consider that where additional monitoring requirements are warranted, these should be progressed through a targeted rule change. Where obligations are clearly established in the NER, it is appropriate for the Template to provide guidance on how to comply with those existing requirements.

We also note that some of the examples used to justify expanding scope appear to be more appropriately addressed through clarification of the underlying technical standards. For example, questions regarding how primary frequency response should be balanced with dispatch compliance are matters that may be better resolved within the relevant access standards themselves. Once clarified in the standards, such requirements would fall within the Template's existing scope, without the need to broaden it.

Thank you for your consideration of Alinta Energy's submission. If you would like to discuss this further, please get in touch with Isidora Stefanovic at [isidora.stefanovic@alintaenergy.com.au](mailto:isidora.stefanovic@alintaenergy.com.au).

Yours sincerely,

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