



## System Restart Standard Issues Paper released

**The Reliability Panel (Panel) has released an Issues Paper for comment on the System Restart Standard (Standard). The Standard sets out several key parameters for power system restoration in the event of loss of supply to both generation and load. The Panel has received terms of reference from the Australian Energy Market Commission to undertake this review of the Standard.**

### Recovering the System

The Panel, along with other bodies such as the Australian Energy Market Operator AEMO, has responsibilities under the National Electricity Rules (NER), for preparing to respond to a major supply disruption. These preparations are for the improbable, but highly unpredictable, eventuality of supply being lost by generators and consumers across a large area, such as a whole jurisdiction.

Most generators require energy from the grid to be able to start generating electricity. If supply from the system is lost, these generators would not be capable of independently restarting in the event of tripping off.

Some generators have specialised equipment that allows them to restart without external support. These generators would then be available to restore other generators, and hence begin restoring the system. AEMO purchases the ongoing availability of such generators as System Restart Ancillary Services (SRAS).

In the event of a major supply disruption, SRAS may be called on by AEMO to supply sufficient energy to restart power stations in order to begin the process of restoring the power system.

The more SRAS that is procured by AEMO the faster AEMO would be able to restore the supply of electricity, reducing the impact of the associated outage.

### Panel's task

On 2 April 2015, the Commission made a rule changing the requirements on AEMO and the Panel relating to the procurement of SRAS. As part of this rule change request the AEMC required the Panel to review the Standard to meet the revised rule requirements.

The Panel received Terms of Reference from the AEMC on 30 June 2015 to undertake this review of the System Restart Standard. The Panel has previously reviewed the Standard in 2012, and at the time decided to make only minor amendments.

In assessing the new Standard, the Panel must examine the trade-off between the ongoing cost of the provision of SRAS and the potential cost of an extended outage. In addition, the Panel will consider the physical underpinnings of the power system.

## System Restart Standard

The Standard must contain several parameters for the restoration of the power system following a major supply disruption, including the maximum amount of time in which a specified level of supply must be restored in each sub-network, and the aggregate level of reliability of restart services in each sub-network.

The focus of the Standard is on the restoration of capacity of generators, which can then be used for restoring supply to load. The Standard does not set out the process of restoring supply to consumers directly following blackouts within a distribution network or on localised areas of the transmission networks.

## Timeline

The Terms of Reference require that the Panel have completed the review of the Standard by December 2016. The below timetable is indicative:

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Proposed date</b>
Publication of Issues Paper	19 November 2015
Close of submissions to Issues Paper	18 December 2015
First Workshop - Issues raised	1st Quarter 2016
Draft Report and Draft Standard	July 2016
Final Report and Standard	September 2016

As can be seen, the Panel is planning a public workshop on the issues raised by stakeholders in response to the Issues Paper in first Quarter of 2016.

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