National Electricity Amendment (Connecting embedded generators) Rule 2014 No. 3

Under the National Electricity Law to the extent applied by:

(a) the National Electricity (South Australia) Act 1996 of South Australia;
(b) the Electricity (National Scheme) Act 1997 of the Australian Capital Territory;
(c) the Electricity - National Scheme (Queensland) Act 1997 of Queensland;
(d) the Electricity - National Scheme (Tasmania) Act 1999 of Tasmania;
(e) the National Electricity (New South Wales) Act 1997 of New South Wales;
(f) the National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005 of Victoria; and
(g) the Australian Energy Market Act 2004 of the Commonwealth,

the Australian Energy Market Commission makes the following Rule under the National Electricity Law.

John Pierce
Chairman
Australian Energy Market Commission
National Electricity Amendment (Connecting embedded generators) Rule 2014 No. 3

1  Title of Rule
This Rule is the National Electricity Amendment (Connecting embedded generators) Rule 2014 No.3.

2  Commencement
This Rule commences operation on 1 October 2014.

3  Amendment of the National Electricity Rules
The National Electricity Rules are amended as set out in Schedule 1.

4  Amendment of the National Electricity Rules
The National Electricity Rules are amended as set out in Schedule 2.

5  Amendment to the National Electricity Rules
The National Electricity Rules are amended as set out in Schedule 3.

6  Amendment to the National Electricity Rules
The National Electricity Rules are amended as set out in Schedule 4.

7  Saving and Transitional Amendments to the National Electricity Rules
The National Electricity Rules are amended as set out in Schedule 5.
Schedule 1 Amendment to the National Electricity Rules

(Clause 3)

[1] Clause 5.1.2 Purpose
In the heading of clause 5.1.2, insert "and Application" after "Purpose".

[2] Clause 5.2.3 Obligations of network service providers
In clauses 5.2.3(d)(1), 5.2.3(d)(1A) and 5.2.3(d)(10) omit "rule 5.3" and insert "rules 5.3 or 5.3A (as is relevant)".

[3] New Clause 5.3.1A Application of rule to connection of embedded generating units
After clause 5.3.1, insert:

5.3.1A Application of rule to connection of embedded generating units

(a) If a Connection Applicant wishes to connect an embedded generating unit, then:

(1) unless otherwise provided, rule 5.3A applies to the proposed connection and clauses 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.4 and 5.3.5 do not apply to the proposed connection; and

(2) for the avoidance of doubt, the application of the balance of Chapter 5, Part A to the Connection Applicant is otherwise unaffected by this clause 5.3.1A.

(b) A reference to a Connection Applicant in paragraph (a) is to a person who:

(1) intends to be an Embedded Generator; or

(2) is required to apply to AEMO for an exemption from the requirement to register as a Generator in respect of an embedded generating unit; and

(3) who makes a connection enquiry under clause 5.3A.5 or an application to connect under clause 5.3A.9 in relation to any generating systems, or any network elements used in the provision of a network service, as the case may be.

[4] Clause 5.3.3 Response to connection enquiry
In clause 5.3.3(b)(3)(i) omit "or must be involved under clause 5.3.5(e)".

[5] Clause 5.3.3 Response to connection enquiry

3
In clause 5.3.3(c)(4), omit "6.6 and 6.7" and insert "6.21 and 6A.28".

[6] Clause 5.3.4A  Negotiated Access Standards
In clause 5.3.4A(b)(1), omit "clause 5.3.3(b1)(4)" and insert "clauses 5.3.3(b1)(4) or S5.4B(e)".

[7] Clause 5.3.4A  Negotiated Access Standards
In clause 5.3.4A(c), omit "or paragraph (h)" and insert ", clause 5.3A.9(f) or paragraph (h)(3)".

[8] Clause 5.3.4A  Negotiated Access Standards
In clauses 5.3.4A(d) and 5.3.4A(e), omit "or paragraph (h)(3)" and insert ", clause 5.3A.9(f) or paragraph (h)(3)".

[9] Clause 5.3.5  Preparation of offer to connect
Omit clauses 5.3.5(e) and (f).

[10] Clause 5.3.6  Offer to connect
Omit clause 5.3.6(a) and substitute:

(a) A Network Service Provider processing an application to connect must make an offer to connect the Connection Applicant's facilities to the network within the following timeframes:

(1) where the application to connect was made under clause 5.3.4(a), the timeframe specified in the preliminary program, subject to clause 5.3.3(b)(6); and

(2) where the application to connect was made under clause 5.3A.9(b)(2), a period of time no longer than 4 months from the date of receipt of the application to connect and any additional information requested under clause 5.3A.9(d), unless agreed otherwise.

[11] Clause 5.3.6  Offer to connect
In clause 5.3.6(a1), omit "clause 5.3.6(a)" and substitute "paragraph (a)(1)".

[12] Clause 5.3.6  Offer to connect
After clause 5.3.6(a1), insert:

(a2) In relation to the timeframes fixed in paragraph (a)(2), for the purposes of calculating elapsed time, the period that:
(1) commences on the day when a dispute is initiated under clause 8.2.4(a); and

(2) ends on the day on which the dispute is withdrawn or is resolved in accordance with clauses 8.2.6D or 8.2.9(a),

is to be disregarded.

[13] Clause 5.3.6 Offer to connect
In clause 5.3.6(b), omit "The" and insert "In relation to an application to connect made under clause 5.3.4(a), the".

[14] Clause 5.3.6 Offer to connect
After clause 5.3.6(b1), insert:

(b2) An offer to connect made under paragraph (a)(2), must be accompanied by:

(1) so far as is relevant, and in relation to services the Distribution Network Service Provider intends to provide, an itemised statement of connection costs including:

(i) connection service charges;

(ii) costs associated with metering requirements contained in the offer to connect;

(iii) costs of network extension;

(iv) details of augmentation required to provide the connection and associated costs;

(v) details of the interface equipment required to provide the connection and associated costs;

(vi) details of any ongoing operation and maintenance costs and charges by the Distribution Network Service Provider; and

(vii) other incidental costs and their basis of calculation;

(2) if any item in the statement of costs in subparagraph (1) differs substantially from the estimate provided under clause S5.4B(h), an explanation of the differences;

(3) a connection agreement capable of execution by the Connection Applicant, which must contain the proposed terms and conditions for connection to the distribution network (of the kind set out in Schedule 5.6) including, for each technical requirement identified by the Distribution Network Service Provider; and
Provider in the detailed response provided under clause 5.3A.8(c), the automatic access standard or the negotiated access standard as determined in accordance with clause 5.3.4A; and

(4) an explanation:

(i) of how the offer to connect can be accepted; and

(ii) that the offer to connect remains open for 20 business days, unless otherwise agreed.

(b3) An offer to connect made under paragraph (a)(2) must remain open for acceptance for 20 business days from the date it is made and, if not accepted within that period, lapses unless the Connection Applicant has sought an extension of the period of time from the Distribution Network Service Provider. The Distribution Network Service Provider may not unreasonably withhold consent to the extension.

[15] Clause 5.3.7 Finalisation of connection agreements
In clause 5.3.7(a), insert "or clauses S5.4.A(d) and (e)" after "clauses 5.3.3(b)(3) and (4)".

[16] Clause 5.3.8 Provision and use of information
In clause 5.3.8, omit "this rule 5.3" wherever occurring and insert "rules 5.3 and 5.3A" in each case.

[17] New Rule 5.3A Establishing or modifying connection - embedded generation
After rule 5.3, insert:

5.3A Establishing or modifying connection - embedded generation

5.3A.1 Application of rule 5.3A
(a) Where a Connection Applicant wishes to connect an embedded generating unit, this rule 5.3A applies.

(b) For the purposes of this rule 5.3A and Schedules 5.4A and 5.4B:

(1) a reference to a Connection Applicant is to a person who:

(i) intends to be an Embedded Generator; or
(ii) is required to apply to AEMO for exemption from the requirement to register as a Generator in respect of an embedded generating unit; and

(iii) who makes a connection enquiry under clause 5.3A.5 or an application to connect under clause 5.3A.9 in relation to any generating systems, or any network elements used in the provision of a network service, as the case may be; and

(2) the Distribution Network Service Provider is the Distribution Network Service Provider required under clause 5.3A.5 to process and respond to a connection enquiry or required under clause 5.3A.10 to prepare an offer to connect for the establishment or modification of a connection to the distribution network owned, controlled or operated by that Distribution Network Service Provider or for the provision of a network service.

5.3A.2 Definitions and miscellaneous

(a) In this rule 5.3A and Schedules 5.4A and 5.4B:

- detailed response means the response to a connection enquiry prepared under clause 5.3A.8.

- establish a connection has the same meaning as in clause 5.3.1.

- information pack means information relevant to the making of an application to connect specified in clause 5.3A.3(b).

- preliminary response means the response to a connection enquiry prepared under clause 5.3A.7.

- sub-transmission line has the same meaning as in clause 5.10.2.

- zone substation has the same meaning as in clause 5.10.2.

(b) To the extent a Distribution Network Service Provider has provided information required to be provided under this clause 5.3A by the inclusion of that information in:

(1) its demand side engagement document under clause 5.13.1(g); or

(2) a Distribution Annual Planning Report,

it will comply with the relevant information provision requirements of rule 5.3A by including hyperlinks to the relevant information in information provided to a Connection Applicant,
(c) Where this rule 5.3A fixes a time limit for the provision of information or a response then, for the purposes of calculating elapsed time, the period that:

1. commences on the day when a dispute is initiated under clause 8.2.4(a); and
2. ends on the day on which the dispute is withdrawn or is resolved in accordance with clauses 8.2.6D or 8.2.9(a),

is to be disregarded.

5.3A.3 Publication of Information

(a) A Distribution Network Service Provider must publish the following in the same location on its website:

1. an enquiry form for connection of an embedded generating unit;
2. a register of completed embedded generation projects under clause 5.4.5; and
3. an information pack.

(b) An information pack must include:

1. a description of the process for lodging an application to connect for an embedded generating unit, including:
   i. the purpose of each stage of the connection enquiry and application processes;
   ii. the steps a Connection Applicant will need to follow at each stage of the connection enquiry and application processes;
   iii. the information that is to be included by the Connection Applicant with a connection enquiry and the information that will be made available to the Connection Applicant by the Distribution Network Service Provider at each stage of the connection enquiry;
   iv. the information that is to be included with an application to connect and the type of information that will be made available to the Connection Applicant by the Distribution Network Service Provider after lodgement of the application;
   v. the factors taken into account by the Distribution Network Service Provider, at each stage of the
connection enquiry and application, when assessing an application to connect for an embedded generating unit;

(vi) the process for negotiating negotiated access standards under clause 5.3.4A and a summary of the factors the Distribution Network Service Provider takes into account when considering proposed negotiated access standards; and

(vii) a list of services, if any, relevant to the connection that are contestable in the relevant participating jurisdiction;

(2) single line diagrams of the Distribution Network Service Provider's preferred connection arrangements, and a range of other possible connection arrangements for integration of an embedded generating unit, showing the connection point, the point of common coupling, the embedded generating unit(s), load(s), meter(s), circuit breaker(s) and isolator(s);

(3) a sample schematic diagram of the protection system and control system relevant to the connection of an embedded generating unit to the distribution network, showing the protection system and control system, including all relevant current circuits, relay potential circuits, alarm and monitoring circuits, back-up systems and parameters of protection and control system elements;

(4) worked examples of connection service charges, enquiry and application fees for the connection of embedded generating units, based on the preferred and possible connection arrangements set out in paragraph (b)(2);

(5) details of any minimum access standards or plant standards the Distribution Network Service Provider considers are applicable to embedded generating units and generating plant;

(6) technical requirements relevant to the processing of a connection enquiry or an application to connect, including information of the type, but not limited to:

(i) protection systems and protection schemes;

(ii) fault level management principles;

(iii) reactive power capability and power factor correction;

(iv) power quality and how limits are allocated;

(v) responses to frequency and voltage disturbances;

(vi) voltage control and regulation;
(vii) remote monitoring equipment, control and communication requirements;

(viii) earthing requirements and other relevant safety requirements;

(ix) circumstances in which augmentation may be required to facilitate integration of an embedded generating unit into the network; and

(x) commissioning and testing requirements; and

(7) model connection agreements used by that Distribution Network Service Provider.

5.3A.4 Fees

(a) A Distribution Network Service Provider may charge a Connection Applicant an enquiry fee, the amount of which must not be more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of work required to prepare a detailed response to the enquiry.

(b) The Distribution Network Service Provider may specify that an enquiry fee is payable in components.

(c) The enquiry fee, or such component of it identified by the Distribution Network Service Provider, is payable either:

1) on lodgement of the further information identified in S5.4A(o); or

2) on receipt of advice from the Distribution Network Service Provider provided pursuant to clause 5.3A.7(b).

(d) A Distribution Network Service Provider must not charge a fee for the provision of a preliminary response.

(e) A Distribution Network Service Provider may charge an application fee, payable on lodgement of an application to connect, provided that the fee must not:

1) include an amount for work that was completed in preparing the detailed response to the enquiry; and

2) be more than necessary to:

   i) cover the costs of work and expenses reasonably incurred by the Distribution Network Service Provider in assessing the application to connect and making an offer to connect; and
(ii) meet the reasonable costs anticipated to be incurred by AEMO and other Network Service Providers whose participation in the assessment of the application to connect will be required.

5.3A.5 Enquiry

(a) A Connection Applicant who wishes to make an application to connect must first make a connection enquiry with the Local Network Service Provider.

(b) Subject to paragraph (c), an enquiry must be in the form determined by the Local Network Service Provider.

(c) An enquiry form under paragraph (b) must require the Connection Applicant to provide:

(1) a qualitative description of the objectives of the project proposal the subject of the application to connect;

(2) the information specified in Schedule 5.4; and

(3) a list of the information required from the Local Network Service Provider in relation to its application to connect and supporting reasons for its requests.

(d) A Local Network Service Provider must, within 5 business days after receiving an enquiry, provide written acknowledgment of receipt of the connection enquiry.

(e) If the Local Network Service Provider considers that the connection enquiry should be jointly examined by more than one Distribution Network Service Provider, then, with the agreement of the Connection Applicant, one of those Distribution Network Service Providers may be allocated the task of liaising with the Connection Applicant and the other Distribution Network Service Providers to process and respond to the enquiry.

(f) If the enquiry is incomplete in a material respect, or the Connection Applicant has lodged an enquiry other than in accordance with the form determined by a Local Network Service Provider, that Local Network Service Provider must, within 5 business days after receipt of the enquiry, advise the Connection Applicant of the deficiency, and may require the Connection Applicant to provide the necessary information.

(g) A Connection Applicant may request in a connection enquiry made under paragraph (a), that the Local Network Service Provider provide only a detailed response under clause 5.3A.8(c) to its enquiry. The Local Network Service Provider must, within 5 business days after receipt of the enquiry and all such additional
information (if any) requested under paragraph (f), advise the Connection Applicant if it agrees to the request.

5.3A.6 Response to Enquiry

(a) In response to a connection enquiry, the Distribution Network Service Provider must provide:

(1) subject to clause 5.3A.5(g) or receiving any further information requested under clause 5.3A.5(f), a preliminary response; and

(2) subject to receiving the enquiry fee and the further information requested under clause 5.3A.8(b), if relevant, a detailed response.

(b) In preparing either the detailed response or preliminary response, the Distribution Network Service Provider must liaise with other Network Service Providers with whom it has connection agreements, if the Distribution Network Service Provider believes, in its reasonable opinion, that compliance with the terms and conditions of those connection agreements will be affected. The Distribution Network Service Provider responding to the connection enquiry may include in its preliminary response or detailed response, the reasonable requirements of any such other Network Service Providers for information to be provided by the Connection Applicant.

5.3A.7 Preliminary Response to Enquiry

(a) Unless agreed otherwise, a preliminary response must:

(1) be provided within 15 business days of receipt of a connection enquiry and all such additional information (if any) requested under clause 5.3A.5(f); and

(2) include the information specified in Schedule 5.4A.

(b) If the Distribution Network Service Provider has agreed under clause 5.3A.5(g) to not provide a preliminary response, it must advise the Connection Applicant of the:

(1) estimate of the enquiry fee payable by the Connection Applicant for the detailed response, including details of how components of the fee were calculated; and

(2) the component of the estimate of the enquiry fee payable by the Connection Applicant to request the detailed response,
within 15 business days of receipt of a connection enquiry and all such additional information (if any) requested under clause 5.3A.5(f), unless agreed otherwise.

(c) A Distribution Network Service Provider may seek an extension of a time period specified in paragraphs (a) or (b) by giving notice, in writing to the Connection Applicant, specifying the reasons required for the extension. The Connection Applicant may not unreasonably withhold consent to that extension.

(d) Nothing in paragraph (a) or Schedule 5.4A is to be read or construed as requiring the Distribution Network Service Provider to undertake detailed design or to perform detailed technical studies or analysis to prepare a preliminary response.

5.3A.8 Detailed Response to Enquiry

(a) Subject to clause 5.3A.5(g), a Distribution Network Service Provider must within 5 business days after receiving the further information identified in clause S5.4A(o) provide written acknowledgment of receipt of it.

(b) If the further information provided under paragraph (a) is incomplete in a material respect the Distribution Network Service Provider must within 10 business days after receipt of it, advise the Connection Applicant of the deficiency and what is required to address it.

(c) Unless:

(1) agreed otherwise; or

(2) the proposed connection requires the application of the regulatory investment test for distribution,

the Distribution Network Service Provider must provide a detailed response within 30 business days of the date specified under paragraph (d).

(d) For the purposes of paragraph (c), the relevant date is the date on which the Distribution Network Service Provider has received all of the following:

(1) the enquiry fee, or any component of the enquiry fee requested by the Distribution Network Service Provider;

(2) if the Connection Applicant was required to remedy a deficiency in further information provided under paragraph (b), that further information; and

(3) if the Connection Applicant was required under clause S5.4A(o) to provide further information, that information.
(e) A Distribution Network Service Provider may seek an extension of the time period specified in paragraph (c) by giving notice, in writing to the Connection Applicant, specifying the reasons required for the extension. The Connection Applicant may not unreasonably withhold consent to that extension.

(f) Where the proposed connection requires the application of the regulatory investment test for distribution, the Distribution Network Service Provider and the Connection Applicant are to agree a timeframe for the provision of a detailed response, taking into account the status of the relevant RIT-D project (as defined in clause 5.10.2).

(g) A detailed response must include the information specified in:

1. paragraphs (f), (g) and (m) of Schedule 5.4B;
2. paragraphs (a) - (e), (h) – (l) and (n)-(o) of Schedule 5.4B.

Note
Clause 5.3A.8(g) requires that a detailed response include all information specified in Schedule 5.4B. The above division may be of relevance for enforcement purposes only.

(h) A Connection Applicant that is a Registered Participant, AEMO or an interested party may make a request in relation to technical requirements for access to the Reliability Panel in accordance with clause 5.3.3(b2)-(b4).

5.3A.9 Application for connection

(a) Following receipt of a detailed response under clause 5.3A.8, a Connection Applicant may make an application to connect in accordance with this clause 5.3A.9 and clause 5.3A.4.

(b) To be eligible for connection, the Connection Applicant must submit an application to connect containing the information specified in the detailed response provided under clause 5.3A.8(c) and the application fee specified under clause 5.4B(m) to the Distribution Network Service Provider.

(c) The Connection Applicant may submit an application to connect to more than one Distribution Network Service Provider in order to receive additional offers to connect in respect of facilities to be provided that are contestable.

(d) If the application to connect is incomplete in a material respect the Distribution Network Service Provider must, within 10 business days after receipt of it, advise the Connection Applicant of the deficiency, and the steps required to address it.
(e) To the extent that an application fee includes amounts to meet the reasonable costs anticipated to be incurred by any other Network Service Providers or AEMO in the assessment of the application to connect, a Distribution Network Service Provider who receives the application to connect and associated fee must pay such amounts to the other Network Service Providers or AEMO, as appropriate.

(f) For each technical requirement where the proposed arrangement will not meet the automatic access standards nominated by the Distribution Network Service Provider pursuant to clause S5.4B(b), the Connection Applicant must submit with the application to connect a proposal for a negotiated access standard for each such requirement to be determined in accordance with clause 5.3.4A.

(g) The Connection Applicant may:

(1) lodge separate applications to connect and separately liaise with the other Network Service Providers identified in clause 5.3A.5(e) who may require a form of agreement; or

(2) lodge one application to connect with the Distribution Network Service Provider who processed the connection enquiry and require it to liaise with those other Network Service Providers and obtain and present all necessary draft agreements to the Connection Applicant.

5.3A.10 Preparation of offer to connect

(a) The Distribution Network Service Provider to whom the application to connect is submitted under clause 5.3A.9(a):

(1) at the automatic access standard; or

(2) at a negotiated access standard that the provider has accepted under clause 5.3.4A(e),

must proceed to prepare an offer to connect in response.

(b) So as to maintain levels of service and quality of supply to existing Registered Participants in accordance with the Rules, the Distribution Network Service Provider in preparing the offer to connect must consult with AEMO and other Registered Participants with whom it has connection agreements, if the Distribution Network Service Provider believes in its reasonable opinion, that compliance with the terms and conditions of those connection agreements will be affected, in order to assess the application to connect and determine:

(1) the technical requirements for the equipment to be connected;
(2) the extent and cost of augmentations and changes to all affected networks;

(3) any consequent change in network service charges; and

(4) any possible material effect of this new connection on the network power transfer capability including that of other networks.

(c) If the application to connect involves the connection of embedded generating units having a nameplate rating of 10 MW or greater, the Distribution Network Service Provider must consult the relevant Transmission Network Service Provider regarding the impact of the connection contemplated by the application to connect on fault levels, line reclosure protocols, and stability aspects.

(d) The Transmission Network Service Provider consulted under paragraph (c) must determine the reasonable costs of addressing those matters for inclusion in the offer to connect and the Distribution Network Service Provider must make it a condition of the offer to connect that the Connection Applicant pay these costs.

(e) The Distribution Network Service Provider preparing the offer to connect must include provision for payment of the reasonable costs associated with remote control equipment and remote monitoring equipment as required by AEMO and it may be a condition of the offer to connect that the Connection Applicant pay these costs.

5.3A.11 Technical Dispute

(a) Rule 8.2 applies to any dispute between a Distribution Network Service Provider and a Connection Applicant as to the technical requirements to establish or modify a connection sought by a Connection Applicant in a connection enquiry made under clause 5.3A.5 or an application to connect under clause 5.3A.9.

[18] New Clause 5.4.5 Register of compliant equipment

After clause 5.4.4, insert:

5.4.5 Register of completed embedded generation projects

(a) For the purposes of this clause 5.4.5:

completed embedded generation projects means all embedded generating units owned, operated or controlled by:

(1) a Generator; or
(2) a person who was required to apply to AEMO for an exemption from the requirement to register as a Generator in respect of an embedded generating unit,

(3) and are connected to the Distribution Network Service Provider's network.

DAPR date has the same meaning as in clause 5.13.2.

(b) In relation to completed embedded generation projects, a Distribution Network Service Provider must establish and publish, on its website, a register of the plant, including but not limited to:

(1) technology of generating unit (e.g. synchronous generating unit, induction generator, photovoltaic array, etc) and its make and model;

(2) maximum power generation capacity of all embedded generating units comprised in the relevant generating system;

(3) contribution to fault levels;

(4) the size and rating of the relevant transformer;

(5) a single line diagram of the connection arrangement;

(6) protection systems and communication systems;

(7) voltage control and reactive power capability; and

(8) details specific to the location of a facility connected to the network that are relevant to any of the details in subparagraphs (1)-(7).

(c) Subject to satisfying any relevant exemptions contained in clause 8.6.2, the Distribution Network Service Provider must not publish confidential information as part of, or in connection with, the register.

(d) The Distribution Network Service Provider must:

(1) include in the register the details contained in paragraph (b) for all completed embedded generation projects within the 5 year period preceding the establishment of the register; and

(2) update the register by the DAPR date each year thereafter with details of all completed embedded generation projects in the 5 year period preceding the review date.
[19] Clause 5.5 Access arrangements relating to Distribution Networks
In clause 5.5(a)(1) omit "clause 5.3.3" and insert "clauses 5.3.3 or 5.3A.5".

[20] Clause 5.5 Access arrangements relating to Distribution Networks
In clause 5.5(a)(1) omit "clause 5.3.5" and insert "clauses 5.3.5 or 5.3A.10".

[21] Clause 5.5 Access arrangements relating to Distribution Networks
In clause 5.5(a)(2) omit "clause 5.3.2" and insert "clauses 5.3.2 or 5.3A.5".

[22] Clause 5.5 Access arrangements relating to Distribution Networks
In clause 5.5(a)(2) omit "clause 5.3.4" and insert "clauses 5.3.4 or 5.3A.10".

[23] Schedule 5.8 Distribution Annual Planning Report
Omit S5.8(l) and insert:

(l) information on the Distribution Network Service Provider’s demand management activities, including:

(1) a qualitative summary of:

(i) non-network options that have been considered in the past year, including generation from embedded generating units;

(ii) key issues arising from applications to connect embedded generating units received in the past year;

(iii) actions taken to promote non-network proposals in the preceding year, including generation from embedded generating units; and

(iv) the Distribution Network Service Provider’s plans for demand management and generation from embedded generating units over the forward planning period;

(2) a quantitative summary of:

(i) connection enquiries received under clause 5.3A.5;

(ii) applications to connect received under clause 5.3A.9; and
(iii) the average time taken to complete applications to connect;
Schedule 2 Amendment to the National Electricity Rules

(Clause 4)

[1] Schedule 5.4A Preliminary Response

After Schedule 5.4 insert:

Schedule 5.4A Preliminary Response

For the purposes of clause 5.3A.7(a), the following information must be included in the preliminary response:

(a) relevant technical information about the Distribution Network Service Provider’s distribution network, including guidance on how the Connection Applicant may meet the following requirements if it were to proceed to prepare an application to connect:

(1) primary protection and backup protection;
(2) other protection and control requirements applicable to embedded generating units and associated plant;
(3) remote monitoring equipment and control communications facilities;
(4) insulation co-ordination and lightning protection;
(5) existing maximum and minimum fault levels and fault clearance times of relevant local zone substations;
(6) switching and isolation facilities;
(7) interlocking and synchronising arrangements; and
(8) metering installations;

(b) if not otherwise provided in accordance with paragraph (a), to the extent the Distribution Network Service Provider holds technical information necessary to prepare an application to connect, that information;

(c) information relevant to each technical requirement of the proposed plant as relevant to:

(1) the automatic access standards;
(2) any relevant minimum access standards;
(3) any applicable plant standards; and
(4) the normal voltage level, if it is expected to change from the nominal voltage level;

(d) the identity of other parties that the Distribution Network Service Provider considers:

(1) will need to be involved in planning to make the connection or must be involved under clause 5.3A.10(c); and

(2) must be paid for transmission services or distribution services;

(e) whether it will be necessary for any of the parties identified in subparagraph (d) to enter into an agreement with the Connection Applicant in respect of the provision of connection services or other transmission services or distribution services or both, to the Connection Applicant;

(f) where relevant the Distribution Network Service Provider is to identify whether any service required to establish a connection is contestable in the relevant participating jurisdiction;

(g) worked examples of connection service charges relevant to the enquiry and an explanation of the factors on which the charges depend;

(h) information regarding the Distribution Network Service Provider and its network, system limitations for sub-transmission lines and zone substations and other information relevant to constraints on the network as such information is relevant to the application to connect;

(i) an indication of whether network augmentation may be required and if required, what work the network augmentation may involve;

(j) a hyperlink to the Distribution Network Service Provider’s information pack;

(k) the contact details for the relevant point of contact within the Distribution Network Service Provider managing the connection enquiry;

(l) the Distribution Network Service Provider’s response to the objectives of the connection sought as included by the Connection Applicant in its enquiry under clause 5.3A.5(c)(1);

(m) a description of the process for the provision of the detailed response, including the further information to be provided by the Connection Applicant and analysis to be undertaken by the Distribution Network Service Provider as part of the preparation of the detailed response;
(n) an overview of any available options for connection to the Distribution Network Service Provider's network, as relevant to an enquiry lodged, at more than one connection point in a network, including:

(1) example single line diagram and relevant protection systems and control systems used by existing connection arrangements;

(2) a description of the characteristics of supply; and

(3) an indication of the likely impact on terms and conditions of connection, as relevant to each optional differing connection point;

(o) a statement of further information required from the Connection Applicant for the preparation of the detailed response, including:

(1) details of the Connection Applicant’s connection requirements, and the Connection Applicant’s specifications of the facility to be connected, consistent with the requirements advised in accordance with paragraphs (a) to (c); and

(2) details of the Connection Applicant’s reasonable expectations of the level and standard of service of power transfer capability that the network should provide;

(p) an estimate of the enquiry fee payable by the Connection Applicant for the detailed response, including details of how components of the fee were calculated;

(q) the component of the estimate of the enquiry fee payable by the Connection Applicant to request the detailed response;

(r) an estimate of the application fee which is payable on submitting an application to connect; and

(s) any additional information relevant to the enquiry.

**Schedule 5.4B Detailed Response to Enquiry**

For the purposes of clause 5.3A.8(g), the following information must be included in the detailed response:

(a) the contact details for the relevant point of contact within the Distribution Network Service Provider who will manage the application to connect;

(b) written details of each technical requirement relevant to the proposed plant as relevant to the:
(1) automatic access standards;
(2) minimum access standards;
(3) any applicable plant standards; and
(4) normal voltage level, if that is to change from the nominal voltage level;

(c) details of the connection requirements based on the Connection Applicant’s specifications of the facility to be connected;

(d) details of the level and standard of service of power transfer capability that the Distribution Network Service Provider, with reasonable endeavours, considers the network provides at the location of the connection point or connection points, if options have been made available under clause S5.4A(n);

(e) negotiated access standards that will require AEMO's involvement in accordance with clause 5.3.4A(c);

(f) a list of the technical data to be included with the application to connect, which may vary depending on the connection requirements and the type, rating and location of the facility to be connected. The list provided under this paragraph (f) will generally be in the nature of the information set out in schedule 5.5 but may be varied by the Distribution Network Service Provider as appropriate to suit the size and complexity of the proposed facility to be connected;

(g) commercial information to be supplied by the Connection Applicant to allow a Network Service Provider (as is relevant) to make an assessment of the ability of the Connection Applicant to satisfy the prudential requirements set out in rules 6.21 and 6A.28;

(h) so far as is relevant, and in relation to services that the Distribution Network Service Provider intends to provide, an itemised estimate of connection costs including:

   (1) connection services charges;
   (2) costs associated with the proposed metering requirements for the connection;
   (3) costs of any network extension;
   (4) details of augmentation required to provide the connection and associated costs;
   (5) details of the interface equipment required to provide the connection and associated costs;
(6) details of any ongoing operation and maintenance costs and charges to be undertaken by the Distribution Network Service Provider; and

(7) other incidental costs and their basis of calculation;

(i) an explanation of the factors affecting each component of the itemised estimate of connection costs and the further information that will be taken into account by the Distribution Network Service Provider in preparing the final itemised statement of connection costs to be provided under clause 5.3.6(b2)(1);

(j) using reasonable endeavours, all risks and obligations in respect of the proposed connection associated with planning and environmental laws not contained in the Rules;

(k) a draft connection agreement that contains the proposed terms and conditions for connection to the network including those of the kind set out in schedule 5.6 and:

(1) an explanation of the terms and conditions in the connection agreement that need to be finalised; and

(2) if relevant, further information necessary from the Connection Applicant to finalise the connection agreement;

(l) a description of the process for lodging the application to connect, including:

(1) the options open to the Connection Applicant in submitting an application to connect in accordance with clause 5.3A.9;

(2) the further analysis to be undertaken by the Distribution Network Service Provider as part of the Distribution Network Service Provider’s assessment of the application to connect;

(3) further information required from the Connection Applicant for the Distribution Network Service Provider to assess the application to connect; and

(4) an outline of proposed milestones (and their timeframes) for connection and access activities which may be modified from time to time by agreement of the parties, where such agreement must not be unreasonably withheld;

(m) the application fee payable when submitting an application to connect;

(n) whether the Distribution Network Service Provider agrees to the detailed response remaining valid for a specified period of time to
allow the Connection Applicant to lodge an application to connect within that time; and

(o) any additional information relevant to the application to connect.
Schedule 3 Amendment to the National Electricity Rules

(Clause 5)

[1] Clause 6.7.2 Determination of terms and conditions of access for negotiated distribution services
In clause 6.7.2(b), omit "rules 5.2" wherever occurring and insert "rules 5.3, 5.3A" in each case.

[2] Clause 6.7.5 Preparation of and requirements for negotiation framework for negotiated distribution services
In clause 6.7.5(d), omit "rules 5.3" wherever occurring and insert "rules 5.3, 5.3A" in each case.
[1] Chapter 10 Substituted Definitions

In Chapter 10, substitute the following definitions:

application to connect

An application made by a Connection Applicant in accordance with rule 5.3 or rule 5.3A for connection to a network and/or the provision of network services or modification of a connection to a network and/or the provision of network services.

Connection Applicant

A person who wants to establish or modify connection to a transmission network or distribution network and/or who wishes to receive network services and who makes a connection enquiry as described in clause 5.3.2 or clause 5.3A.5.

Note

In the context of Chapter 5A, the above definition has been displaced by a definition specifically applicable to that Chapter. See clause 5A.A.1.
Schedule 5  Savings and Transitional Amendments to the National Electricity Rules

(Clause 7)

[1] Chapter 11  Savings and Transitional Rules

After rule 11.67 insert:

Part ZZB  Connecting Embedded Generators

11.68  Rules consequential on the making of the National Electricity Amendment (Connecting embedded generators) Rule 2014

11.68.1  Definitions

For the purposes of this rule 11.68:

Amending Rule means the National Electricity Amendment (Connecting embedded generators) Rule 2014.

commencement date means the date on which the Amending Rule commences operations.

11.67.2  Continuation of enquiries lodged

(a) Unless an Embedded Generator and Distribution Network Service Provider otherwise agree, any enquiry lodged by the Connection Applicant under clause 5.3.2 that has not been responded to or otherwise finalised under clause 5.3.3 on the commencement date, must be responded to or finalised under clause 5.3.3 unless both the Connection Applicant and the Distribution Network Service Provider agree otherwise.

[END OF RULE AS MADE]