



Proposal to publish historical electricity zone substation data

Stakeholder submissions invited on rule change request

Today the AEMC started its public consultation on a rule change request which seeks to impose a new requirement on distribution network service providers (DNSPs) to annually publish historical electricity load data at the zone substation level.

Details of the rule change request

The National Generators Forum (NGF) has requested an amendment to the National Electricity Rules that will require DNSPs to annually publish 10 years of historical electricity load data on their websites, for half-hourly intervals, for all zone substations within their networks.

The NGF asserts that the publication of this data would enable better modelling of the key determinants of electricity demand changes at the sub-regional level, which would lead to more informed, timely and efficient investment decisions.

The NGF claims there is not sufficient detail in existing published data to undertake valid empirical assessment of the key factors that are driving changes in electricity demand. It considers that obtaining access to detailed historical electricity load data at the sub-regional level would enable any interested party to undertake, or commission, their own forecasts of electricity demand. In turn, such forecasts could also be used as a basis for comparison and discussion with those currently prepared by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).

Consultation process

The AEMC has now initiated its consultation process on this rule change request. To facilitate stakeholder submissions, the AEMC has published a consultation paper setting out some of the key issues on the request.

Copies of the rule change request and consultation paper are available on the AEMC's website. Submissions to the consultation paper are invited **by no later than the close of business on 24 May 2013.**

Background

Zone substations form part of the electricity distribution network. They link the sub-transmission network with elements of the distribution network. The sub-transmission network delivers electricity from a transmission network to the distribution network and may form part of the distribution network.

The National Electricity Rules currently require DNSPs to undertake annual planning reviews, covering a forward planning period of five years. As part of this process, DNSPs are required to publish the outcomes of their planning reviews in the form of a distribution annual planning report. DNSPs' planning reports must include information on electricity capacity and load forecasts for transmission-distribution connection points, sub-transmission lines and zone substations. The rule change request seeks to place an additional obligation on DNSPs to publish 10 years of historical electricity load data for their zone substations as part of the planning report process.

AEMO currently publishes historical and forecast electricity demand data at the regional level, but not at the sub-regional level. If the proposed rule is made by the AEMC, DNSPs will be required to publish historical electricity demand data at the sub-regional level.

**Submissions on
the consultation
paper are due
24 May 2013.**

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