



Electricity zone substation information to be made available

Publication of final rule determination and final rule

The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) has made a rule that requires Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSPs) to make historical zone substation information on electricity loads publicly available to interested parties. The information may inform interested parties' investment decisions and analyses of future trends in electricity demand and supply.

Final rule

The Commission has determined to introduce a new rule 5.13A into the National Electricity Rules (NER). Its key features include:

- DNSPs are required to provide historical zone substation load information to interested parties on request;
- the data is to be provided by DNSPs in its raw form, and only where it is available;
- interested parties may request zone substation information as a once-only report (i.e. containing data for the ten reporting years prior to the commencement date of the rule as made), and/or an annual report (i.e. containing data for the most recently completed reporting year);
- information recipients are required to acknowledge that the data is raw, it has not been validated for quality or accuracy, and it has limitations;
- DNSPs are not required to provide data, if in the reasonable opinion of the DNSP, that information is confidential or commercially-sensitive to a third party; and
- any fee charged to interested parties for the information must not exceed the reasonable costs anticipated to be incurred by the DNSP in providing the data.

The rule commences on 13 March 2014. However, a DNSP's obligations under the rule is to commence on the date that it is required to publish its first Distribution Annual Planning Report after the rule commences.

The Commission's determination and final rule have been informed by public consultation; including stakeholder submissions and discussions with the National Generators Forum (the rule proponent, NGF) and the Energy Networks Association.

Background

The NGF submitted a rule change request that sought amendments to the NER that would require DNSPs to annually publish on their websites, historical electricity load data for their networks at the zone substation level. Zone substations form part of the electricity distribution system and connect the higher voltage sub-transmission network with the lower voltage distribution network. The NGF's motivation for proposing their rule change request was that they considered there was insufficient detail in existing published data for interested parties to undertake empirical assessments of factors that influence changes in electricity demand. By accessing the sub-regional data, the NGF contended that interested parties would be able to formulate their own forecasts of electricity demand.

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