



Electricity zone substation information to be made available

Draft rule determination released for consultation

The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) has made a draft rule that would require 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.

Draft rule determination

The Commission is satisfied that the draft rule is in the long term interests of consumers. The draft rule is likely to lead to greater transparency of information, which has the potential to improve the decision making of participants and, in turn, is likely to lead to greater efficiency in the operation and use of electricity services.

Draft rule

The Commission has determined to make the draft rule, with amendments, as proposed by the National Generators Forum (NGF). The draft rule introduces a new rule 5.13A into the National Electricity Rules (NER). Its key features include:

- DNSPs would be 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 preceding ten years from the start date of the final rule), and/or an annual report (i.e. containing data for the most recently completed year);
- information recipients would be 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.

Submissions

The Commission invites submissions on its draft rule determination, including the draft rule, by no later than **30 January 2014**.

Background

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 submitted its rule change request to the AEMC on 24 January 2013, seeking DNSPs to publish historical electricity load data in half-hourly intervals for all zone substations in their networks. The NGF considers there is 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, interested parties would be able to formulate their own forecasts of electricity demand.

For information contact:

AEMC Director, **Slavko Jovanoski** (02) 8296 7800
AEMC Adviser, **Trevor Johnston** (02) 8296 7800

Media: Communication Manager, Prudence Anderson 0404 821 935 or (02) 8296 7817
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