



Our ref: AA1000668
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17 July 2024

Dear Interested Party

Re: Victoria's Electricity Distribution Network Service Providers' application for authorisation AA1000668 – draft determination

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd, CitiPower Pty Ltd, Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Ltd, Powercor Australia Ltd and United Energy Distribution Pty Ltd (the **Applicants**) on 19 April 2024.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for 10 years.

The ACCC granted interim authorisation commencing on 15 May 2024 to enable the Applicants to continue to operate their accreditation scheme while the ACCC considers their substantive application for authorisation. The scheme requires civil contractors who perform underground civil works involving electrical infrastructure assets to meet certain accreditation standards.

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached and also available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#). A copy of the ACCC's Interim Authorisation decision is also available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

Next steps

The applicants or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

Making a submission

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **Friday, 2 August 2024**. Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the public register page for this matter. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Lynette Lymbers via the details at the end of this letter.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made at a pre-decision conference (should one be called - see below), and will then release a final determination in relation to this application.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

Optional pre-decision conference

In some cases, the applicants or an interested party requests that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference in relation to its draft determination. If a conference is called it will be open to the applicant and interested parties to attend and make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend, they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by **Friday, 2 August 2024** by email to exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Timetable

The ACCC will continue to progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
19 April 2024	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
24 April 2024	Public consultation process begins.
8 May 2024	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
17 July 2024	Draft determination.
2 August 2024	Public consultation closes on draft determination.
August/September 2024	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Lynette Lymbers on (02) 9230 9132 or exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



David Hatfield
Director
Competition Exemptions