
From: Tony Snell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 March 2022 9:09 PM
To: Hatfield, David <david.hatfield@acc.gov.au>
Cc: Martin, Jaime <jaimemartin@acc.gov.au>; Pappa, Michael <Michael.Pappa@acc.gov.au>; Mark Stedwell [REDACTED]; Neerhut, Alex [REDACTED]
Subject: AEMO interim authorisation: February 2022 report to ACCC

Dear Mr Hatfield

We refer to (a) condition 1 of the interim authorisation granted by the ACCC on 27 October 2021 (**Interim Authorisation**) and the reporting protocol in Attachment A of the Interim Authorisation; and (b) condition 1 of the authorisation granted by the ACCC on 23 February 2022 (**Authorisation**) and the reporting protocol in Attachment A of the Authorisation. Set out below is AEMO's report for the period 1 February 2022 to 28 February 2022 (**Reporting Period**).

This report can be published on the public register.

No material contract, arrangement or understanding that relies on the Interim Authorisation or the Authorisation was entered into or made during the Reporting Period.

The following decisions that rely on the Interim Authorisation or the Authorisation were made during the Reporting Period:

- (a) Two meetings of Victorian industry participants occurred during the Reporting Period:
- i. A meeting between AEMO, AusNet, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (**DEWLP**), Energy Australia, Origin, Basslink and Snowy Hydro was held on Friday 4 February 2022 (as observed by a representative of the ACCC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss any potential issues that may arise in relation to maintenance or scheduled outages in Victoria, and the resources required, in light of COVID-19. The participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance, the skills required and any potential disruptions to planned maintenance due to COVID-19. In particular, the participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on their maintenance workforce, including the number of employees who had tested positive and mitigation strategies they have adopted to reduce potential impacts (such as split teams and rapid antigen testing). The participants also discussed planned AusNet transmission outages.
 - ii. A meeting between AEMO, AusNet, DEWLP, Energy Australia, Origin, Basslink and AGL was held on Friday 18 February 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss any potential issues that may arise in relation to maintenance or scheduled outages in Victoria, and the resources required, in light of COVID 19. The participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance, the skills required and any potential disruptions to planned maintenance due to COVID-19. In particular, the participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on their maintenance

workforce, including the number of employees who had tested positive and mitigation strategies they have adopted to reduce potential impacts (such as split teams and rapid antigen testing), as well as strategies to effectively manage border restrictions when sourcing specialist maintenance labour from overseas. The participants also discussed planned transmission outages.

iii. The next meeting of Victorian industry participants is scheduled for Friday 4 March 2022.

(b) Two meetings of Queensland industry participants occurred during the Reporting Period:

- i. A meeting between AEMO, APA, CleanCo, Department of Energy and Public Works (**DEPW**), Origin and Powerlink was held on Friday 4 February 2022 (as observed by a representative of the ACCC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss any potential issues that may arise in relation to maintenance or scheduled outages in Queensland, and the resources required, in light of COVID-19. The participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance and the specialist skills required. The participants discussed how current maintenance and outages were progressing, the impact of planned maintenance being delayed, extended or moved due to COVID-19 related issues and the processes for carrying out work in light of COVID-19. In particular, the participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on their maintenance workforce, including the number of employees who had tested positive and mitigation strategies they have adopted to reduce potential impacts (such as split teams and rapid antigen testing). The participants also discussed the impact that recent extreme weather events had had on electricity generation in Queensland, and the potential for COVID-19 related maintenance outages to exacerbate these events.
- ii. A meeting between AEMO, APA, CleanCo, CS Energy, DEPW, Origin, Intergen and Powerlink was held on Friday 18 February 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss any potential issues that may arise in relation to maintenance or scheduled outages in Queensland, and the resources required, in light of COVID-19. The participants shared information relating to the timing of proposed maintenance, the skills required and any potential disruptions to planned maintenance due to COVID-19. In particular, the participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on their maintenance workforce, including the number of employees who had tested positive and mitigation strategies they have adopted to reduce potential impacts (such as split teams and rapid antigen testing), as well as strategies to effectively manage border restrictions when sourcing specialist maintenance labour from overseas. The participants also discussed planned transmission outages.
- iii. The next meeting of Queensland industry participants is scheduled for Friday 4 March 2022.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any queries in relation to this report.

Kind regards

Tony Snell AM
General Counsel (Interim) and Group Manager, Legal



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