
From: Tony Snell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 5 November 2020 7:02 PM
To: Exemptions
Cc: Camilleri, Lyn; Ross, Nicole; Sood, Rajat; Drake, Michael; Janissen, Robert; Brett Hausler; Mark Stedwell; Healy, Rosannah; Archer, Luke
Subject: AEMO Authorisation dated 17 September 2020: report for period 12 October - 31 October 2020

We refer to condition 1 of the authorisation granted by the ACCC on 17 September 2020 (**Authorisation**) and the reporting protocol contained in Attachment A of the Authorisation.

Set out below is AEMO's report for the period 11 October – 31 October 2020 (**Reporting Period**).

This report can be published on the public register.

1. Material contracts, arrangements, understandings or decisions that rely on the Authorisation

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

The following decisions that rely on 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, Basslink, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (**DEWLP**), Energy Australia and Origin was held on Friday 16 October. 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 discussed the fact that the Authorisation had come into force. 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 (such as additional time being required to complete work or issues sourcing labour and/or parts, in particular due to border closures and quarantine requirements). The participants also discussed planned AusNet Services, Basslink and Murraylink transmission outages.
- ii. A meeting between AEMO, Alinta, AusNet, DEWLP, Energy Australia and Origin was held on Friday 30 October. 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 (such as additional time being required to complete work or issues sourcing labour and/or parts, in particular due to border closures and quarantine requirements). The participants also discussed planned AusNet Services transmission outages.
- iii. The next meeting of Victoria Industry Participants is scheduled for Friday 6 November 2020.

b) Two meetings of Queensland Industry Participants occurred during the Reporting Period:

- i. A meeting between AEMO, CS Energy, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Queensland) (**DNRME**), Intergen and Stanwell was held on Friday 16 October. 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 discussed the fact that the Authorisation had come into force. 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. The participants also discussed inter-State border crossing restrictions and quarantine requirements.

- ii. A meeting between AEMO, Cleanco, CS Energy, DNRME, Intergen, Origin, Powerlink and Stanwell was held on Friday 30 October. 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. The participants also discussed inter-State border crossing restrictions and quarantine requirements, including changes to the border directions allowing further cross-border movement of labour.
 - iii. The next meeting of Queensland Meeting Participants is scheduled for Friday 13 November 2020.
- c) As discussed with the ACCC on Monday 26 October, a meeting was also held on Wednesday 21 October between the Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, AEMO, DEWLP, and senior staff from the following participants: Alinta, AGL, Energy Australia, and Origin. DEWLP provided an update for the Minister, expressing thanks to the industry participants for their work in coordinating outages and other work under the Authorisation under challenging circumstances. AEMO delivered a presentation regarding summer preparedness for Victoria. In this presentation, AEMO:
- i. discussed the weather outlook for the Victorian summer and the forest fire danger index;
 - ii. provided projections of unserved energy in the NEM, updates on forced outage rates, and information about the Victorian supply/demand balance;
 - iii. discussed plans for the upcoming summer, including lessons learned in previous years and this year to date;
 - iv. canvassed risks and issues for Victoria over the summer period, including network constraints and limitations, potential weather challenges, the impact of forced outages, and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
 - v. emphasised the cross-sector engagement necessary for the lead-in to the summer period, including discussing the successes of coordination under the Authorisation and discussing briefings to be had in November with emergency management services and with all NEM participants.

Each of the industry participants also discussed at a high level some of the challenges they have faced in managing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (in particular, accessing parts and labour from overseas during the pandemic) and their summer preparedness.

2. Update to the Energy Coordination Mechanism

The Energy Coordination Mechanism did not meet during the Reporting Period.

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

Kind regards

Tony Snell AM

Group Manager, Legal

Australian Energy Market Operator Limited

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Working days at AEMO: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, AEMO has adopted digital and remote ways of working to protect our people and critical operations. Please be aware that most meetings will now be conducted digitally to minimise physical contact and allow business to continue. Given the dramatic increase in load on our systems, please bear with us while we work through any technical issues that may result.