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Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Attention Dr Richard Chadwick

Dear Sir

Re: Notification N95736 lodged by Energex Limited

Thank you for providing this office an opportunity to comment on the Design Automation Tool Program that Energex want all Subdivision Consultants to use to Document the High Voltage, Low Voltage Network and Street Lighting Installations.

We were advised that the program would be provided to Consultants Free of Charge and infact this is so for the time being.

At a Forum we were informed that the DAT Program would only operate on full AutoCAD 2011 version. At the time we were operating on AutoCAD 2004 Light Version of which we owned three licenses.

In short, we purchased 2 AutoCAD 2011 Licenses, a new Laptop with Windows 7 OS and another Work Stations. Two of our existing work stations were upgraded and the total outlay to our Business of \$23000.00. Energex contributed by giving each Consultant a contribution of \$5200.00 to purchase an AutoCAD 2011 package.

We were invited and attended a Workshop on the DAT at KarelCAD. First impressions were horrible. The System was very slow and cumbersome. Now almost two years past not much has changed.

The issues we have with DAT are:-

1. The Survey Base has to be on the MGA System – Mapping Grid of Australia.
2. This is different to the Project Survey Bases that are provided to ALL Consultants by Surveyors for ALL Projects.
3. Hence to start with we have to make up one Base Drawing to a Project Survey Base by inserting all of the other Services Consultants information into one Drawing and then convert this to an MGA Base.
4. When this is set up we receive the Base Map from Energex which is inserted into our MGA Map. It does not line up and an alignment of this map is required. We are now ready to Document.
5. The Data Base of the DAT Program is enormous and a DAT Download is approximately 38MB.
6. We normally insert Blocks into our Drawings, one of each kind and with a series of copy and paste operations, are able to locate Service Pillars quickly into their relevant locations and rotate each to align to boundaries.

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Unfortunately, with the DAT System, each Block has to be retrieved from the Library and inserted individually, they are then rotated to the correct alignment. This is a very slow process. Also Data for each Block is to be added when inserting the Block. Again this hinders the Designer.

7. Any Items on the Energex Mains Map external to our Project but which could have a bearing on our Project is to be updated by the Designer. This could be anything from pole type, height, hardware and constructions.
8. We were informed that when the Design was complete it would automatically draw up and Data fill equipment, conduit and cable schedules. We have only seen this for a four item schedule.

SUMMARY

In short the only way that we could make this System work is for us to Design and Document our Projects as we have done in the past. When complete we would transfer the Data into the DAT Program for Energex.

This is doubling up on work but it will be the only way to satisfy Energex.

The crunch now is that our Staff do not have this extra time to duplicate our Design Documents and hence we have two choices.

1. We send our Documents to an External Drafting Office pay them direct and recoup expenses from our Clients.
2. Do nothing.
Send our Documents into Energex and let them transfer the information onto their Data Base.

Energex have provided Consultants with a scale of fees which they will charge if Consultants were not going to use the DAT Program. These fees ranged from \$50.00 to \$1200.00 depending on the number of Service Pillars installed and the like.

Therefore we have opted for Choice 2, do nothing.

The extra fees will show up on the Subdividers Supply Agreement which is paid directly to Energex by our Clients.

When we first started our Subdivision at Forest Lake we spoke to Energex and offered them our AutoCAD files complete with all our blocks. These Blocks carry some attributes which we could have expanded in such a way that they could have been used by Energex to provide a full Data Base of this area.

This offer was rejected. Had it not been rejected we could have had the following areas on a Data System similar to the DAT System.

- Forest Lake
- Varsity Lakes
- Springfield Lakes
- Brookwater
- The list goes on.

Such is life.

Yours faithfully

John J van der Boor
Director