

What was discussed in AEMO's wholesale and retail forums in February and March 2016

Gas Retail Consultative Forum (GRCF)

25 February 2016

New issue/change register

The forum heard that AEMO now has a combined gas and electricity register from the once separate issues / change registers for the GRCF and Electricity Retail Consultative Forum (ERCF). Having a combined register is another step towards improving retail industry access to information.

Life Support Indicator

AGL circulated the Gas Market Issue (GMI) review paper on how distributors and retailers can exchange advice on providing customer Life Support (LS) notifications. The forum discussed harmonising gas LS processes, including identification, and potentially adopting NSW / ACT processes across all jurisdictions.

AEMO asked distributors (DBs) and retailers to examine the review's proposed changes and implementation options.

Gas Service Order (GSO) handbook

Origin Energy put forward a proposal, agreed by forum members, to develop a GSO handbook that would explain the field work planned by each DB at each site that will satisfy each job enquiry code.

AEMO asked that the handbook be a guide only, and that it reference rules, procedures and build packs that take preference over the handbook. It was suggested that AEMO oversee maintenance of the handbook, and industry provide updates and annual review.

Merger of Ellengrove gate stations

An action from the meeting was to circulate to retailers news of Queensland's intent to decommission meter 1 at the Ellengrove gate station, targeted for late March.

Retailers were asked to advise AEMO when they could update their own systems to accommodate the Ellengrove gate stations merger into one following the decommission.

QLD and SA Unaccounted For Gas (UAFG)

AEMO reminded forum members that the December meeting proposal to align Qld and SA UAFG processes with Victoria's was put on hold, pending a participant review of costs and benefits.

AEMO advised that since no revised cost / benefit submissions had been received, no further work would be done on the alignment proposal.

GRCF next meeting: 28 April 2016

Retail Market Consultative Forum (RMCF)

19 February and 24 March 2016

Power of Choice (PoC) update

Forum members heard that AEMO had decided that any changes to the Meter Replacement Rule (published 10 March) would be incorporated in Metering Competition (MC) if required.

(MRR link: <http://www.aemc.gov.au/Rule-Changes/Meter-Replacement-Processes#>)

A new Information Exchange Committee (IEC) will be established in the next few months as a result of AEMC's draft determination on Shared Market Protocol (SMP). AEMO has issued a paper detailing the program for the IEC establishment, operating manual and initial SMP procedures, design work and conceptual IT design. The new IEC will ultimately determine what the SMP procedures and framework will look like. AEMO has been progressing the IEC's business to business (B2B) transaction list in workshops held on 23 February, 17 March and 14 April.

Meanwhile, AEMO has established a PoC landing page on its website for stakeholder reference, that includes all working group meeting and PoC-related material. AEMO will release an information paper for PoC procedure changes covering embedded networks (EN) and MC. This is as a prelude to the formal industry Procedure Consultation beginning on 22 April. It is anticipated a second procedure consultation for review and update (containing about 18 documents) will begin shortly after.

(POC landing page link:

<http://www.aemo.com.au/About-the-Industry/Working-Groups/Retail-Meetings/Power-of-Choice>)

The group heard that AEMO has presented the jurisdictional metrology procedures to the Commonwealth for consideration. The Commonwealth's timelines for consideration are yet to be confirmed. The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science addressed members about monitoring jurisdictional safety regulators' progress through any safety related concerns, including remote re-energisation and de-energisation of meters at consumers' premises.

Shared Market Protocol (SMP)

In a verbal update to the group, AEMO confirmed the AEMC's draft SMP rule publication release date was 7 April, after which the transitional IEC would consider the future process direction.

(Draft SMP link: [Updating the electricity B2B framework](#))

AEMO noted for the group that it had incorporated industry feedback in its SMP timetable and reviewed the IEC's draft list of B2B transactions. As a next step, AEMO aims to merge this work with an original service list that AEMO identified in the SMP advice. A strawman approach will be then be used to:

- Update the list of services, using work from the review undertaken in the workshop.
- Identify communication mapping for the new framework.

Regulatory changes

AEMO provided an update on the Meter Replacement Rule Change on 10 March.

It is expected that initial consultation papers for the two Council of Australian Governments (COAG) – initiated rule changes regarding customer transfers and address standards will be published by the AEMC at end of April.

Collaborative Retail Working Group report

AEMO shared key updates from the last GRCF and IEC meetings:

- The GRCF noted that discussion had occurred around SA-Qld UAFG treatment and LS indicators. Industry had been informed that the merger of the Ellengrove gate stations had been pushed back to mid-2016 from the anticipated late March date, but this was still to be confirmed.

- The IEC informed the group that the key topic for their next meeting will be B2B transactions and process recommendations.

NSW/ACT Retail Gas Project (NARGP) update

AEMO confirmed that the latest NARGP industry testing and transition planning for the 2 May 2016 go-live date was still on track. Progress included:

- Industry Testing and Certification:
 - The Market Trial second cycle concluded on 29 January with 99.7% of test scenarios successfully executed. The third cycle ran from 7–24 March.
 - The certification window was open from 7 March–1 April.
- Transition, cutover and controlled production start planning:
 - Transition plans and the cutover plan for all networks has been signed off.
 - Development of the Jemena–controlled production start plan was ready for sign-off by the end of March.
- Go-live decision:
 - At the NARGP-CF meeting on 15 March, all participants confirmed readiness for the 2 May 'go-live'.

RMCF next meeting: 29 April 2016