

What was discussed in AEMO's wholesale and retail forums during March 2015

Business-to-business and Market Settlement and Transfer Solutions (B2B and MSATS) Reference Group (BMRG)

11-12 March 2015

Enhancements update

AEMO reported the BMRG cost-benefit analyses have been completed for Issues/Change Form (ICF) 4754 – Metering Roles and Standing Data updates and 4756 – Next Scheduled Read Date Provision to Local Retailer. The forum agreed the enhancements should progress, and opted to bundle these with other changes in May/Nov 2016.

Customer Access to Data

AEMO updated the BMRG on this project, explaining the stakeholder engagement process and inviting participants to attend stakeholder workshops.

*B2B and MSATS Reference Group next meeting:
15-16 April 2015*

Gas Retail Consultative Forum (GRCF)

17 March 2015

South Australia – Queensland Unaccounted For Gas (UAFG)

The forum discussed retailer feedback on the proposal from Australian Gas Networks (AGN) for aligning the UAFG arrangements in South Australia and Queensland with Victoria's approach. The forum noted that the majority of retailers were broadly supportive, in principle, of AGN's proposal, but that they needed more information on the regulatory and system changes required under this proposal. AEMO agreed to work with AGN and retailers on next steps.

Queensland Retailer of Last Resort (RoLR)

AEMO advised participants that consultation on the proposed Retail Market Procedures change for the operation and implementation of the RoLR scheme closed on 17 March 2015.

The GRCF discussed timeframes to test system changes to support the procedural RoLR obligations. As the rate of customers transferred away from AGL and Origin Energy to other retailers is very low, the consensus was that the manual RoLR process can be used until system changes are implemented. For some participants, this is expected to occur in September 2015, so testing will be targeted for no earlier than Q4 2015, subject to resource availability.

Agreement on priority issues

In a recent prioritisation session, the GRCF discussed pending issues on the gas retail market issues/change register. Several items were identified as opportunities to add clarity and improve retail market operations, which could form work programs to be undertaken over the next six to 12 months. Two of these items are applying the use of retrospective transfers across all jurisdictions, and reviewing all retail market procedures to make terminology more relevant and consistent. The April GRCF meeting will discuss and agree on next steps to progress these initiatives.

Unique gas meter serial numbers

Participants agreed to test new seven character meter serial numbers in their operational systems before fully adopting them. The GRCF recommended the Responsible Person Working Group complete an end to end test of at least one new serial number with all retailers.

*Gas Retail Consultative Forum next meeting:
21 April 2015*

National Electricity Market Wholesale Consultative Forum (NEMW-CF)

25 March 2015

Renewable energy integration update

AEMO updated the forum on work so far in South Australia, including how the work ties in with obligations in the rules which classify contingencies as either credible or non-credible. Participant questions covered lack of inertia as an issue during or post-contingency, the use of RoCoF (rate of change of frequency), and future plans for the modelling of PV inverters after a frequency disturbance.

AEMO asked for feedback on what participants would like to hear about in NEM-wide roadshow briefings planned for August 2015. Ideas included PV, gap analysis on standards around embedded generation, battery storage, and work around standards and frequency issues. AEMO will seek more feedback on this topic.

IT Service Management Forums

AEMO gave an update on these forums, designed to increase consultation and collaboration between AEMO and stakeholders and improve service management processes such as incident management, change management, release management and Service desk functions. The first forum is scheduled for 5 May. It will be held every three months to start, then, once it is established, forums will be held twice a year.

Congestion Information Resource (CIR)

AEMO spoke to the forum about the upcoming CIR consultation, and asked why industry has been giving less feedback about its effectiveness. Participants acknowledged that CIR provides important information and industry feedback is vital. AEMO agreed to pursue participants' suggestions including more one-on-one discussions before formal consultation, a review of contact details, and to consider including additional information in the Annual NEM Constraint Report, including around the accuracy of network outage scheduling.

Connection process review

The forum discussed the current review, which aims to make the connection process clear, concise, flexible and informative for customers. Issues raised included simplest methods for feedback and the costs and scope of the review. AEMO will keep engaging with participants until the review ends in June/July 2015, and will then present findings to the forum.

Marginal Loss Factors (MLF)

AEMO gave an update on the 2015–16 MLF, to be released in April and come into effect on 1 July 2015. AEMO thanked the forum for their input to revisions of the methodology used for the 2015–16 MLF calculations.

Energy Markets for a Changing Environment

AEMO explained this internal initiative, which has resulted in three work streams becoming BAU – renewable energy integration, plant forced outage data monitoring, and assessing security implications of plant exits. Participants asked about other work streams that did not become BAU, market implications, and what AEMO plans to take to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Energy Council. AEMO will consider its approach once COAG has provided a final letter and terms of reference.

Period of reduced IT change activity

AEMO explained that its Brisbane office and data centre relocation will mean a period of reduced IT change from August 2015 to April 2016, but there will be minimal impact on market participants and no system changes will be needed.

Consultative Forum terms of reference

The forum agreed to proposed updates to the NEMW-CF terms of reference, setting out administration KPIs related to minutes and meeting packs. Updated terms of reference will be uploaded to AEMO's website.

National Electricity Market Wholesale Consultative Forum next meeting: 27 May 2015

Retail Market Consultative Forum (RMCF)

27 March 2015

NSW/ACT Retail Gas Project (NARGP)

The NARGP is designing and implementing gas market arrangements and technology changes needed to introduce business to business (B2B) and business to market (B2M) in NSW and the ACT, aligning these arrangements (as far as possible) with those in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

AEMO updated the forum on high level workstreams around procedures, infrastructure and systems, and market arrangements and technology. The forum also heard about upcoming process mapping workshops and stakeholder consultations, with Build Pack #6, for consultation in Wagga Wagga and Tamworth, starting on 27 March.

Shared Market Protocol

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Energy Council asked AEMO to provide them with advice on a Shared Market Protocol that will be used to deliver advanced metering services to the market. This advice was split into two parts.

The first part of the advice, which covered details of Shared Market Protocol and information technology advice for its implementation, was delivered to COAG Energy Council in March.

The second part of the advice, which covers the process for adding services to the Shared Market Protocol and the potential to leverage more capability from Shared Market Protocol, will be delivered to the COAG Energy Council in May. AEMO has been engaging with industry stakeholders on the development of this advice.

Customer Access to Data

The project is developing procedures identifying minimum requirements for retailers and distributors, for the method, timeframe, and format in which they will provide metering data when retail customers or customer authorised representatives ask for it. The project's aim is for customers to have easier access to metering data so they can make informed choices.

AEMO updated the forum on feedback from one-on-one stakeholder meetings during March. Consumer, retailer and distributor stakeholders agreed that data formats need to be simple and usable, but had different views on the degree of procedural prescription, the need for verification processes, and privacy concerns about the use of data. AEMO encouraged forum participants to be involved in workshops and other stakeholder consultations being held from April to July.

Retail Market Consultative Forum next meeting: 24 April 2015