

MEETING OUTCOMES – RETAIL FORUM

MEETING: WAMRP Retail Forum 3
 DATE: Friday, 24 March 2017
 TIME: 9.00 am – 2.00 pm (AWST)
 LOCATION: AEMO Boardroom – Level 17, 197 St Georges Terrace, Perth

ATTENDEES:

NAME	COMPANY
Alicia Volvricht	AEMO
Taryn Maroney	AEMO
Mark Lee	AEMO
Greg Ruthven	AEMO
Andrew Gee	AEMO
Sandy Smith (telephone)	AEMO
Robert Speedy (telephone)	AEMO
Catherine Rousch	Alinta Energy
Derek Farrell	Alinta Energy
Jeanne Walczak	Alinta Energy
Ryan McKenzie	Alinta Energy
Tim McLeod	Amanda Australia
Adam Stephen	Bluewaters
Ignatius Chin	Bluewaters
James Eastcott	Public Utilities Office (PUO)
Karthi Mahalingham	Synergy
Stephanie Wall	Synergy
Di Edwards	Synergy
Christian Merry	Synergy
David Hayde	Synergy
Brian Sykes	Western Power

1. Introduction

General Notes

AEMO welcomed stakeholders to the third Retail Forum.

The presentation referred to in these meeting outcomes was made available to registered stakeholders prior to the forum and AEMO advised will be made available on AEMO's website next week post any updates which may be identified in today's discussion.

2. MSATS (Market Settlements and Transfer System).

General Notes - Slides 1-33 of the Presentation

The following items were discussed and noted:

- Question: Will all MSATS transaction types be available to the WA market?
Answer: Yes all will be available for use for the WA market. This is also inclusive of Embedded Networks if they should be considered in scope in the future.
Assumption to-date is that Embedded Networks are not considered in scope for the Retail Project and as a result are not anticipated to be migrated to MSATS.
- Question: Is there a limit to how many users can be granted authorised user access in MSATS as part of the Participant Administrator (PA) role for their organisation?
Answer: No
- Question: In what cases would ombudsman organisations require access to MSATS and what data can they see?
Answer: An example would be in response to an ombudsman case, e.g. validation of standing data relating to a retail bill dispute. In the NEM ombudsman organisations have access to initiate NMI Discovery processes (standing data). The Retailer is notified when a NMI is accessed in MSATS by the ombudsman for these purposes.
Consideration for WA as part of Market Readiness Activities would be to ascertain which organisations would require this access and need to be engaged with to organise access.
- Question: Where will registration and accreditation preparation activities be addressed?
Answer: Registration and accreditation are vital activities to be included as part of AEMO's Market Readiness Plan. The Market Readiness Plan is dependent on the policy directive and commencement date. A detailed review of the NEM Registration Procedures will be undertaken when WA policy direction is certain to ascertain how the NEM procedures and processes will interlink with WA registration requirements (e.g. consideration required with respect to Western Power's role as the deemed Metering Co-ordinator)
AEMO noted that it would be beneficial for Participants to prepare to commence registration and accreditation processes to access AEMO's systems 12-18 months prior to commencement date (dependent on role). An example, Western Power will be responsible for providing the standing data files to AEMO, this will require Western Power to register as a participant in advance of testing the Bulk Data Tool Process (test connectivity etc.)
Participants as part of the accreditation process will be assigned a Participant ID (applicable to their Role/s), this will be required for example prior to a FRMP being able to validate data and run reports in MSATS Pre-Production systems for NMIs they are recorded as being the current FRMP for at time of data migration testing.
- Question: Will only contestable NMIs (consuming 50MWh and above) be migrated to MSATS?
Answer: AEMO has worked on the assumption as per previous directives, to prepare for a future implementation of full retail market contestability. This assumes migrating all market connection points (with NMIs) for both non-contestable and contestable customers at the commencement date.

- Question: Who would be responsible for determining whether a NMI is contestable versus non-contestable?

Answer: Dependent on the policy outcomes, current assumption is the obligation will remain with Western Power (as the LNSP) to provide (via data migration) and maintain the “contestable flag” in MSATS post the commencement date (go live).

AEMO noted that discussions with the PUO have identified the need for a flag in MSATS to identify (discoverable) whether a NMI is contestable (>50 MWh) or non-contestable (\leq 50MWh), only NMIs flagged as contestable to be able to transfer until full retail market contestability is introduced in WA.

- Question: Will non-contestable sites be discoverable in MSATS?

Answer: Yes. All NMIs migrated to MSATS will be discoverable in MSATS, MSATS is an open market system.

AEMO noted that both the current WA and NEM rules do not require explicit informed consent from a customer for a prospective FRMP to initiate a NMI Discovery request therefore this was not considered to be in conflict with policy obligations.

Explicit informed consent is a requirement in order for a prospective FRMP to initiate a transfer and as non-contestable sites are anticipated to be prevented initially from transferring retailers until full retail contestability is introduced this is not seen as being a regulatory requirement. A NMI Discovery Type 2 Response does not provide customer information, nor tariff information or consumption data. The data a prospective FRMP has access to be limited in comparison to data available as the current FRMP.

3. Roles

General Notes

The following items were discussed and noted:

- Question: AEMO requested confirmation if Synergy is assumed to be the allocated SoLR (RoLR) Role at time of data migration.

Answer: It is assumed that Synergy, subject to the WA SoLR policy framework outcomes, will be allocated the role of SoLR (RoLR) at the time of data migration.

AEMO also noted that the RoLR Role in MSATS is for indicative purposes, in the event of a NEM RoLR event the RoLR Role could change.

Currently in the NEM the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) issues RoLR notices under the National Energy Retail Law (NERL). AEMO is aware that the WA SoLR process for declaring an event may differ, however are working to the assumption as outlined in the October 2016 Retail Forum that once/if a WA SoLR event is declared, AEMO would be notified and that AEMO’s RoLR Procedures would take effect for WA.

- Question: Would a NSP2 (Second Network Service Provider) be applicable for WA?

Answer: It is not anticipated that the NSP2 role would be relevant for WA as they do not currently have a second network service provider.

- Question: A participant asked Western Power if its existing portal is anticipated to remain in place if AEMO was to take on the role of the Market Operator.

Answer: Western Power's assumption is that AEMO's systems (MSATS and B2B) will replace Western Power's portal for Market Operator service functions. Western Power's preference is not to maintain two interfaces.

- Question: Why does AEMO invoice Tier 2 sites?

Answer: This relates to wholesale market settlements. In the NEM, as each NMI is transferred away from the Tier 1 retailer, its metered energy consumption from that day forward is subtracted from the total boundary metering of its franchise retailer and is added to the energy account of the new retailer of choice. This is known as 'settlement by difference', AEMO invoices the current FRMP for a Tier 2 site for this.

- Question: Who undertakes global settlement?

Answer: AEMO settles by difference, global settlement does not currently exist in the NEM.

4. Standing Data

General Notes

The following items were discussed and noted:

- Question: Where are network tariff codes sourced from?

Answer: AEMO explained that the network tariff is stored against the NMI in MSATS. AEMO is responsible for maintaining the Master Tables utilised for Standing Data Transactions, Network Tariff Code is stored in the CATS_Register_Identifier table (e.g. the field format/length). The Network is responsible for creating and maintaining the Network Tariff Code in MSATS and this is included in various market transactions, AEMO does not source the network tariff codes.

It was noted that currently in WA the FRMP can be responsible for determining the network tariff code to be assigned. AEMO advised that this could still occur, for example - via new connection processes the FRMP can select the appropriate network tariff available with the Network through service negotiations, however in MSATS the Network is responsible for creating and maintaining the NMI Standing Data in MSATS for the network tariff. The retailer could reconcile in its own systems against the network tariff received via market transactions.

Action: Further discussion off-line initially with Synergy per its feedback to ascertain how retailer specific network tariffs operate in WA to consider how this may work in the future (system/processes)

- Question: Can sites without NMIs be migrated to MSATS? (E.g. off-market sites – unmetered supply?)

Answer: Policy outcomes for unmetered supply will determine if off-market sites will be loaded into AEMO's market systems. If they are required at go-live date they will need to be allocated NMIs by Western Power prior to data migration via AEMO's Bulk Data Tool as they do not currently have a NMI allocated.

- Question: Who will determine whether the Customer Classification Code will be classified as 'business versus 'residential'?

Answer: AEMO explained that in comparison to the NEM, the customer classification codes used in WA are different and in order to adopt the NEM model, Western Power will need to work with the current FRMP to ascertain which NMIs will be flagged with customer classification code 'business' versus 'residential' prior to data migration.

The FRMP is responsible for setting the classification code as it is derived from the customer's primary purpose of electricity usage determined as part of the customer quote process.

AEMO clarified that the NEM customer classification codes were introduced as part of the National Energy Customer Framework changes in 2012 (NECF) as outlined in the National Electricity Retail Rules, made under the National Electricity Retail Law.

AEMO explained the WA customer classification of 'lighting' is not stored in the NEM model at the Customer Classification Code level. 'Unmetered (UMS)' on market NMIs can be identified as the metering installation type code (UMCP), subject to the policy outcomes for unmetered supplies and whether they will be migrated to MSATS. Currently UMS do not have NMIs allocated in WA.

- Question: What does MSATS use NMI Classification codes "SMALL' and 'LARGE' for?

Answer: In WA, classifications appear to be aggregated customer usage instead of individual exit point. PUO confirmed its policy position that the intent is for WA to move to the NEM model where classification is by each connection point.

Stakeholders questioned what the classifications are used for in the NEM. AEMO clarified it was relevant for identifying whether certain Change Requests are appropriate in MSATS, timeframes and transactions. This information is also used for contracting purposes and retail processes, different rules can apply in the NEM as outlined in the NERR.

There was a discussion with respect to further clarification being required in respect of the difference between large and small use customers (greater than or equal to 160Mwh for WA?)

- Question: Are the definitions the same for Data Stream Types when comparing WA to the NEM?

Answer: It was noted that further analysis would be required to confirm if the NEM definitions are aligned with the use in the WEM. (E.g. what is 'Consumption' used for in comparison with 'Non Interval' per Western Power's codes?) This can be confirmed with Western Power directly.

- Question: Where AEMO had identified standing data elements that Western Power currently holds, how will they be dealt with under the new arrangements? Refer to slide 69.

Answer: Further analysis and discussions will be required between AEMO and participants. AEMO has requested participants review slide 69 and undertake further analysis within their internal businesses and provide feedback to AEMO.

Some examples and considerations include:

- Direction indicator refers to whether it is import or export energy. Confirm the NEM equivalent.
- Distance from Substation is used for network billing and independently validating values regarding the cost of transfer. Used for quoting purposes to ascertain cost of transport. The NEM model doesn't store this information in MSATS as it is not required for Transfer and Settlement purposes. Network billing also currently occurs directly between the Network and retailer in the NEM.

- Location Number in WA is used for rural property addresses and there is a large number of addresses listed using this. AEMO suggested the unstructured site addresses could be used for location number (E.g. RW) as it is also used in the NEM who also have rural property addresses.
- Question: Does AEMO require two years of data as part of data migration?

Answer: AEMO explained its understanding that at least two years' worth of data will be required, taking into considerations requirements for the Reserve Capacity Mechanism (RCM) and settlement revisions.

There was a discussion with respect to Western Power's ability to provide two years' worth of basic meter data versus interval meter data. Further analysis and discussions required between AEMO and Western Power to consider timeframes and activities required as part of Market Readiness - Data Migration planning. It was noted WA currently has approximately 30,000 interval metered sites.

5. Bulk Data Tool

General Notes

The following items were discussed and noted:

- Question: How will participants be able to validate the standing data in MSATS post data migration?

Answer: AEMO explained MSATS can run Master Reports which can provide a full extract of NMI Standing Data based on role (e.g. current FRMP). Once the data is loaded into MSATS pre-production environment, participants that are registered to utilise MSATS will be able to use reports to view data prior to go-live. The MSATS Master Report will provide a full extract of the NMI Standing Data. This report is usually used for reconciliation and data recovery so it is run infrequently, but would be beneficial to run for these purposes in WA.

Once data is loaded into MSATS Production via the Bulk Data Tool, AEMO explained that data can only be updated via raising Change Requests in MSATS if an anomaly found (e.g. CATS 500x series). As part of data migration activities AEMO will be recommending multiple data drops into MSATS pre-production so that the data can be validated multiple times prior to go live.

- Question: What is the anticipated timing for loading the initial NMI Standing Data into MSATS?

Answer: Dependent on policy outcomes, if commencement date was 1 July 2019, the target would be for participants to register with AEMO by the end of 2017 and for Western Power to commence testing its ability to load data files early 2018. This would also be subject to Western Power's ability to load files and correct data load errors. Once data is loaded into MSATS pre-production, registered participants could commence reviewing the data they are privy to have access to dependent on role. Further discussions will be undertaken between Western Power, AEMO and the PUO initially as part of Market Readiness activity planning, taking into consideration policy directives.

6. NMI Discovery

General Notes

The following items were discussed and noted:

- Question: Can you initiate NMI Discovery requests in bulk?
Answer: NMI Discoveries sent in an xml file request can include multiple requests, but responses are processed one at a time as NMIs are not published as a complete NMI listing.
- Question: When initiating either a Type 1, 2 or 3 NMI Discovery in MSATS, does MSATS validate against Role?
Answer: Yes. As explained in overview slides, only a FRMP, LNRP or ombudsman can initiate.
- Question: AEMO asked if WA Participants were aware of the definition differences for UMI versus NMI? In the WA Government Gazette Electricity Industry Act 2004 it references UMI, whereas in the Metering Code references NMI?
Answer: Participants advised that that there was no real concern with respect to the difference references between UMI and NMI, NMI is widely referred to in WA.

7. Change Requests Overview

7.1. General Notes

The following items were discussed and noted:

- Question: What are the grounds for objections in the NEM?
Answer: Whether a role can object to a Change Request can vary per Change Request Type, by Role and by NMI Classification code (small versus large).
As part of AEMO's presentation an overview of each Change Request will be provided which will include the objection rules. Some are also jurisdictional based, for example in Queensland and Victoria the current FRMP can object to a transfer for debt if it meets specific jurisdictional rule requirements. AEMO has assumed as WA does not provide ability to object for Debt in the current Transfer Code that this will remain the case.
It was noted that there is a difference in definitions for 'business day' between WA and the NEM. AEMO explained that timeframe rules and objection rules are based on business days and definitions can be different, time will be based on AWST.
- Question: Are all the MSATS Change Request Codes listed currently utilised in the NEM?
Answer: Yes

8. Read Type Codes

General Notes

The following item was discussed and noted:

- It was noted that not all read type codes are used across jurisdictions, some are jurisdictional based. AEMO explained that NEM Transfers can only occur with an actual meter reading, however there are read type codes of ER (estimated) and CR (consumer read) in MSATS if jurisdictional policy was introduced. It was discussed that WA, like the NEM, also requires an actual read to be obtained to transfer. WA doesn't currently use read type codes as part of the transfer process and as meters

are currently required to have an interval meter installed in order to transfer the read type code applicable for interval Meter would be the appropriate code to use for prospective transfers. If full retail competition was introduced in WA then others may be applicable in the future.

9. Objections

General Notes

The following item was discussed and noted:

- The PUO commented that the Retail Market Working Group considered objection codes last year and was considering if the objection code 'contracts' could be utilised.

10. Change Retailer

The following items were discussed and noted:

- It was noted the daily limit for capping WA change requests was recently changed in the latest version of the Consumer Transfer Code 2016, the limit increased from 20 to 100 per business day. AEMO to update this in the presentation.
- It was also noted that AEMO will update XML to WAEXML on slide 157

11. Next Steps

General Notes

AEMO welcomed feedback from participants if there was value in holding the Retail Forums until there was further policy certainty.

The following feedback was noted:

- One stakeholder suggested deferring the next forum until there is policy certainty.
- The sessions could be improved by separating the type of information (market overview vs change request details) and delivering these in separate forums/sessions to allow relevant staff to attend.

Next meeting

The next Retail Forum meeting is scheduled for 21th April at 9:00am.

Topics of discussion will include:

- Overview of remaining CATS Transactions
- MSATS Reports
- Overview of WIGS Procedures (Wholesale, Interconnectors, Generators and Sample NMI)