# **Notice of First Stage Consultation**

National Electricity Rules – Clause 8.9

## **b2b procedure changes**

**Date of Notice: 19 March 2018**

This notice informs all Registered Participants and interested parties (Consulted Persons) that AEMO is conducting a consultation on B2B Procedures on behalf of the Information Exchange Committee (IEC) which have been developed and amended as a result of the National Electricity Amendment (Updating the electricity B2B framework) Rule 2016.

This consultation is being done in accordance with the Rules consultation requirements detailed in clause 8.9 of the NER.

1. **Background**

On 19th December 2017 the Australian Energy Market Commission published a Final Determination and an updated version of the rule for strengthening protections for customers requiring life support equipment.

The final rule was made in response to a rule change request submitted by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER), in the context of problems the AER has identified with the current life support provisions. Specifically where:

• customers requiring life support equipment are not being validly registered to receive protections, putting them at increased risk of harm.

• there is no onus on retailers and distributors to provide customers with information to facilitate registration when notified of the need for life support equipment.

• life support registers have grown and become increasingly inaccurate despite mandatory periodic reconciliations.

The final rule contains a number of new obligations on both the retailers and distributors in relation to the information which is required to be shared.

The changes include:

• Required date when life support is needed or not needed.

• Relevant contact details.

• Life Support Equipment

• A de-registration reason if life support is no longer required.

• A notification advising of life support requirements from the distributor to the retailer where the distributor is the registration process owner (when the customer has transferred).

Sharing information regarding Life Support customers between Retailer and Distributors is not new – however the new rules require some additional content to be provided.

1. **Matter under Consultation**

The matter for consultation is the following list of procedures which the IEC is proposing to amend and develop under this consultation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| INSTRUMENT | NEW / AMENDED |
| Customer Site Details Notification | Amended (Major) |
| Service Order | Amended (Version control only) |
| Meter Data Process | Amended (Version control only) |
| One Way Notification | Amended (Version control only) |
| Technical Delivery Specification | Amended (Version control only) |

**Long Term Solution Options**

After being presented 4 solutions created by the B2BWG a decision was made by the IEC to implement the email solution as an interim solution and explore two options for the long term solution to be implemented by end of 2019 as part of this consultation.

The two options are:

Option 1 - B2B Transaction:

This option is to have the life support notification that is required to be provided to the relevant participants be delivered by a new B2B transaction. A new schema may be required. The new transaction would be sent by the current or prospective Retailers and DNSPs.

The B2BWG has explored this option and a fair amount of work was done creating a transaction that could be used for the delivery of life support information. This was one of the solutions presented to the IEC.

Option 2 - Central Repository:

This option is to have life support information stored in a central repository that will allow participants to create, update, remove and discover life support information. The creation, update and removal will only be performed by the registration process owner of the life support information. Discovery can be performed by current participants who have a relationship with the customer or participants who may have a future relationship with the customer.

This option was discussed at the IEC meeting in February and was not a solution put to them by the B2BWG. AEMO will need to perform an analysis as to whether this could meet all of the requirements of the rule change and what would need to be created/modified to allow these requirements to be met.

AEMO and the IEC invite participants to provide comment on the above options and what they believe would be the best outcome for customers and industry. AEMO and the IEC will then review this feedback and make a decision on the option that will be explored, designed and implemented.

**The Consultation Process**

The consultation process and timeline is outlined below. Dates are indicative only and subject to change.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Process Stage  | INDICATIVE Date |
| Closing date for submissions in response to this Notice and Consultation Paper | 26 April 2018 |
| Publication of Draft Report  | 25 May 2018 |
| Submissions due on Draft Report and Determination | 12 June 2018 |
| Publication of Final Report and Determination | By 23 July 2018 |

**Invitation to Make Submissions**

AEMO and the IEC invites written submissions on the matters under consultation, including any alternative or additional proposals that Consulted Persons consider may better meet the objectives of this consultation and the national electricity objective.

Please identify any information in your submission that you consider is to be confidential, and provide the reasons why you wish that information to be treated as confidential. AEMO reserves the right to publish material that it does not consider to be confidential, but will consult with you before doing so.

**Meetings**

In your submission, you may request a meeting with AEMO to discuss the matters under consultation. If you request a meeting, you must state why you consider it necessary or desirable.

If appropriate, meetings may be held jointly with other Consulted Persons. Please note that, subject to confidentiality restrictions, details of matters discussed at a meeting may be made available to other Consulted Persons.

**Closing Date for Submissions**

Submissions in response to this Notice of First Stage of Rules Consultation must reach AEMO **by 5.00pm AEST on 26 April 2018.**

AEMO may consider late submissions, but is not obliged to do so. Late submissions should explain:

1. The reason for lateness.
2. The detriment to you if AEMO fails to consider your submission.

**Contact Details and Publication**

Please send all submissions by email to NEM.Retailprocedureconsultations@aemo.com.au. All submissions must be forwarded in electronic format (both pdf and Word). Please send any queries about this consultation to the same address.

All submissions will be published on AEMO’s website, other than content that AEMO deems to be confidential.