

The background of the lower section is a photograph of a landscape featuring several large wind turbines and high-voltage electrical transmission towers. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue overlay. The wind turbines are positioned on the left side, and the power lines stretch across the right side of the frame.

Independent Market Operator

Rule Change Notice

**Title: Opportunistic
Maintenance outage
approval timeframe**

Ref: RC_2009_20

Standard Rule Change Process

Date: 7 May 2009

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1. THE RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

1.1. The Submission

On 1 May 2009 System Management submitted a Rule Change Proposal regarding an amendment of Clause 3.19.2(a) to the Wholesale Electricity Market Rules (Market Rules).

This Rule Change Notice is published according to Market Rule 2.5.7, which requires the IMO to publish a notice within 7 Business Days of receiving a Rule Change Proposal.

1.1.1 Submission details

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Date submitted:	1 May 2009
Urgency:	Standard Rule Change Process
Change Proposal title:	Opportunistic Maintenance outage approval timeframe
Market Rule(s) affected:	3.19.2(a)

1.2. Details of the Proposal

In its proposal System Management notes that clause 3.19.2(a) of the Market Rules provides that Market Participants and Network Operators submit requests to System Management for approval of day-ahead Opportunistic Maintenance between 6am and 10am on the Scheduling Day.

System Management contends that these timing requirements are rigid and present some difficulties for Market Participants to maximise their ability to obtain an approved day-ahead Opportunistic Maintenance. A further issue is that the file containing outages that System Management is aware of is provided to the IMO shortly after 8am. This may operate to further confine the ability of a Market Participant to seek a day-ahead Opportunistic Maintenance.

System Management proposes an amendment to clause 3.19.2(a) to extend the timeframe to apply to the submission of requests for day-ahead Opportunistic Maintenance.

System Management proposes that a Market Participant or Network Operator may make a request for day-ahead Opportunistic Maintenance between 10am on the day prior to the Scheduling Day to 10am on the Scheduling Day.

System Management notes that increasing the window of time to seek day-ahead Opportunistic Maintenance would increase the opportunity for Market Participants and Network Operators to make use of this outage option.



1.3. The Proposal and the Wholesale Market Objectives

System Management contends that this proposed Rule Change would better address objectives (a) and (d) of the Market objectives. The change as submitted would promote the economically efficient, safe and reliable production and supply of electricity and electricity related services and minimise the long term cost of electricity supplied to customers in the in the South West interconnected system.

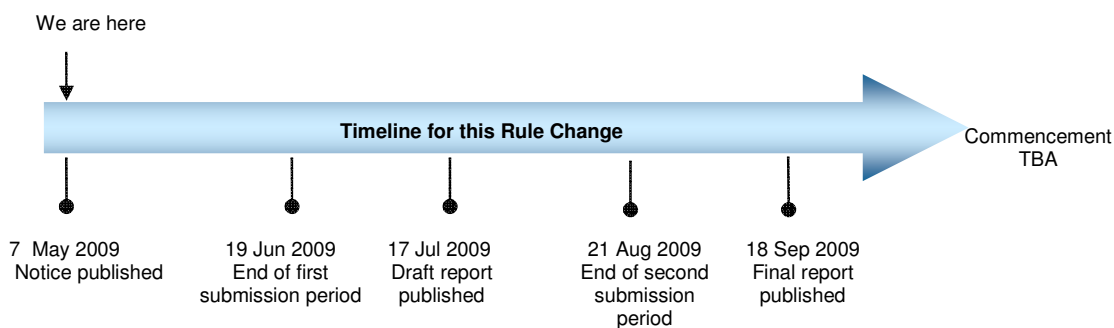
System Management notes that the rule change would increase the ability of a Market Participant or Network Operator to utilise the day-ahead Opportunistic Maintenance option thereby aiding reliable and safe electricity supply and potentially minimising long term costs.

2. WHETHER THE PROPOSAL WILL BE PROGRESSED FURTHER

The IMO has decided to proceed with this proposal on the basis that the IMO's preliminary assessment indicated that the proposal is consistent with the Wholesale Market Objectives.

The IMO has decided to process this Rule Change Proposal using the Standard Rule Change Process, described in section 2.7 of the Market Rules.

The projected timelines for processing this proposal are:



3. CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The IMO is seeking submissions regarding this proposal. The submission period is 30 business days from the publication date of this notice. Submissions must be delivered to the IMO by the close of business on Friday 19 June 2009.

The IMO prefers to receive submissions by email to **marketadmin@imowa.com.au** using the submission form available on the IMO website:

http://www.imowa.com.au/10_5_1_MarketRulesChangeSummary.html

Submissions may also be sent to the IMO by fax or post, addressed to:

Independent Market Operator
Attn: Manager Market Administration and System Capacity
PO Box 7096
Cloisters Square, Perth, WA 6850

Fax: (08) 9254 4399

4. PROPOSED AMENDING RULES

System Management proposes the following amendments to the Market Rules (~~deleted words~~, added words):

3.19.2 Market Participants and Network Operators may request that System Management approve an outage of a Facility or Item of equipment that is not a Scheduled Outage (“Opportunistic Maintenance”) to be carried out during a Trading Day,

- (a) at any time between ~~6:00 AM~~ 10:00 AM on the day prior to the Scheduling Day and 10:00 AM on the Scheduling Day for that Trading Day, where the request relates to an outage to occur at any time and for any duration during the following Trading Day; or
- (b)

...

5. ABOUT RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS

Market Rule 2.5.1 of the Market Rules provides that any person (including the IMO) may make a Rule Change Proposal by completing a Rule Change Proposal Form and submit this to the IMO.

The IMO will assess the proposal and, within 5 Business Days of receiving the proposal form, will notify the proponent whether the proposal will be progressed further.

In order for the proposal to be progressed the change proposal must explain how it will enable the Market Rules to better contribute to the achievement of the Wholesale Market Objectives. The market objectives are:

- (a) to promote the economically efficient, safe and reliable production and supply of electricity and electricity related services in the South West interconnected system;
- (b) to encourage competition among generators and retailers in the South West interconnected system, including by facilitating efficient entry of new competitors;

- (c) to avoid discrimination in that market against particular energy options and technologies, including sustainable energy options and technologies such as those that make use of renewable resources or that reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions;
- (d) to minimise the long-term cost of electricity supplied to customers from the South West interconnected system; and
- (e) to encourage the taking of measures to manage the amount of electricity used and when it is used.

A Rule Change Proposal can be processed using a Standard Rule Change Process or a Fast Track Rule Change Process. The standard process involves a combined 10 weeks public submission period, while the fast track process involves the IMO consulting with Rule Participants who either advise the IMO that they wish to be consulted or the IMO considers have an interest in the change.