
Wholesale Electricity Market Rule Change Proposal Submission Form

RC_2012_04 Consequential Outage Correction

Submitted by

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Submission

1. Please provide your views on the proposal, including any objections or suggested revisions.

Background

Clause 3.18.5B of the Market Rules allows a Network Operator to submit an Outage Plan to System Management not more than three years and not less than two days in advance of the proposed outage. Clause 3.18.11 specifies the criteria that System Management must apply when evaluating whether to accept Outage Plans under clause 3.19.

Further, clause 3.18.5C of the Market Rules requires that where a Network outage is likely to unduly impact the operation of one or more Market Participant Facilities, System Management may require that in developing an Outage Plan, the Network Operator and affected Market Participants coordinate the timing of outages so as to minimise the impact of the Network outage on the operation of the Market Participant Facilities.

Finally, clause 3.21.2 defines a Consequential Outage as an outage of a Facility (or item of equipment on the list described in clause 3.18.2) for which no approval was received by System Management, but which System Management determines:

- (a) was caused by a Forced Outage to another Rule Participant's equipment; and
- (b) would not have occurred if the other Rule Participant's equipment did not suffer a Forced Outage.

Rule Change Proposal

RC_2012_04 proposes that clause 3.21.2 be amended to change the definition of a Consequential Outage to include instances where a Facility is unavailable (i.e. suffers a Forced Outage) as a result of a Planned Outage of Network equipment.

Alinta's views

Alinta supports the amendment to clause 3.21.2 proposed by RC_2012_04.

Coordination of Planned Outages between the Network Operator and Market Participants is likely to provide only imperfect opportunities to limit the potential impact of planned network outages on Market Participant Facilities. This is particularly the case for those Facilities that may have significantly different maintenance schedules and requirements when compared with the network to which it is connected.

Alinta considers it reasonable that a Market Participant not be financially penalised where a Facility is unavailable solely as a result of a Planned Outage of Network equipment, including instances where it was not possible to coordinate planned outages for both facilities.

2. Please indicate if the proposed change will have any implications for your organisation (for example changes to your IT or business systems) and any costs involved in implementing these changes.

The changes to the Market Rules contemplated by RC_2012_04 would not require Alinta to change its IT or business systems, and hence there are no IT or business costs associated with the Rule Change Proposal.

3. Please indicate the time required for your organisation to implement the change, should it be accepted as proposed.

The changes to the Market Rules contemplated by RC_2012_04 would not require Alinta to change its IT or business systems, and hence there is no specific period of time that would be required to implement the changes arising from the Rule Change Proposal.
