

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

Consumer Forum

10 April 2015

Consumer Access to Data

AEMO updated the forum on this project, in which AEMO is developing a new procedure to identify minimum metering data requirements that retailers and distribution network service providers must meet. This procedure is a requirement of the National Electricity Rules, and aims to ensure customers and customer authorised representatives have easy, fast access to metering data to help them make informed choices. The forum discussed the timeline for stakeholder consultation, which includes workshops and consultation drafts.

AEMO Governance

AEMO gave the group an overview of its governance arrangements, including corporate structure and how directors are appointed. The forum discussed AEMO's membership, Board composition and selection processes, and independence requirements for the Chair and a majority of directors.

The forum also discussed the governance review commenced by the Energy Council of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). AEMO encouraged the forum attendees to read the issues paper released on 10 April 2015. The group discussed the timetable for the review, which included responses by 30 April 2015 and a public forum on 11 May 2015.

Renewables update

AEMO explained that current work follows earlier AEMO studies which explored whether the National Electricity Market (NEM) could operate with 100% renewables, and identified that the majority of wind generation in the NEM was being installed in South Australia.

AEMO's renewable integration group is looking at areas including renewables in South Australia, technical standards in the NEM, an energy storage roadmap, inverter standards, photovoltaic (PV), and emerging technologies.

AEMO encouraged consumer representatives to say what renewables topics they would like to see covered in NEM-wide roadshows that will start in August 2015. Attendees asked AEMO to cover solar rooftop PV, saturation point issues, and requirements for communities to go "off grid".

Forecasting information

AEMO ran a session to help consumer representatives better understand its short and

medium term forecasting requirements, and to seek input and ideas on how it can improve. The group discussed typical consumer energy bills, changing consumption trends, and maximum demand forecasts. Thanks to Alternate Technologies Association for its presentation "Are we still cooking with Gas?", which formed part of the session and looked at gas as a residential energy option. The group also talked about energy concessions and regulatory oversight of marketing.

Consumer Forum next meeting: 21 August 2015

Gas Wholesale Consultative Forum (GWCF)

14 April 2015

Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) review of Victorian Declared Wholesale Gas Market (DWGM)

Anthony Williamson, Principal Policy Officer, Energy Sector Development Branch in the Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, talked about the AEMC's review of the DWGM. The AEMC also answered questions from participants. The aim of the review is to promote effective risk management, efficient investment in and use of pipeline capacity, competition in upstream and downstream markets, and trading between the Victorian DWGM and interconnected pipelines. The AEMC is reviewing the East Coast gas market at the same time and will report on it separately.

After discussion on scope, terms of reference and consultation, AEMO agreed to:

- Ask the AEMC what support it needed.
- Invite a Commonwealth representative to attend the next GWCF and discuss how these AEMC reviews fit with other work related to gas markets and wholesale gas competitiveness.

Distribution Unaccounted For Gas (UAFG)

AEMO spoke about how it determines the price for distribution UAFG reconciliation in Victoria, and asked if forum members would value a workshop to develop a new formula for the average volume weighted market price. After some discussion about what the workshop would include, AEMO committed to scheduling a workshop before the next GWCF.

Gas Market Prudentials

After the February 2015 GWCF meeting, AEMO had asked members for comments on the value of two

initiatives – cross market and cross company prudential arrangements in the gas markets. AEMO updated the forum on the responses it had received, and members discussed whether the initiatives should continue. AEMO noted that participant feedback on this matter does not provide a sufficient business case to proceed any further with either of the two initiatives at this time. However, AEMO agreed to consider any new information which would support further work on this item.

Constraint System Wide Notices

AEMO spoke about constraint system wide notices for the Victorian DWGM, and explained the methodology review it conducted, based on participant feedback. AEMO also explained improvements it plans to implement in May 2015 to provide better quality notifications by SMS, email and the Market Information Bulletin Board.

Directional Flow Point Constraint Pricing

AEMO updated the forum on the directional flow point constraint pricing issue that was put on hold by the GWCF last year. Participants agreed that the issues are complex and should be considered as part of the wider AEMC review of the gas markets, and decided to close this as a forum issue.

Authorised Maximum Interval Quantity Profile (AMIQ) Review

AEMO reported that its review had not identified any issues with the AMIQ profile that affect participants. Forum members were satisfied with the review, and agreed to close this item.

Energy Markets for a Changing Environment

AEMO spoke to the forum about closing out this program, which has reviewed processes in AEMO, and in the gas and electricity markets, to make sure they stay relevant in changing market conditions. Internal work has been completed, and several key work streams are continuing as business as usual.

Deregistered meters included in Customer Supply Point (CSP) counts

Deregistered meters have been included in daily and monthly CSP counts since the start of Full Retail Contestability. AEMO spoke about how this inclusion impacted fees and allocation of maximum daily quality for tariff V withdrawal points in the Victorian DWGM. AEMO is planning a system change by May 2015 to exclude deregistered meters in that calculation, and confirmed that no participant system changes would be needed.

Period of Reduced IT Change

AEMO told the forum about a period of reduced IT change from 3 August 2015 to 4 April 2016, during the relocation of AEMO's Queensland office. This will

have minimal impact on market participants, as scheduled transfers will proceed as usual and system enhancements will be deferred until May 2016.

AEMO also noted that there will be one period of six hours in late 2015, while the Queensland server is relocated, when there will be no backup for Gas System Disaster Recovery.

Gas Bulletin Board LNG zone procedure change

AEMO explained how a Gas Bulletin Board procedure change process will commence in late April 2015, to define a demand zone for reporting of gas flow data for the transmission pipelines delivering gas to the LNG export projects on Curtis Island, Queensland. Participants were told this procedure change would be proposed to take effect when two or more LNG projects are in operation, which is currently estimated to be by September/October 2015.

Short Term Trading Market (STTM) Contingency Gas Exercises 2015

AEMO informed forum members that the annual STTM Contingency Gas exercises will be held in the Adelaide hub on 23 April 2015, the Sydney hub on 9 September 2015, and the Brisbane hub in early 2016.

GWCF next meeting: 9 June 2015

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

15–16 April 2015

Change register/NEM change management

AEMO agreed to follow up to make sure all members of the duplicate address attributes workshop get information on time. Members agreed to raise the issue of Verify Meter Data (VMD) processes related to meter data churn at the May BMRG meeting.

Order of magnitude (OoM)

AEMO noted participant responses so far, and asked if members wanted a White Paper written as a next step on Issues/Change Form 4758 – Protected Period (Origin). The group agreed to a White Paper, and discussed issues including the need for consistent responses, penalties associated with the procedures, and the need for a simple solution without expensive system changes. Members agreed to produce a process flow for the main scenarios (public holidays, and other special event/extreme weather events).

The group discussed the OoM template. AEMO noted that BMRG feedback would shortly be incorporated into the document, then the template would be circulated to the Gas Retail Consultative Forum for comment before coming back to the BMRG.

New Issues/Change Forms and papers

The group briefly discussed an Issues/Change Form (ICF) about providing meter data, noting that the issues will increase as customers get greater access to data, and decided to hold off discussion until Victorian distribution businesses were present. This ICF will be on the agenda for the May 2015 BMRG meeting. Members also noted a paper about disconnections, but agreed they needed more time to consider the paper and the significant work that will surround this ICF. The group will discuss the paper and timeframes at the May forum meeting.

BMRG next meeting: 13–14 May 2015

Gas Retail Consultative Forum (GRCF)

21 April 2015

Technology changes – service orders and identifying previous Financially Responsible Organisation (FRO)

The forum discussed an AEMO proposal to make the following system changes effective from 14 September 2015:

- Identifying the previous Financially Responsible Organisation (FRO) when a customer transfers to a different retailer.
- Service Order Response Changes, to deliver clear and concise information from distributors to retailers in Victoria, South Australia and Queensland about the outcome of uncompleted or cancelled jobs.

AEMO asked participants to provide feedback by 28 April on the timing proposals.

Changes for NSW–ACT Retail Gas Project and Wagga Wagga Tamworth

AEMO updated the GRCF on proposed changes to Retail Market Procedures and Gas Interface Protocol (GIP) in the Wagga Wagga and Tamworth networks. AEMO noted that submissions on the proposed procedure changes closed on 14 April 2015, and advised members that the Impact and Implementation Report should be released late April 2015.

South Australia – Queensland Unaccounted For gas (UAFG) treatment

The GRCF discussed the need to complete a value assessment on the SA–Qld UAFG initiative put forward by AGNL. Participants agreed to send AEMO feedback, by 24 April 2015, on a proposed timeline for the value assessment. Under the proposed timeline, the exercise will start early May and end late June 2015 with a meeting involving AEMO and affected parties.

Gas Retail Operations Contact Lists (ROCL)

AEMO proposed combining four existing gas Retail Operations Contact Lists (ROCLs) into one. This would reduce administration, and bring the gas arrangements into line with the NEM, which has a single list. Participants agreed, and AEMO targeted 1 May to have the combined gas ROCL completed.

GRCF next meeting: 19 May 2015

Retail Market Consultative Forum (RMCF)

24 April 2015

Power of Choice work plan

AEMO presented the Power of Choice work plan, focusing on Metering Competition and based on the Draft Rule Determination released on 26 March 2015. This covered the known timelines for the Power of Choice program, and the approach to procedure development for Metering Competition. A dedicated industry workshop on this topic has been scheduled at AEMO Melbourne on 13 May 2015.

NSW–ACT Gas Retail Project (NARGP)

AEMO updated the forum on the project, noting recent milestones:

- Wagga Wagga and Tamworth consultation (Retail Market Procedures and Participant Build Pack #6) closed on 9 April 2015.
- An interim Impact and Implementation Report workshop will be held on 12 May 2015.
- AEMO has started developing draft process maps to support mapping workshops planned to begin in July 2015.

Customer Access to Data

AEMO reported on feedback from the recent workshop, noting the diversity of views and the widespread support for a standardised, industry-wide format. AEMO advised that validation was not in scope for the current project, and agreed to circulate the Metering Data Provision Procedures consultation paper when it is available.

Retail Market Framework Forum

AEMO advised forum participants that the recently-reformed Retail Market Framework Forum would be reviewing recommendations from 2014 meetings to make sure they are still valid, considering the requirements for delivering the Power of Choice work program. The Retail Market Framework Forum aims to complete their report by mid-2015.

RMCF next meeting: 29 May 2015