



NEM Event – Directions Report 12 to 16 September 2020

February 2021

Important notice

PURPOSE

Where the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) intervenes in the National Electricity Market (NEM) through the use of directions, AEMO must publish a report in accordance with National Electricity Rules (NER) clauses 4.8.9(f) and 3.13.6A(a). This report satisfies those NER obligations and is based on information available to AEMO at 11 January 2020.

Unless otherwise indicated, terms in this report have the same meanings as those defined in the NER.

All references to time in this report are based on Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST).

Disclaimer

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Expanded name
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
DI	Dispatch Interval
MN	Market Notice
NEM	National Electricity Market
NER	National Electricity Rules
PS	Power Station
SA	South Australia

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1. Summary

To ensure adequate system strength for secure operation of the South Australian power system, certain combinations of synchronous generating units must be in service at all times¹.

Clause 4.8.9 of the National Electricity Rules (NER) allows AEMO to intervene in the market by issuing directions or clause 4.8.9 instructions, if AEMO is satisfied that it is necessary to maintain or re-establish the power system to a secure, satisfactory, or reliable operating state. Section 116 of the National Electricity Law allows AEMO to issue directions to take certain action if AEMO considers that it is necessary to maintain power system security or for reasons of public safety.

Between 12 and 16 September 2020, AEMO issued five directions across two events to South Australian Market Participants to maintain power system security. These directions are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of the South Australia directions between 12 and 16 September 2020

Direction	Directed Participant	Event No.	Issue time	Direction instruction	Cancellation time
Torrens Island Power Station (PS) A unit 1	AGL SA Generation Pty Ltd	1	1800 hrs, 12 September 2020	Remain synchronised and follow dispatch targets from 0800 hrs, 13 September 2020	1530 hrs, 13 September 2020
Torrens Island PS A unit 1	AGL SA Generation Pty Ltd	2	1900 hrs, 15 September 2020	Remain synchronised and follow dispatch targets from 1000 hrs, 16 September 2020	1530 hrs, 16 September 2020
Torrens Island PS A unit 3	AGL SA Generation Pty Ltd	2	1900 hrs, 15 September 2020	Synchronise and follow dispatch targets from 1000 hrs, 16 September 2020	1530 hrs, 16 September 2020
Torrens Island PS A unit 4	AGL SA Generation Pty Ltd	2	1900 hrs, 15 September 2020	Remain synchronised and follow dispatch targets from 1000 hrs, 16 September 2020	1530 hrs, 16 September 2020
Pelican Point one Gas Turbine (GT) and Steam Turbine (ST) 18	Pelican Point Power Limited (ENGIE)	2	0915 hrs, 16 September 2020	Remain synchronised and follow dispatch targets from 1000 hrs, 16 September 2020	1100 hrs, 16 September 2020

2. Intervention assessment

2.1 The need for intervention

To ensure adequate system strength for secure operation of the South Australian power system, certain combinations of synchronous generating units must be in service at all times. If market conditions lead to market participants seeking to decommit synchronous generation AEMO is required to intervene to maintain

¹ AEMO Transfer Limit Advice – System Strength, available at https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/nem/security_and_reliability/congestion-information/transfer-limit-advice-system-strength.pdf?la=en.

the required level of synchronous units. The need for intervention, and options considered, were assessed against the set of viable plant combinations available at the time the directions were issued.

The requirement to intervene for the direction events in this report arose when the bids in Table 2 were submitted.

Table 2 Participant offers

Event No.	Unit	Offer date	Bid
1	Torrens Island PS A unit 1	1150 hrs, 12 September 2020	Initial bid to remain offline from 0400 hrs, 13 September 2020 ^A
2	Torrens Island PS A unit 3	1037 hrs, 15 September 2020	Initial bid to remain offline from 0400 hrs, 16 September 2020 ^B

A. Initial bid: 1145~F~00 INITIAL BID~

B. Initial bid: 1030~F~00 INITIAL BID~

2.2 Assessment of market response and latest time to intervene

Under NER clause 4.8.5A(a) and (c), AEMO must notify the market of any anticipated power system security or reliability issue, and the latest time for market response before AEMO would need to intervene.

AEMO contacted all participants who operate suitable generating units in South Australia to confirm their availability and the latest time to intervene. Those participants indicated that no market response would be provided but identified units that would be available if directed.

For each of the direction events, AEMO assessed the latest time to intervene taking account of the advised lead times. Table 3 shows market notices issued by AEMO, with the latest time to intervene.

Table 3 Summary of latest time to intervene

Event No.	Latest time to respond	Market Notice
1	1800 hrs, 12 September 2020	MN 77763
2	1900 hrs, 15 September 2020	MN 77839

3. Intervention process

AEMO considers that it followed all applicable processes under NER clause 4.8 for the management of the directions between 12 and 16 September 2020².

3.1 Adequacy of responses to AEMO inquiries

NER clause 4.8.5A(d) permits AEMO to request information from Scheduled Network Service Providers, Scheduled Generators, Semi-Scheduled Generators, and Market Customers.

² AEMO. Power system operating procedure SO_OP 3707, "Procedures For Issue Of Directions And Clause 4.8.9 Instructions", 06 September 2019, available at https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/nem/security_and_reliability/power_system_ops/procedures/so_op_3707-procedures-for-issue-of-directions-and-clause-4-8-9-instructions.pdf?la=en.

AEMO is satisfied with the timeliness, adequacy, and effectiveness of all responses to its requests for information prior to issuing the directions between 12 and 16 September 2020.

3.2 Participant ability to comply with the intervention

NER clause 4.8.9(d) requires that a Registered Participant must immediately notify AEMO of its inability to comply, or intention not to comply, with a direction or clause 4.8.9 instruction.

AEMO is satisfied with all participants complying with the directions listed in Table 1.

4. Dispatch and pricing outcomes

4.1 Changes to dispatch outcomes due to the directions

The directions resulted in approximately 1,052 megawatt hours (MWh) of synchronous generation being directed into the market.

Intervention pricing did not apply for these events

Under clause 3.8.1 of the NER, AEMO must operate a central dispatch process to balance power system supply and demand, using its reasonable endeavours to maintain power system security in accordance with NER Chapter 4 and the power system security standards. AEMO notes that in the absence of directions for system security, the central dispatch process would have produced an outcome which would have resulted in the operation of the power system in an insecure state and would therefore have been an infeasible dispatch solution.

4.2 Direction costs

The compensation recovery costs for the direction between 12 and 16 September 2020 were \$90,949. Direction compensation recovery data can be found on the AEMO website³.

5. Conclusions and further actions

Between 12 and 16 September 2020, AEMO issued five directions to South Australian Market Participants to maintain power system security, in response to a forecast lack of system strength in the region.

AEMO is satisfied that all applicable procedures and processes were followed in assessing the need for intervention, determining the latest time to intervene, enacting and managing the intervention and seeking

³ AEMO. Direction Compensation Recovery, available at <https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/national-electricity-market-nem/data-nem/settlements-data/direction-compensation-recovery>.

market response from all generators capable of meeting the system strength requirements. The market was informed after each direction was issued.

AEMO is also satisfied with the timeliness and adequacy of participant responses and communication throughout.