

Connecting generators in the West Murray Zone

Sequencing uncommitted projects

As of September 2020, with most commissioning projects successfully integrated and several committed projects in the West Murray Zone progressing through registration, AEMO has developed a sequencing proposal for assessing as yet uncommitted projects (those still in the connection application stage). AEMO assesses these projects to confirm that proposed negotiated access standards meet the relevant requirements of clause 5.3.4A of the National Electricity Rules (NER), and provides advice on the need and suitability of proposed system strength remediation following full impact assessments by the Network Service Provider (NSP) under clause 5.3.4B.

Similar to the approach taken for commissioning and committed projects, the sequence is based on objectively ascertainable dates to ensure fairness and transparency.

The project will be allocated a position in the first phase of integration assessment sequence for uncommitted projects based on the date of application. This will be the date that the NSP determined the application submission was complete, meeting all the requirements of the NER.

The criteria for determining completeness of the application include:

- a) The application submission includes all the information as listed in the application checklist;
- b) PSCAD model and RUG checks successful;
- c) PSS/E model and RUG checks successful;
- d) Benchmarking report review acceptable;
- e) Proposed negotiated access standards and reports meet the negotiation framework requirements and reasons are provided for all deviations from the automatic access standard, consistent with the NER.

The application submission should also have:

- a) Designs finalised;
- b) Models as close to R1 standard as possible;
- c) Provided R1 data in the Datasheets.

Exceptions may occasionally be appropriate but will be minimised. The integration assessment is the final phase in the overall assessment process under clauses 5.3.4A and 5.3.4B. Before a project in the West Murray Zone reaches this stage, the due diligence review by the NSP and AEMO should both be complete or close to completion, including system strength impact assessment/remediation and Generator Performance Standards negotiation. If material is missing or incomplete, the integration assessment will be deferred and reconsidered for assessment after the next project in the sequence has been assessed.

The project will be allocated a position in the second phase of integration assessment sequence for uncommitted projects based on the date of due diligence being completed. This will allow projects that are further developed to progress while projects requiring further development time to finalise their connection process.

AEMO will provide formal clause 5.3.4A and 5.3.4B advice only after the integration is completed. This should reduce the need for projects to alter their plant design and reassessment in order to meet performance standards or remediation requirements that are not achievable under the original design as other projects become committed and operational. However, please note that all material changes to generating plant or control settings after clause 5.3.4A approval must be reviewed by the NSP and AEMO in accordance with the NER.

AEMO will not be in a position to assess proposed generator access standards or review system strength remediation proposals until all committed projects have been assessed to the commissioning stage and incorporated into the wide area model. This is scheduled to be completed in Quarter 1 of 2021. Hence, the sequence for uncommitted projects has tentatively been developed to commence on 1 March 2021.

Prior to commencing the assessment of a project, AEMO will arrange a kick-off meeting with the proponent and the relevant NSP, ideally around 3 months prior to the scheduled date of assessment, to discuss the technical information submitted, the assessment approach in more detail and expectations. Proponents will be notified if an opportunity to expedite the assessment date is identified (e.g. if a project earlier in the sequence experiences delays).

The flow chart below illustrates the assessment process for uncommitted projects.

