

AEMO COMPLIANCE DECISION: GAS RETAIL MARKET PROCEDURES

PREPARED BY: Markets

VERSION: 1.0

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Introduction

Role of AEMO

Section 91MB(3) of the National Gas Law requires that, if AEMO has reasonable grounds to suspect a breach of the Retail Market Procedures, it must, after making such inquiries and investigations as it considers appropriate, make a decision as to whether the breach is a material breach. AEMO must publish that decision and its reasons.

Summary

On 28 May 2016, the provision of the Network Allocation Data (NAD) file for the NSW and ACT Gas Retail Market to the Short Term Trading Market (STTM) system was delayed by 12 minutes. The incident was caused by a large number of estimated meter reads received by the Gas Retail Market Business System (GRMBS), which extended the processing time of the meter reads. This caused a non-compliance with the NSW and ACT Retail Market Procedures (Procedures) relating to the timely provision of the NAD file to the STTM system.

In accordance with section 91MB(3) of the National Gas Law, AEMO has investigated the matter and reached a decision that the breach is not material, as the incident has not affected other market participants, the market as a whole, or end use customers.

This decision is published in accordance with section 91MB(8)(a) of the National Gas Law.

Circumstances of Apparent Breach

Background

Where the NSW and ACT NAD file is not delivered to the STTM system in a timely manner, this may result in AEMO not using the most recent actual data for the calculations of the STTM daily prudential run. Where data is missing at the time of running daily prudential tasks AEMO will use default allocations or the position from the previous day. In cases where a participant is close to its trading limit, this may result in issuing warning notices and/or margin calls based on estimated data rather than actual data.

As the data was available sufficiently before the prudential run, the incident had no impact to the STTM daily prudential calculations and processing. The issue was resolved and the NSW and ACT NAD file was delivered to the STTM system on 28 May 2016 by a delay of 12 minutes.

AEMO has reviewed the matter and taken necessary actions to prevent future occurrence of these issues. AEMO will continue to implement workarounds to process large number of estimated basic meter reads and will further identify improvements to the handling of estimated meter reads in GRMBS. AEMO will also continue to work with the Network Operator to address the large number of estimated basic meter reads provided by the Network Operator.

Clause 8.11.9

Clause 8.11.9 of the Procedures states:

8.11.9 STTM Distribution System Allocation – Daily Calculation

By 11.00 am on *gas day +1*, AEMO must calculate, for each *User* in a *network section*, the *STTM distribution system allocation* for the *gas day*.

AEMO believes a breach of clause 8.11.9 of the Procedures occurred on 28 May 2016.

AEMO Decision: Apparent Breach is Not Material

AEMO is required to assess the materiality of breaches of the Procedures and if it determines that the breach is material may direct a person suspected of a breach to take remedial action. AEMO is not required to undertake this assessment for breaches of the NGL and NGR.

Materiality

Criterion 1: Financial impact

There is no financial impact on any market participant because of the breach.

Criterion 2 and 3: System and operational impact

There is no system and operational impact as a result of the breach.

Criterion 4: Any other factors

There are no other factors impacted as a result of the breach.

Decision

AEMO's failure to comply with the clause 8.11.9 of the Procedures on 28 May 2016 has had no material impact on any other market participants, the market as a whole, or end use customers.

ATTACHMENT A: AEMO COMPLIANCE PROCESS

Criteria AEMO will use in considering whether

- i. An incident is material; and**
- ii. If the incident is material whether it should be referred to AER.**

Criteria to consider in assessing materiality of apparent breach

The following criteria will be used by AEMO in determining whether an apparent breach is material in nature:

1. Whether or not the apparent breach is likely to cause significant financial impact on either of the following:
 - a. Market Participants;
 - b. AEMO, including the Gas Retail Market Business System;
 - c. End use customers;
 - d. AEMO stakeholders.

2. Whether or not the apparent breach is likely to cause significant market system impact on either of the following:
 - a. Market Participants;
 - b. AEMO; including the Gas Retail Market Business System;
 - c. AEMO stakeholders.

3. Whether or not the apparent breach is likely to use significant operational impact on either of the following:
 - a. Market Participants;
 - b. AEMO; including the Gas Retail Market Business System;
 - c. End use customers;
 - d. AEMO stakeholders.

4. Any other factors considered relevant by AEMO.

Criteria to consider in referring a material apparent breach to AER

The checklist is the process AEMO will use to determine whether an apparent breach, if considered material, should be referred to the AER.

In determining whether or not a material apparent breach warrants referral to the AER, AEMO may have regard to the following matters:

1. Whether the complaint is frivolous or vexatious.
2. Whether the apparent breach has resulted in any costs being borne by AEMO (and therefore the market as a whole).
3. Whether or not the apparent breach appears to have arisen as a result of problems with the design/operation of the Procedures.
4. Whether the apparent breach by a Market Participant was caused by the conduct of AEMO.
5. Whether the apparent breach is an isolated event, or indicates a systemic problem with compliance.
6. Whether the apparent breach appears to have been made intentionally or maliciously.
7. Whether remedial action was taken by the Market Participant following discovery of the breach.
8. Whether the apparent breach has a potential anti-competitive effect.
9. Any other matters considered relevant by the AEMO.

ATTACHMENT B: National Gas Law

(From *National Gas (South Australia) Act 2008* – note individuals are responsible for using the latest version of the Procedures/legislation)

91MB—Compliance with Retail Market Procedures

- (1) AEMO and each person to whom the Retail Market Procedures are applicable must comply with the Procedures.
- (2) However, if there is an inconsistency between an applicable access arrangement and the Retail Market Procedures, a person is, to the extent of the inconsistency, not required to comply with the Procedures.
- (3) If AEMO has reasonable grounds to suspect a breach of the Retail Market Procedures, it must, after making such inquiries and investigation as it considers appropriate, make a decision as to whether the breach is a material breach.
- (4) If AEMO decides the breach is material, AEMO—
 - (a) must publish the decision and the reasons for it on its website; and
 - (b) may direct the person suspected of the breach to rectify it or to take specified measures to ensure future compliance (or both); and
 - (c) may refer the breach to the AER.
- (5) A direction by AEMO under subsection (4)(b) must—
 - (a) specify the breach; and
 - (b) specify the date by which the direction is to be complied with; and
 - (c) be addressed to, and given to, the person suspected of the breach.
- (6) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (4)(b) must comply with the direction.
- (7) AEMO must give a copy of its decision under subsection (3), its reasons for the decision and (if relevant) any direction under subsection (4)(b) to the AER.
- (8) If AEMO decides the breach is not material, AEMO must—
 - (a) publish the decision and the reasons for it on its website; and
 - (b) give a copy of the decision and the reasons for it to the AER.

Note—

AEMO may provide the AER with relevant information (including protected information) related to a suspected breach of the Procedures. (For disclosure of protected information, see section 91GC(2)(b)).