Effective Market Response to MSL and DPVC Market Notices

Fact Sheet

June 2025

This fact sheet describes actions that market participants can take in response to a market notice for minimum system load (MSL) and/or distributed photovoltaic contingency (DPVC) being issued in a region (or multiple regions) of the National Electricity Market (NEM).

While the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has taken all reasonable care in the preparation of this document, the information should not be construed as advice and is not specific to your circumstances.

MSL market notices

MSL conditions arise when the demand for grid-connected generation is so low that power system security violations could emerge. This may require taking actions to maintain system security.

Desired responses to MSL market notices

These actions from plant in the region(s) with forecast or actual MSL conditions will assist AEMO in managing MSL conditions:

- **Scheduled loads** and **bidirectional units** make their full (load) capacity available to the market through their bids.
- **Market network service providers** make their full capacity available to the market through their bids.
- **Transmission network service providers** avoid network equipment outages that limit interconnector transfer or would require more generating units online to provide essential power system security services.
- **Contingency frequency control ancillary services (FCAS) providers** avoid outages and make their full contingency FCAS capabilities available to the market through their bids.
- **Units with a minimum safe operating level** (MSOL) avoid unit operations that increase MSOL, or otherwise advise AEMO if their MSOL during the forecast or actual MSL period is higher than previous advice to AEMO.
- **Electricity consumers** increase demand during the forecast or actual MSL period.
- **Generating facilities** not providing essential power system security services decommit ahead of a forecast MSL period or reduce generation during an actual MSL period.

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DPVC market notices

DPVC conditions arise when distributed PV generation is so high that the power system cannot be securely operated to handle the trip of a large generating unit plus the coincident disconnection of some distributed PV following a transmission network fault.

Currently, DPVC is only an issue when South Australia is at-risk of separation or islanded.

Desired responses to DPVC market notices

- **Contingency FCAS providers** avoid outages and make their full contingency FCAS capabilities available to the market through their bids.
- **Units with a minimum safe operating level** (MSOL) avoid unit operations that increase MSOL, or otherwise advise AEMO if their MSOL during the forecast or actual MSL period is higher than previous advice to AEMO.
- **Transmission network service providers** avoid network equipment outages that would require more generating units online to provide essential power system security services.

Where can I find more information?

More information on MSL and DPVC can be found here: https://aemo.com.au/initiatives/major-programs/nem-distributed-energy-resources-der-program/managing-distributed-energy-resources-in-operations/managing-minimum-system-load.

For any further enquiries, please contact AEMO's Information and Support Hub via

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- Call 1300 236 600.