



# Congestion Information Resource Guidelines

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# Contents

- Current version release details** **2**
- 1. Introduction** **3**
  - 1.1. Purpose and scope 3
  - 1.2. Definitions and interpretation 3
- 2. Congestion information resource** **4**
  - 2.1. Objective 4
  - 2.2. NER obligation 4
  - 2.3. Location 4
  - 2.4. Contents 5
  - 2.5. Publishing and updating the congestion information resource 7
  - 2.6. Confidentiality 7
- 3. Information to be provided by Transmission Network Service Providers** **7**
  - 3.1. Scope of the obligation 7
  - 3.2. Types of Information Required by AEMO 8
  - 3.3. Confidentiality 9
  - 3.4. Updates to information 10
- 4. Further development of the congestion information resource** **10**
- Appendix A. Items requested for the CIR** **11**
- Version release history** **14**

## Tables

- Table 1 CIR requested items ..... 11

## Current version release details

Version	Effective date	Summary of changes
9	02 December 2024	Updated for 2024 consultation and new AEMO template. Added NOS statistics report in section 2.4.4. Delete reference to NEMWCF in section 4.

**Note: There is a full version history at the end of this document.**

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose and scope

These are the Congestion Information Resource Guidelines (**Guidelines**) made under clause 3.7A(k) of the National Electricity Rules (**NER**).

These Guidelines have effect only for the purposes set out in the NER. The NER and the National Electricity Law prevail over these Procedures to the extent of any inconsistency.

In accordance with clause 3.7A(k), the Guidelines describe the:

- (a) Information categories and their source to be contained in the *congestion information resource (CIR)*.
- (b) Scope and type of information to be provided by *Transmission Network Service Providers (TNSPs)* in accordance with clause 3.7A(n) and (o) of the NER.
- (c) Processes to be implemented by AEMO to obtain the information from TNSPs in accordance with clause 3.7A(n) and (o) of the NER.
- (d) Determination of the intervals for updating and *publishing* the CIR.
- (e) Processes for providing *Registered Participants* with information under clause 3.7A(g) of the NER.

## 1.2. Definitions and interpretation

### 1.2.1. Glossary

Terms defined in the National Electricity Law and the NER have the same meanings in these Procedures unless otherwise specified in this clause.

Terms defined in the NER are intended to be identified in these Procedures by italicising them, but failure to italicise a defined term does not affect its meaning.

In addition, the words, phrases, and abbreviations in the table below have the meanings set out opposite them when used in these Procedures.

Term	Definition
AEMC	Australian Energy Market Commission
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
CIR	<i>congestion information resource</i>
EMS	AEMO's Energy Management Systems
MMS	AEMO's Market Management System
NEM	<i>National Electricity Market</i>
NEMDE	NEM Dispatch Engine, the market dispatch engine used in the NEM
NEMWCF	National Electricity Market Wholesale Consultative Forum
NER	National Electricity Rules

Term	Definition
NOS	Network Outage Scheduler, a software application owned by AEMO.
NSCAS	<i>network support and control ancillary service</i>
PASA	<i>projected assessment of system adequacy</i>
TER	Transmission Equipment Ratings
TNSP	Transmission Network Service Provider

### 1.2.2. Interpretation

These Procedures are subject to the principles of interpretation set out in Schedule 2 of the National Electricity Law.

## 2. Congestion information resource

### 2.1. Objective

Clause 3.7A(a) of the NER specifies the objective of the CIR:

The objective of the *congestion information resource* is to provide information in a cost effective manner to *Registered Participants* to enable them to understand patterns of *network* congestion and make projections of *market* outcomes in the presence of *network* congestion (the *congestion information resource objective*).

### 2.2. NER obligation

- (a) AEMO is required to *publish* the CIR in accordance with clause 3.7A(b) of the NER, which provides that the CIR must comprise:
- (1) information on *planned network events* that are likely to materially affect *network constraints* in relation to a *transmission system*;
  - (2) historical data on *mis-pricing* at *transmission network* nodes in the *national electricity market*; and
  - (3) any other information that AEMO, in its reasonable opinion, considers relevant to implement the *congestion information resource objective*.
- (b) Clause 3.7A(c) provides that:

The *congestion information resource* must contain at least the same level of detail as is required to be included in the interim congestion information resource *published* under clause 11.30.2.

### 2.3. Location

The CIR is available on AEMO's website at <https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/national-electricity-market-nem/system-operations/congestion-information-resource>.

## 2.4. Contents

The following sections outline the content provided as part of the CIR along with some related references. AEMO's website provides further information for each item.

### 2.4.1. Policies and processes

A number of process and policy documents describe aspects of *network* constraints and congestion:

- Constraint Naming Guidelines.
- Constraint Formulation Guidelines.
- Constraint Implementation Guidelines.
- Schedule of Constraint Violation Penalty Factors.
- Confidence Levels, Offsets, and Operating Margins Policy Document.
- Over-Constrained Dispatch Rerun Process.
- Constraint Frequently Asked Questions.
- Factors Contributing to Differences between Dispatch and Pre-dispatch Outcomes.
- Limits Advice Guidelines.

### 2.4.2. Education material

Details of AEMO workshops and other educational material to assist with the understanding of the NEM, including *network* congestion.

### 2.4.3. Network status and capability

A number of publications describe the real-time status of networks and their general capability:

- Transmission Line Diagrams.
- Transmission Equipment Ratings (**TER**).
- Interconnector Capabilities.
- Network Outage Scheduler (**NOS**).
- Market Information Planned Electricity Network Outages.
- Plain English Constraint Equation Converter.
- Market Management System (**MMS**) Files.
- Limit Advice.

#### 2.4.4. Statistics and incident reports

The CIR contains continuous reporting streams that provide stakeholders with information on constraints and resulting network congestion that are updated regularly. The CIR is also a portal to resources providing details on particular incidents.

- Annual Constraint Report.
- Monthly Constraint Report.
- Weekly Constraint Library Changes Report.
- [Power System Operating Incident Reports](#).
- [Network outage statistics report](#).

#### 2.4.5. Related resources

The CIR also provides a portal to a number of related resources that set out upcoming changes to the *network* and congestion management, and therefore may affect *network* congestion in future years. These resources can include:

- Annual Planning Reports by TNSPs.
- TNSP Network Augmentations.

#### 2.4.6. Interconnector performance

Clause 3.13.3(p) of the NER introduces the requirement for AEMO to publish, for each day of the preceding quarter for all interconnectors, details of:

- Interconnector transfer capability.
- The discrepancy between interconnector transfer capability and the capacity of the relevant interconnector in the absence of outages on the relevant interconnector only.

AEMO satisfies this requirement by publishing:

- A report on nominal interconnector capabilities updated as needed (see interconnector capabilities report above).
- A dispatch interconnector solution via the Market Management System (**MMS**) data model.
- A table in the monthly constraint report detailing the top binding interconnector limit setters.
- A list of constraint equations that set the interconnector limits, published along with the Annual NEM constraint report.

#### 2.4.7. Mis-pricing

Clause 3.7A(b)(2) of the NER sets out an obligation for AEMO to provide historical data on *mis-pricing at transmission network* nodes. To meet this requirement, AEMO *publishes* mis-pricing data at the transmission network nodes in the `dispatch_local_price` table in the MMS data model.

## 2.5. Publishing and updating the congestion information resource

Each document that makes up the CIR is updated at different times. Further details can be found in the *timetable*<sup>1</sup>.

## 2.6. Confidentiality

Clause 3.7A(j) of the NER states that AEMO must not *publish confidential information* as part of the CIR.

# 3. Information to be provided by Transmission Network Service Providers

## 3.1. Scope of the obligation

The information required to be provided by TNSPs is stated in clause 3.7A(n), (o) and (p) of the NER:

- (n) In addition to the obligations imposed on *Transmission Network Service Providers* by rule 3.7, *Transmission Network Service Providers* must provide AEMO with the information specified in the *congestion information resource guidelines* as information that is to be provided by them:
  - (1) in a form which clearly identifies *confidential information*; and
  - (2) in accordance with the *congestion information resource guidelines*.
- (o) If there has been a material change to the information provided by a *Transmission Network Service Provider* under paragraph (n), the *Transmission Network Service Provider* must provide AEMO with the revised information as soon as practicable.
- (p) Information contained in the *congestion information resource* which has been provided by, or has been derived from information provided by, a *Transmission Network Service Provider* under this rule 3.7A:
  - (1) must represent the *Transmission Network Service Provider's* current intentions and best estimates regarding *planned network events* at the time the information is made available;
  - (2) does not bind the *Transmission Network Service Provider* to comply with an advised *outage* program; and
  - (3) may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances outside the control of the *Transmission Network Service Provider*.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Security-and-reliability/Dispatch-information>.

## 3.2. Types of Information Required by AEMO

### 3.2.1. Network Outage Scheduler (NOS)

TNSPs are required to submit their current intentions and best estimates regarding *planned network events* which must comply with the requirements of clause 3.7A(p)(1) of the NER.

TNSPs meet this obligation by entering information about their *network outages* into NOS. This includes information about all primary assets (any assets that carries high voltage), and any outages of secondary systems (protection systems, ancillary plants, etc.) that is forecast to constrain the *dispatch* process.

Bookings for *outages* can be made up to two years in advance or at short notice in response to an emergency. TNSPs enter the following *outage* information into NOS:

- The equipment affected by the *outage*.
- The planned start and end time of the *outage*.
- Whether it relates to primary or secondary assets.
- Any notes associated with the *outage*.

AEMO assesses the *outage* bookings and enters the following information into NOS:

- Any *constraint* equations invoked associated with the *outage*.
- The assessment status of the *outage*.
- Any further notes associated with the *outage*.

Further information is available on AEMO's website:

<https://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Data/Network-Data/Network-Outage-Schedule>.

### 3.2.2. Planned network outages

TNSPs are required to submit the current intentions on *network outages* that materially affect transfer capabilities for the next 13 months. For *outages* closer to current time the requirements are covered in Section 3.2.1 above.

TNSPs meet this obligation by entering this information into NOS (see Section 3.2.1 above) for *outages* that have historically caused binding *constraint* equations or for *outages* that are forecast to cause binding *constraint* equations (due to *network* changes, new/future generators or generators retiring) or for *outages* that are classified as high impact *outages* (HIOs)<sup>2</sup>. An *outage* is classified as high impact where studies or past experience have identified:

- (a) potential for energy and frequency control ancillary service prices to approach the *market price cap* or *market floor price*; and/or
- (b) following a *credible contingency event* there is a potential for:

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<sup>2</sup> See SO\_OP3718 – Outage Assessment section 7: [https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/nem/security\\_and\\_reliability/power\\_system\\_ops/procedures/so\\_op\\_3718-outage-assessment.pdf?la=en](https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/nem/security_and_reliability/power_system_ops/procedures/so_op_3718-outage-assessment.pdf?la=en)



- a reduction in supply that may be expected to result in *load shedding*;
- separation of parts of the *network* into islands of *scheduled generation, networks* and *loads*;
- requirement for market intervention through issuing of *directions*; or
- *disconnection of generation* in the *region*, which exceeds the size of the single largest *credible contingency event* under normal operating conditions.

A list of future high impact outages is available on AEMO's website:

<https://www.nemweb.com.au/REPORTS/CURRENT/HighImpactOutages/>.

AEMO publishes historical binding *constraint* information:

- In the *dispatch* constraint solution table via the Market Management System (MMS) data model. This contains all the *constraint* result data; binding *constraint* equations can be filtered by searching for *constraint* equations with a non-zero value in the marginal value field.
- The annual NEM *constraint* report includes a summary of the binding *constraint* equations for a calendar year, categorised by system normal, outage and *region*.

### 3.2.3. Transmission equipment ratings

*Network Service Providers* (NSPs) are required to advise AEMO of the rating of their *transmission lines* and other equipment under clause S5.1.12 of the NER.

NSPs provide information about their equipment, including rating application levels, application rules, and rating values.

This information can be provided as static data for use under specified conditions, telemetered dynamic real-time data for use in *dispatch* timeframe, or be hand-dressed manually in AEMO's EMS in urgent circumstances.

### 3.2.4. Limits advice

TNSPs are required to provide AEMO with limits advice so *network constraints* can be modelled in the NEM Dispatch Engine (**NEMDE**). TNSPs are also required to either publish the limits advice on their websites (which AEMO will link to from the CIR) or provide to AEMO to publish in the CIR.

TNSPs should regularly review their limits advice and notify AEMO of any updates to ensure the advice remains current.

## 3.3. Confidentiality

Consistent with clause 3.7A(n)(1) of the NER, TNSPs must provide the required information to AEMO in a form that clearly identifies *confidential information*, so that AEMO can comply with its obligation not to *publish confidential information* as part of the CIR.

### 3.4. Updates to information

Material changes to any of the information provided to AEMO by TNSPs must be updated by the TNSPs as soon as practicable (see clause 3.7A(o) of the NER).

## 4. Further development of the congestion information resource

AEMO continues to develop the CIR to match stakeholder needs in line with clause 3.7A(d) of the NER. To manage this process, AEMO:

- ~~Includes CIR development as an agenda item for NEM Wholesale Consultative Forum (NEMWCF<sup>3</sup>) meetings at least once a year, where proposals for change, viability, and priorities are discussed.~~
- Conducts formal stakeholder consultation as needed, but in any event, at least every three years, to determine how the CIR should be changed.

To meet the cost-effective element of the *congestion information resource objective*, AEMO undertakes a cost-benefit analysis of proposals to change the CIR. This is managed using a release planning strategy similar to that used for AEMO's market systems. Under this approach:

- All acceptable proposals are ranked in terms of relative benefit based on certain criteria. This ranking is developed during the consultation process.
- Resources and costs required to implement each proposal are identified. This includes both development costs, ongoing operational costs, and resources required by TNSPs, where appropriate.
- The proposals are grouped into annual releases according to the ranking and resources available for each release.

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://aemo.com.au/consultations/industry-forums-and-working-groups/list-of-industry-forums-and-working-groups/nem-wholesale-consultative-forum>.

## Appendix A. Items requested for the CIR

This Appendix details items submitted to AEMO as part of its annual CIR consultations from 2010. The current status of each item is indicated.

Items not listed as completed or cancelled are considered for future enhancements of the CIR.

**Table 1** CIR requested items

Year	Completed	Requested item description	Comments
2010	Oct 2011	NOS Improvements: Recall times/original submit time/time of last change/TNSP.	
2010	Oct 2019	AEMO to work with TNSPs to publish outages via NOS instead of planned network outages.	Also submitted in 2011 consultation. AEMO is discussing this issue with the TNSPs. TransGrid and Transend are submitting their outages via NOS. 2018 CIR includes changes to require TNSPs to submit their outages via NOS, but reduce the number by only including binding constraints.
2010	Sep 2010	Link CIR to the National Transmission Network Development Plan.	
2010	Feb 2010	Report on performance of constraint equations.	Published as the annual Constraint Report in Feb 2010.
2010	Cancelled	Daily report summarising the changes in NOS over past 24 hours established.	AEMO consulted with the Dispatch Price and Reference Group (DPRG) <sup>4</sup> and both agreed to cancel this in favour of providing NOS data via MMS Data Model.
2010	Sep 2010	Link to incident reports from CIR.	
2010	Late 2010	Summated left-hand-side (LHS) of constraint equations in dispatch and pre-dispatch.	
2010	Sep 2010	CIR links to TNSP annual planning reviews.	
2010	Early 2011	Changes to the MMS Web Portal to include the dispatch/pre-dispatch/ projected assessment of system adequacy (PASA) constraint and interconnector results.	
2010	Cancelled	Add a heat map display of mis-pricing.	AEMO is investigating if this information can be implemented in a cost-effective manner – such as on the new AEMO Interactive map. Binding information for previous financial year now shown on the AEMO interactive map.
2010	Cancelled	Visual image of outages.	Cancelled due to the resourcing and development time required.
2010	Cancelled	Visual image of constraint equations.	Cancelled due to the resourcing and development time required.
2011	Feb 2012	Include statistics on outage submit times in the Annual Constraints Report (planned, short notices and unplanned outages). This is different to the statistics on the Planned Network Outages.	Implemented in the Constraint Report 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Now part of the NEM Wholesale Consultative Forum.

Year	Completed	Requested item description	Comments
2011		Include statistics on Planned Network Outages in the longer timeframe (1/3/6/9 months).	Planned to be added to the next update to the 2021 annual constraint report.
2011	Dec 2011	Report on constraint performance on a monthly basis.	Monthly Constraint Report released with information on why constraint automation was used and information on violating constraint equations.
2011	Apr 2011	Include more network diagrams in the CIR.	Link provided to National Transmission Network Development Plan diagrams.
2011	Sep 2011	Add information on how constraint equations are constructed.	Constraint Implementation Guidelines released.
2011	Cancelled	Link to market impact parameter (MIP) data from Australian Energy Regulator (AER).	This is AER data and is currently not available on its website. When it is available it will be linked.
2011	Oct 2011	NOS improvement: add outage change reason.	Combined with other NOS improvements
2011	Cancelled	Include statistics on the performance of network ratings in pre-dispatch.	
2011	June 2011	Link to augmentation information from TNSPs.	
2011	Feb 2012	Updating the existing video to the new format so it is viewable on more devices.	
2011	Cancelled	Additional videos on constraints.	Will be addressed as resources allow. Good suggestions in the CIR 2011 consultation: constraint automation examples, dynamic ratings and impacts in pre-dispatch, overview of annual report, use of interconnector limits in short-term (ST)/medium-term (MT) PASA, ratings in 5-minute pre-dispatch, constraint equations with all positive factors. Some of this information has been rolled into the constraints course, connections course and AEMO's regular stakeholder discussions.
2011	Late 2011	Publish NOS data via the MMS Data Interchange.	This will allow participants to have old copies of the files to compare with and re-download files.
2011	Feb 2012	Publish TER data, which includes information on identifies used on constraint right-hand-side (RHS) used and whether the rating is dynamic.	Existing file on website will remain unchanged.
2011	May 2012	Publish NOS and TER data via the MMS Data Model.	This will allow participants to use this data in the same way as any other market data - get historical data and integrate into their own systems.
2012	Late 2012	Review resubmit reasons and work with TNSPs to identify any improvements.	TNSPs to review resubmit reasons and provide more appropriate fields where applicable.
2012	Nov 2012	Discuss with TNSPs what additional information can be provided on reasons for outages.	Reason field indicating commissioning or maintenance to be added to NOS data.
2012	Jun 2012	Provide a link to the already published constraint equation result data.	
2012 and 2013		Provide in a user-friendly form in the CIR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently invoked constraint equation results.</li> <li>Constraint equations binding now and in pre-dispatch period.</li> </ul>	Updated with Private Generators Group (PGG) request in 2013 CIR.

Year	Completed	Requested item description	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of generating units/interconnectors impacted by each binding constraint equation.</li> <li>• Identification of which constraint equations are the limiting factors on interconnector flows.</li> </ul>	Internal project to review how data is published on the AEMO website – this data is part of that review.
2012	Cancelled	Provide Plain English descriptions outside the web portal.	Unable to be implemented. The plain English descriptions are limited to those on NEMNet due to IT security and this cannot go on the public website.
2012	June 2015	Consolidate Constraint Implementation Guidelines with FCAS constraint Equations and SO_OP_3709.	Completed
2012	Nov 2012	Publish mis-pricing information in near real time.	
2012	May 2013	Provide dynamic rating values to participants in near real time.	
2012	Feb 2013	Modify Constraint Report to identify top market impact constraints by region.	Included in the 2012 Constraint Report.
2012	Nov 2012	AEMO Planning team to publish market simulations on assessing the use of NSCAS to relieve the 10 most critical constraint equations.	Published on AEMO’s website.
2013		Provide a table of current outages along with the generating units/interconnectors on the left-hand-side of the invoked constraint equations.	Work being prioritised with AEMO’s digital team. First stage will be to publish this constraint data via NEMWEB.
2013	Cancelled	Extended pre-dispatch to assist TNSPs managing outages.	Project cancelled. Investigating use of the NEMDE Queue with TNSPs.
2013	Nov 2013	Add TNSP identifier to the published NOS data.	
2013	May 2014	Reduce the size of the local price tables to only include those left-hand-side terms that are affected by a constraint equation.	
2013	Cancelled	Add a FCAS requirement table for 5-minute pre-dispatch.	This is outside the scope of the CIR.
2013	July 2015	Publish the NRM_DI_AMT (used in the calculated of the automated negative residue constraint equations) in the MMS Data Model.	Completed in late July 2015.
2018	July 2018	Improved filtering on data in Annual Constraint Report.	Completed in the 2017 report – all the data is published in a spreadsheet with filters.
2018	2019	Changes to the Annual Constraint Report (Outages include 30-90 days).	Completed in the 2021 annual constraint report.
2018	May 2020	New Connections: Information Source Pack.	Connections pages linked to the CIR.
2021		Publishing constraint results from MT PASA in the CIR.	Under investigation.
2021	October 2021	Modification to annual and monthly constraint reports to identify limit types.	Completed.
2021		Additional NOS statistics in the CIR.	Proposed for late 2024.
2021		Forward plan on constraint/limit changes.	Under investigation.
2021		Publish information on the power system elements in real-time to improve situational awareness to participants.	Under investigation.

## Version release history

Version	Effective date	Summary of changes
8	20 October 2021	Updated for 2021 consultation and new AEMO template. Added high impact outages to Planned Network outage section and requirement for limit advice
7	24 Sep 2018	Updated for 2018 consultation and new template. Added section on Planned Network outages
6	15 Oct 2015	Updated for 2015 consultation and latest AEMO template. Comprehensive review by AEMO legal.
5	25 Jun 2014	Full document review. Updated for 2014 consultation, changed Interconnector Quarterly performance report section, updated Planned Electricity Network Outages to match current practice
4	25 Jun 2013	Updated for 2013 consultation, updated URLs, updated list of CIR items, removed minimum information section
3	27 Jun 2012	Converted to new AEMO template. Updated for 2012 consultation. Updated URLs for new AEMO website. Included updated CIR items list in Appendix 1
2	27 Jun 2011	Updated for 2011 consultation. Included revised disclaimer, revisions to match AEMO style guide.
1.2	6 Jul 2010	Added AEMO disclaimer
1.1	30 Apr 2010	Added heat map section to Appendix, minor corrections
1	28 Apr 2010	Included extra fields for NOS, added NOS 24 hour summary
Interim	28 Oct 2009	Original document for the Interim CIR