

# GAS RETAIL CONSULTATIVE FORUM

FOR DECISION	
SUBJECT:	PROPOSAL TO MOVE JOB ENQUIRY CODE ENUMERATION LIST TO A NON-VERSIONED ENUMERATIONS LIST. IN002/15W AND IN026/15
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## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to seek endorsement from the Gas Retail Consultative Forum (GRCF) participants on AEMO's recommendation to put forward a proposal to the aseXML<sup>1</sup> Standards Working Group<sup>2</sup> (ASWG) that the Job Enquiry Code (JEC) enumeration file be moved to a non-versioned enumerations file "GasEnumerations.xsd".

## 2. BACKGROUND

The JEC is an existing data element within the Service Order Request (SOR) transaction, which is a business to business (B2B) transaction sent from Retailers to Distributors. The JEC data element describes the nature of the work that needs to be performed on-site and is used exclusively in gas retail market transactions.

In 2015 as part of the NSW/ACT Retail Gas Project (NARGP), participants identified additional JECs that could be of use to the gas retail market. These proposed new JECs were "parked" at that time because of the costs associated with schema version change and subsequent implementation effort to cut-over to a new version of the schema.

It was agreed that these changes would only to be revisited if they could be bundled with a suitable later schema change. The GRCF decided to consult formally on the adoption of these changes as part of the suite of consultations leading to the Q4 2021 new schema release for gas retail markets.

## 3. VERSIONED and NON-VERSIONED ENUMERATION LIST.

The aseXML schema contains many type definitions that are constrained as enumerations (i.e. are versioned in an aseXML version number, such as r38). These versioned enumerations can only be changed as part of the full schema change process, which can lead to long delays in the ability of gas retail market transactions to adapt to new market conditions as identified by participant requests through the GRCF.

The aseXML schema also contains other types of definitions that are less constrained enumerations (non-versioned). These enumerations are contained in files called "Enumerations.xsd" or "ElectricityEnumerations.xsd" (for electricity retail market transactions). These files do not have release identifiers in their names and so can be replaced as the 'included' file without change to any other schema files, particularly the aseXML.xsd file.

<sup>1</sup> "A Standard for Energy eXtended Markup Language (aseXML) is a standard developed by Australian energy industries to facilitate the exchange of information between energy industry participants using XML.

<sup>2</sup> The aseXML Standards Working Group (ASWG) is responsible for the development and maintenance of the aseXML standard. Click [here](#) to view the ASWG's Terms of Reference.

The benefits of a non-versioned file is that new values can be added to the enumerations without a full schema uplift and therefore in a shorter time frame and at lower cost than the standard aseXML schema change process. Currently, addressing attributes (such as the street type data element) use this non-versioned approach.

The guiding principles for use of the existing “ElectricityEnumerations.xsd” file are:

1. Procedure changes to Electricity B2B or B2M requiring changes (in particular additions) to electricity specific enumerated lists
2. Additions are made via the standard aseXML Change Process cycle
3. Deletions and modifications should be discouraged, but, if necessary, must be made through the standard aseXML Change Process cycle

If a “GasEnumerations.xsd” file were to be made, it would use the above guiding principles (with “Electricity” replaced by “Gas”).

The change management process for the “ElectricityEnumerations.xsd” file is not described in the ASWG Change Management Process<sup>3</sup> now. It is envisaged that change process for the “ElectricityEnumerations.xsd” file will be similar to the standard change process but with less effort. A ASWG change request (CR) will need to be raised and will still approved the updated version of the Non-Versioned XSD Files. The current standard ASWG end to end timeline is around 40 business days. AEMO will be recommending to the ASWG that the Non-Versioned XSD Files end to end change process be shorter turnaround time than the standard process given less effort is required while adhering to the various stages of that (standard change) process.

#### 4. AEMO’s ASSESSMENT

The driver for the existing initiatives on JECs (both IN002/15W in WA and IN026/15 on the east coast) has been the need for new codes that were not in the existing lists. Gas retail market participants decided not to implement these initiatives in the six years between 2015 and 2021 due to the cost-prohibitive nature of a full schema change purely for JECs. It is probable that these changes would not have been cost-prohibitive if a non-versioned list had been available in this period. Assuming that new technologies and regulatory requirements will create requirements for new JECs in advance of the next major gas schema uplift, the adoption of a non-versioned list as part of the Q4 2021 changes would enable relatively rapid and cost-effective adoption of these new JECs without a full schema change.

AEMO notes that its proposal does not include moving all existing enumerated lists to the proposed GasEnumerations.xsd file. The scope of initiatives IN002/15W and IN026/15 is only to adopt new JECs, and it would be a substantial expansion of scope (and therefore potentially cost) to revisit all enumerated lists to determine whether there is merit to move all of the enumerated lists to a non-versioned file. Further, businesses have not costed whether it would be worthwhile to move other lists to a non-versioned file, so this expansion of scope would potentially jeopardise cost-benefit analyses that have already occurred (such as that for IN003/20 Gas Life Support).

However, AEMO notes that the creation of this GasEnumerations.xsd file would enable the GRCF to pursue a broader move to non-versioned enumerated lists at later schema changes if the GRCF determines that this would deliver a net benefit to industry.

#### 5. AEMO’s RECOMMENDATION

Based on the assessment above AEMO recommends the following:

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<sup>3</sup> The ASWG Change Management Process document contains information about the Change Management Process, and instructions on the use and completion of the related Change Request used in the process. Click [here](#) to view this document.

1. That the GRCF endorse AEMO's suggestion to put forward the proposal to the aseXML Standards Working Group (ASWG) for the JEC enumeration file be moved to a non-versioned enumerations file "GasEnumerations.xsd".
2. That the GRCF amend the Technical Protocol (TP) documents for IN002/15W and IN026/15 so that they reflect the JECs' inclusion in a non-versioned GasEnumerations.xsd file, subject to the ASWG's agreeing to (1).