



Independent Market Operator

Rule Change Notice

**Title: Confidentiality of
Accepted Outages**

Ref: RC_2009_05

Standard Rule Change Process

Date: 19 March 2009

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1. THE RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

1.1. The Submission

On 17 March 2009 System Management submitted a Rule Change Proposal regarding the addition of clause 3.18.5D to the Wholesale Electricity Market Rules (Market Rules).

This Rule Change Notice is published according to Market Rule 2.5.7, which requires the IMO to publish a notice within 7 Business Days of receiving a Rule Change Proposal.

1.1.1 Submission details

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Date submitted:	17 March 2009
Urgency:	Standard Rule Change Process
Change Proposal title:	Confidentiality of Accepted Outages
Market Rule(s) affected:	Clause 3.18.5D (New)

1.2. Details of the Proposal

In its Rule Change Proposal, System Management submits that many Market Participants have noted that coordinating network and generation outages is often a difficult, time-consuming and complex matter. This is because currently Western Power Networks is only able to identify details of Planned Outages for Market Generators and Customers (via the schedules of Planned Outages published under clause 10.6.1(b)). These schedules are SWIS Restricted Information.

Currently clause 3.18.4 of the Market Rules provides an obligation for System Management to maintain an outage schedule, containing information on all Scheduled Outages (outages that are accepted by System Management but not yet approved). However, this information is not available to all Rule Participants or Western Power Networks.

System Management noted that they often accept Scheduled Outages months in advance of the commencement date. However, the approval of Scheduled Outages is often close to the commencement date, therefore Western Power Networks is unable to utilise this information to plan transmission maintenance in a way most beneficial to all affected parties. Additionally, when transmission maintenance requires the decommitment or reduction in capacity of a generator or load, it is sometimes the case that transmission outages require a generator or load to perform maintenance at inopportune times.

Similarly, due to the lack of information available to Western Power Networks for planning purposes, System Management must spend an inordinate amount of time coordinating the various parties. The current situation is disadvantageous to all concerned.

System Management noted in its Rule Change Proposal that to improve the coordination process, they have considered options to improve the visibility of accepted outages to relevant Rule Participants. At the Market Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting in February 2009 two options were considered:

- make accepted outages available to just Western Power Networks, for the purposes of coordinating line maintenance with generation outages; or
- make accepted outages available to all affected Market Participants.

Neither option received unanimous support at the meeting. Instead, it was agreed that the IMO would informally consult with Market Participants to gauge the preferred option.

Four views were received from the IMO's informal consultation process, as follows:

- two participants expressed support for confining accepted outage information to just the networks business;
- one participant supported making accepted outage information available to all; and
- one participant considered that either option was supportable, but noted it had no objection if one party felt strongly that only Western Power Networks should be informed.

The informal consultation process did not produce universal support for one option over another, but all responding parties supported the "minimum" outcome of making available accepted outages to Western Power Networks. Therefore System Management considers that the better option is to advocate a rule change which is evolutionary, in this first instance.

System Management proposes that accepted outages only be made available to the networks business. In particular, System Management proposes to add Clause 3.18.5D so as to enable the efficient scheduling of outages and ensure that coordination of outages with Market Participants can be undertaken in a more effective manner. This would allow Western Power Networks to more frequently plan transmission maintenance to coincide with participant outages and may also reduce situations where network outages require Market Generators to schedule outages at inopportune times.

1.3. The Proposal and the Wholesale Market Objectives

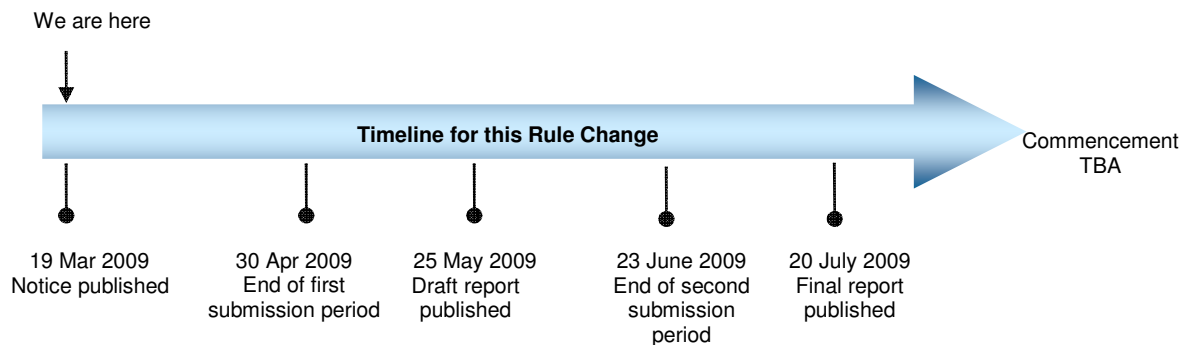
System Management considers that the proposed changes, would better address objective (a) of the Market Objectives. The change would allow more efficient planning of outages through being able to communicate the outage schedules to the Network Operator.

2. WHETHER THE PROPOSAL WILL BE PROGRESSED FURTHER

The IMO has decided to proceed with this proposal on the basis that the IMO's preliminary assessment indicated that the proposal is consistent with the Wholesale Market Objectives.

The IMO has decided to process this Rule Change Proposal using the Standard Rule Change Process, described in section 2.7 of the Market Rules.

The projected timelines for processing this proposal are:



3. CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The IMO is seeking submissions regarding this proposal. The submission period is six weeks from the publication date of this notice. Submissions must be delivered to the IMO by close of business on **Thursday 30 April 2009**.

The IMO prefers to receive submissions by email to **marketadmin@imowa.com.au** using the submission form available on the IMO website:

http://www.imowa.com.au/10_5_1_MarketRulesChangeSummary.html

Submissions may also be sent to the IMO by fax or post, addressed to:

Independent Market Operator
Attn: Manager Market Administration and System Capacity
PO Box 7096
Cloisters Square, Perth, WA 6850

Fax: (08) 9254 4399

4. PROPOSED AMENDING RULES

System Management proposes the following amendments to the Market Rules (~~deleted words~~, added words):

3.18.5D Notwithstanding the requirements in chapter 10, in exercising the obligation set out in clause 3.18.5C, System Management may make such information in the outage schedule maintained in accordance with clause 3.18.4 available to a Network Operator to coordinate outage timing.

5. ABOUT RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS

Market Rule 2.5.1 of the Market Rules provides that any person (including the IMO) may make a Rule Change Proposal by completing a Rule Change Proposal Form and submit this to the IMO.

The IMO will assess the proposal and, within 5 Business Days of receiving the proposal form, will notify the proponent whether the proposal will be progressed further.

In order for the proposal to be progressed the change proposal must explain how it will enable the Market Rules to better contribute to the achievement of the Wholesale Market Objectives. The market objectives are:

- (a) to promote the economically efficient, safe and reliable production and supply of electricity and electricity related services in the South West interconnected system;
- (b) to encourage competition among generators and retailers in the South West interconnected system, including by facilitating efficient entry of new competitors;
- (c) to avoid discrimination in that market against particular energy options and technologies, including sustainable energy options and technologies such as those that make use of renewable resources or that reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions;
- (d) to minimise the long-term cost of electricity supplied to customers from the South West interconnected system; and
- (e) to encourage the taking of measures to manage the amount of electricity used and when it is used.

A Rule Change Proposal can be processed using a Standard Rule Change Process or a Fast Track Rule Change Process. The standard process involves a combined 10 weeks public submission period, while the fast track process involves the IMO consulting with Rule Participants who either advise the IMO that they wish to be consulted or the IMO considers have an interest in the change.