

Northern Territory Electricity System and Market Operator

Communications Guideline and MSATS Procedures v1.5 Draft Report and Determination

26 May 2025

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Notice of Second Stage Consultation

Date of Notice: 26 May 2025

This Notice of the Second Stage of rules Consultation (Notice) informs all relevant parties including;

- Northern Territory Electricity Market (NTEM) participants
- NT Utilities Commission
- NT Office of Sustainable Energy
- Australian Electricity Market Operator (AEMO)
- Persons who identify themselves to NT Electricity System Market Operator (NTESMO) as interested in the Communications Guideline (Consulted Persons) that NTESMO is conducting a consultation (Consultation) on the Communications Guideline.

The Consultation is being conducted under clause S7A.1.3 of the Northern Territory National Electricity Rules (NT NER), in accordance with the Rules consultation requirements in NT NER clause 8.9.

Invitation to Make Submissions

NTESMO invites written submissions on this Draft Report and Determination (Draft Report).

Please identify any parts of your submission that you wish to remain confidential and explain why. NTESMO may still publish that information if it does not consider it to be confidential but will consult with you before doing so.

Consulted Persons should note that material identified as confidential may be given less weight in the decision-making process than material which is published.

Closing Date and Time

Submissions in response to this Notice should be sent by email market.operator@powerwater.com.au to reach NTESMO by 5.00pm (Darwin time) on 25 June 2025.

All submissions must be forwarded in electronic format (both pdf and Word). Please send any queries about this consultation to the same email address.

Submissions received after the closing date and time will not be valid, and NTESMO is not obliged to consider them. Any late submissions should explain the reason for lateness as well as the detriment to you if NTESMO does not consider your submission.

Publication

All submissions will be published on NTESMO's website, other than confidential content.

Executive Summary

The publication of this Draft Report and Determination (Draft Report) commences the second stage consultation by NTESMO on proposed changes to the NTESMO Communications Guideline.

On 28 March 2025, NTESMO published the Notice of First Stage Consultation and the Issues Paper. The changes (Changes) which are proposed (Proposal) are updates for MSATS NEM changes and Updates to NEM B2B procedures with a third point on the aseXML schema.

- NTESMO Communications Guideline
- NTESMO MSATS Procedures Principles and Obligations for all Connection Points
- NTESMO Standing Data for MSATS
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Service Order Process
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Customer and Site Details Notification
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Meter Data Process
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Technical Delivery Specification
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Meter Data File Format Specification NEM12 NEM13
- NTESMO B2B Procedure One Way Notification Process

NTESMO received 3 submissions from Retailers & Local Network Service Providers (LNSPs). Overall, respondents indicated broad support of the proposed changes.

NTESMO has identified the following material issues, based on these submissions, as well as NTESMO's own analysis:

- Discussion on process for ensuring there are no NT unique procedures
- Address formats complying with the required Australian standard

NTESMO's draft determination is to update changes within the Communications Guideline and associated procedures in the form published with this Draft Report.

1. Stakeholder Consultation Process

NTESMO is consulting on the proposed changes to the Communications Guideline in accordance with the Rules Consultation Procedures in clause 8.9 of the NT NER, as required by clause S7A.1.3 of the NT NER.

NTESMO's indicative timeline for this consultation is outlined below. Future dates may be adjusted depending on the number and complexity of issues raised in submissions.

Deliverable	Indicative date
Issues Paper published	28 March 2025
Submissions due on Issues Paper	1 May 2025
Draft Report published	26 May 2025
Submissions due on Draft Report	25 June 2025
Final Report published	18 July 2025

The publication of this Draft Report marks the commencement of this second stage consultation.

2. Background

2.1 NT NER requirements

NTESMO is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a Communications Guideline specified in S7A.1.3 of the NT NER.

The Communications Guideline authorised by NTESMO under Chapter 7A must be established and amended by NTESMO in accordance with the Rules consultation procedures.

2.2 Context for this consultation

NTESMO has made changes to the Communication Guideline for updates for MSATS NEM changes and Updates to NEM B2B procedures with a third point on the aseXML schema.

In summary, the Changes are to:

NTESMO to update NT MSATS procedures to reflect changes to the NEM MSATS procedures.

The Communications Guideline authorised by NTESMO under Chapter 7A must be established and amended by NTESMO in accordance with the Rules consultation procedures.

The proposed effective date for the documents is 1 December 2025.

2.3 First stage consultation

On 28 March 2025, NTESMO issued a Notice of First Stage Consultation and published an Issues Paper and initial draft amended procedure document. This information is available on NTESMO's website. The Issues Paper included a summary of the proposed changes.

In response, NTESMO received 3 submissions.

NTESMO has published copies of all written submissions (excluding any confidential information) on NTESMO's website.

3. Summary of Material Issues

The key material issues are as follows:

No.	Issue	Raised by
1.	Unique customisations to support NT procedures	Rimfire Energy
2.	Address formats complying with Australian Standards	Rimfire Energy

A detailed summary of the issues raised by Consulted Persons in submissions, together with NTESMO's responses, is contained in **Appendix A**.

4. Discussion of Material Issues

4.1 Unique Customisations in the NT Procedures

Rimfire Energy stated the following regarding the new B2B Procedures:

It remains unclear as to whether or not the NT will support the new service order sub-types or not on the basis that the NT is exempt from AEMC initiatives.

If the additional fields are not to be used, Rimfire notes that a unique non-NEM standard of B2B procedures will need to be developed and adopted

NTESMO has consulted on the new capabilities of the MSATS system with participants to determine if participants' want to use the new functionality that is available through these system changes. NTESMO has sort feedback from participants rather than make decisions regarding these matters.

Through prior consultations NTESMO has adopted the methodology of marking sections as 'Not used in the NT Procedures' where it has been determined that a function or transaction is not applicable for the Northern Territory Electricity Market. Rather than make a system change NTESMO has determined through the consultation process that functions will not be used in the NT and marked as such in the NT procedures.

NTESMO notes that the new fields in the B2B procedures are not mandatory and can be used where the relevant circumstance have been met.

While the fields are available to be used they are not mandatory and hence this does not create a unique non-NEM B2B procedure. NTESMO will continue to use the approach of marking items as ‘Not used in the NT Procedures’ rather than creating non-NEM standard B2B and MSATS transactions.

Questions:
1. Do participants support the approach of NTESMO to identify items as ‘Not used in the NT Procedures’ rather than making non-NEM standard changes to MSATS transactions?

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| 1. Do participants support the approach of NTESMO to identify items as ‘Not used in the NT Procedures’ rather than making non-NEM standard changes to MSATS transactions? |
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4.2 Address Formats complying with Australian Standards

Rimfire Energy raised a comment on address standards:

There is no reference in relation to take the Australian address format changes being used at the time of R46 becoming effective in Oct 2025.

Rimfire requests a discussion for the purposes of clarifying these matters.

NTESMO has reviewed the NTESMO Standing Data for MSATS procedure and the requirements on addresses included in section 7.1 of the Standing Data procedure. Each address line include a reference that the address should be detailed *as per Australian Standard AS4590.1:2017 5.8 Address site name*

This was a change included in the documents issued for Consultation as it is required as part of the new aseXML schema version R46.

NTESMO acknowledges that this requirement was included in the procedure documents but not highlighted through the Issue Paper that accompanied this Consultation. Hence this is being included in this draft report.

NTESMO is seeking confirmation that participants are aware of the address requirements that come into force with the new schema R46,

Questions:
2. Do participants understand the new address format requirements that come into effect with the new schema R46 as detailed in the NTESMO Standing Data for MSATS procedure?

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| 2. Do participants understand the new address format requirements that come into effect with the new schema R46 as detailed in the NTESMO Standing Data for MSATS procedure? |
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5. Draft Determination

NTESMO's draft determination is to amend the following procedure documents in the form published with this Draft Report, in accordance with Chapter 7A of the NT NER:

- NTESMO Communications Guideline v1.5 Draft Determination Change Marked
- NTESMO Communications Guideline v1.5 Draft Determination Clean
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Customer Site Details Notification Process v1.5 Draft Determination Changes Marked
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Customer Site Details Notification Process v1.5 Draft Determination Clean
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Service Order Process v1.5 Draft Determination Changes Marked
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Service Order Process v1.5 Draft Determination Clean
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Meter Data Process v1.5 Draft Determination Changes Marked
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Meter Data Process v1.5 Draft Determination Clean
- NTESMO B2B Procedure One Way Notification Process v1.5 Draft Determination changes marked
- NTESMO B2B Procedure One Way Notification Process v1.5 Draft Determination Clean
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Technical Delivery Specification v1.5 Draft Determination Changes Marked
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Technical Delivery Specification v1.5 Draft Determination Clean
- NTESMO Meter Data File Format NEM12 and NEM13 v1.5 Draft Determination changes Marked
- NTESMO Meter Data File Format NEM12 and NEM13 v1.5 Draft Determination Clean
- NTESMO MSATS Procedures Principles and Obligations for All Connection Points v1.5 Draft changes marked
- NTESMO MSATS Procedures Principles and Obligations for All Connection Points v1.5 Draft Determination Clean
- NTESMO Standing Data for MSATS v1.5 Draft Determination Changes Marked
- NTESMO Standing Data for MSATS v1.5 Draft Determination Clean

Appendix A: Summary of Submissions and NTESMO's Responses

Number	Question	Consulted Person	Participant Comments	NTESMO Response
1	Do you support the inclusion of fields in MSATS for the Metering Coordinator to record metering defects against a site?	Jacana Energy	<p>Jacana Energy can support the inclusion of the fields in MSATS allowing the Metering Coordinator to record metering defects, noting that the MSATS changes are mandatory for ongoing participation in the National Electricity Market (NEM).</p> <p>Jacana Energy note that the proposed changes may offer limited benefit to Jacana Energy relative to the effort involved in the change.</p> <p>Whilst the technical changes appear straight forward, Jacana Energy will not be able to fully assess the full impact until we understand the operational B2B processes proposed by the Metering Coordinator.</p>	NTESMO notes the response from Jacana Energy. Please refer to Power and Water's response below
1	Do you support the inclusion of fields in MSATS for the Metering Coordinator to record metering defects against a site?	Rimfire Energy	Yes	NTESMO notes the response from Rimfire Energy.
1	Do you support the inclusion of fields in MSATS for the Metering Coordinator to record metering defects against a site?	Power and Water	<p>Power and Water supports the proposed changes noting that the metering rollout covered by the AEMC mandate does not apply in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>While not mandated, during the last AER distribution determination covering the 2024-29 regulatory control period, Power and Water has committed to upgrading the vast majority (if not all) meters across its AER regulated networks. We believe that this inclusion will support our roll out.</p>	NTESMO notes the response from Power and Water

Number	Question	Consulted Person	Participant Comments	NTESMO Response
2	Are there any other comments on the minor changes through the rest of the MSATS Procedures and Standing Data for MSATS documents?	Jacana Energy	Jacana Energy have no other comments on the minor changes made to the MSATS procedures and Standing Data for MSATS documents.	NTESMO notes the response from Jacana Energy.
2	Are there any other comments on the minor changes through the rest of the MSATS Procedures and Standing Data for MSATS documents?	Rimfire Energy	No	NTESMO notes the response from Rimfire Energy.
2	Are there any other comments on the minor changes through the rest of the MSATS Procedures and Standing Data for MSATS documents?	Power and Water	In the Standing Data for MSATS there is a need to include the enumerated value in Table 27 – Valid Transformer Fields values • VT_RATIO, 132000:190.52 (Northern Territory only)	NTESMO notes the response from Power and Water and has updated the standing data procedure as requested.
3	Do the participants support the proposed changes to the business to business procedures?	Jacana Energy	Jacana Energy note that the proposed changes may offer limited benefit to Jacana Energy relative to the effort involved. While recognising the importance of these updates for market participants, Jacana Energy has identified the following risks: • Insufficient lead time to implement changes Jacana Energy anticipate a minimum of 6 months will be required to implement the changes, taking into consideration the necessary impact assessment, solution design, testing, change management and deployment activities. • With the revised go live date of 1 July 2025 for MIS and the 8-week hyper-care period, this leaves	NTESMO notes the response from Jacana Energy noting the effect date of the changes are 1 December 2025. NTESMO notes the concerns expressed by Jacana but the effective date for these changes are driven by the system service provider and not NTESMO

Number	Question	Consulted Person	Participant Comments	NTESMO Response
			<p>Jacana Energy with 2 months to implement these changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited resource capacity Jacana Energy resourcing is insufficient to adequately support the MIS hyper-care period and commence a new project to adopt the new changes within the required timeline Work in Progress Jacana Energy have yet to transact via MSATS due to delays with the MIS go live and system testing and agreement on B2B operational processes are still work in progress. Therefore, any impact assessment or planning for the proposed changes will be limited until the completion of the MIS go live and hyper care period. Market participants dependencies As noted with the MIS project, Jacana Energy anticipate these changes will have a dependency on other market participants' ability to adopt the changes within the required time. Jacana Energy would like to understand what assurances can be made to mitigate delays across all participants to meet the required time to mitigate delays and additional costs to Jacana Energy. 	
3	Do the participants support the proposed changes to the business to business procedures?	Rimfire Energy	<p>It remains unclear as to whether or not the NT will support the new service order sub-types or not on the basis that the NT is exempt from AEMC initiatives. If the additional fields are not to be used, Rimfire notes that a unique non-NEM standard of B2B procedures will need to be developed and adopted. This is not acceptable to Rimfire.</p>	NTESMO notes this response and has called it out as a material issue for discussion through this draft report

Number	Question	Consulted Person	Participant Comments	NTESMO Response
3	Do the participants support the proposed changes to the business to business procedures?	Power and Water	Power and Water notes that the definition of “unaccompanied minor” needs to be articulated for purpose of Service Order (SO) exception code. Emancipated teenagers may hold electricity accounts and hold authority to grant access.	NTESMO notes the response from Power and Water.
4	Do the participants support the proposed changes to the Meter Data File Formats?	Jacana Energy	Jacana Energy supports the proposed changes to the Meter Data File Formats. We understand that this is to align the NEM12 file format as per the rest of the market.	NTESMO notes the response from Jacana Energy.
4	Do the participants support the proposed changes to the Meter Data File Formats?	Rimfire Energy	Yes	NTESMO notes the response from Rimfire Energy.
4	Do the participants support the proposed changes to the Meter Data File Formats?	Power and Water	Power and Water supports the proposed changes.	NTESMO notes the response from Power and Water.
5	Do the participants understand the impacts on the aseXML schema being used to submit transactions via MSATS?	Jacana Energy	Jacana Energy understands the requirement associated with version alignment, including the minus one requirement and the expectation that retailers operate within current supported versions. Jacana Energy also acknowledges that there is no other option but to adopt the new schema to mitigate system issues and failures for transacting via MSATS.	NTESMO notes the response from Jacana Energy.
5	Do the participants understand the impacts on the aseXML schema being used to submit transactions via MSATS?	Rimfire Energy	Rimfire notes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - R45 is a gas schema but not an electricity schema. 	NTESMO notes the response from Rimfire Energy and will fix the error.

Number	Question	Consulted Person	Participant Comments	NTESMO Response
			- R46 as the electricity schema will be effective as of October 2025.	
5	Do the participants understand the impacts on the aseXML schema being used to submit transactions via MSATS?	Power and Water	Power and Water notes and understand the impacts of the change in aseXML schema.	NTESMO notes the response from Power and Water.
6	Do you have any other suggestions, comments or questions regarding this consultation?	Jacana Energy	Jacana Energy request NTESMO to provide a consolidated summary of changes in future consultations to enable quicker responses. For future consultations relating to MSATS change releases, Jacana Energy would like to understand the expected lead time NTESMO will provide to Market Participants. This will enable Jacana Energy to better align strategic planning and budget requirements.	NTESMO notes the response from Jacana Energy and will include this in future NTESMO consultations.
6	Do you have any other suggestions, comments or questions regarding this consultation?	Rimfire Energy	There is no reference in relation to take the Australian address format changes being used at the time of R46 becoming effective in Oct 2025. Rimfire requests a discussion for the purposes of clarifying these matters.	NTESMO notes that this requirement has been included in the NTESMO Standing Data for MSATS Section 7.1 Field Definitions for addresses
6	Do you have any other suggestions, comments or questions regarding this consultation?	Power and Water	Power and Water propose that in the <i>B2B Service Order Process</i> document, page 36, Table 11 that we include the highlighted wording below to provide improved clarity to participants regarding the protection period: The DNSP will not disconnect the premises during the following _times ('the protected period'):	NTESMO notes the response from Power and Water and will update the procedure accordingly.

Number	Question	Consulted Person	Participant Comments	NTESMO Response
			<p>I. on a business day before 8.00am or after 3.00pm; or</p> <p>II. <i>if you are being disconnected for a failure to pay</i>, on a Friday or the day before a public holiday; or</p> <p>III. on a weekend or a public holiday; or</p> <p>IV. <i>if you are being disconnected for a failure to pay</i>, on the days between 20 December and 1 January (both inclusive) in any year; or</p> <p>V. if you are being disconnected for a failure to pay, during an extreme weather event.</p>	

Contact

Power and Water - 1800 245 092 from 8am to 5pm weekdays.

Market Operator - 08 8985 8566

Email: market.operator@powerwater.com.au

NTESMO