

NTESMO consultations 2025/2026



**Industry update
July 2025**

Introduction

Northern Territory Electricity System and Market Operator (NTESMO)¹ in its capacity as the Power System Controller and Market Operator is advising Northern Territory industry participants of the upcoming amendments to various guidelines and procedures.

The Power System Controller leverage follow a recognised industry consultation process that is defined in the National Electricity Rules as in force in the Northern Territory (NER (NT)) Version 125 Chapter 8.9. Typically, the amendments will follow an expedited consultation process as being fit-for-purpose for the amendments required.

Rationale

There has been a significant shift in the topology of the power system over the past 5 years with the implementation of more inverter-based asynchronous and decentralised systems. Furthermore, there has been the application of more contemporary technologies that requires a significant uplift in the development, review, consultation, publication and implementation of guidelines and procedures related to the regulated power systems and electricity wholesale market.

This has yielded the development of a two-year consolidated consultation planning cycle that covers the wide array of guideline and procedural developments to ensure that the transition is undertaken in a prudent and efficient manner. NTESMO has committed to assuring consistency and provide participants and stakeholders with a clear and practically achievable forward schedule for the increasing volume of themes, topics, and documented practice for further consultation.

Approach

Two separate consultation initiation periods are planned annually as follows:

- Market Operation - March and September
- Power System Control - May and November.

Ongoing consultations regarding the Market Operator for implementation of market interactions enablement (MIE) and deployment of the AEMO MSATS System during 2024 and are ongoing to align with the proposed cadence above. From time-to-time, consultation of critical matters may be required outside this cycle and Industry Participants will be informed accordingly.

Keeping participants informed of progress is valued and therefore NTESMO intends to provide regular updates to participants regarding the broader consultation plan and any variations to the plan.

NTESMO will publish conceptual and methodology discussion papers appended to proposed procedural and guideline developments and seek feedback from participants as part of the consultation process.

Consultations will leverage the NER (NT) Chapter 8.9 Rules² Consultation Procedures that provide a practical basis for consultation that is well established across the Electricity Supply Industry. Each proposed development or amendment will leverage this process as either a standard, expedited or minor consultation, with associated rationale for the type of consultation being applied.

¹ NTESMO is a subordinate business unit in Power and Water that forms part of the Core Operations Business Unit

² [NER \(NT\) - v125 - Chapter 8 - Part F Rules consultation procedures, Section 8.9 page 808](#)

Consultation materials and planned consultation themes

The consultation schedule, which follows the annual consultation cycles, is presented in Appendix A. The core themes for consultation for the 2025 cycle and leading into the 2026 cycle are presented below. The themes identified have been driven by the immediate needs identified for the System and Market Operator.

Consultation materials

Each consultation, as a minimum, will include:

- A summary document outlining the proposed development and amendments and rationale.
- A timeframe mapping out the consultation steps.
- A discussion paper for each theme or methodology providing more detail of the proposed changes.
- A list of questions to prompt participants' responses.
- A proposed implementation schedule

Planned consultation themes

Market Operator

March 2025 to August 2025

- Market interactions enablement: development of market procedures aligned to the implementation of MSATS.

September 2025 to December 2026

- Market interactions enablement: update, amendment and further development of market procedures aligned to the implementation of MSATS. This is a number of shorter consultations over the period.

March 2026 to September 2026

- Market interactions enablement: development of market procedures aligned to the implementation of MSATS.
- Market Operations Procedures: Minor review and update of existing procedures which will be detailed in the respective consultation package.

Power System Controller

July 2025 to October 2025

- Align Secure System Guidelines (SSG) format with existing technical codes and procedures.
- Discussion of application of frequency regulating (R-FCAS) and contingency (C-FCAS) methodologies.
- Application of Frequency Operating Standards and Frequency Control Ancillary Services (FCAS) through proposed amendments to the SSG.

November 2025 to May 2026

- Review and amendment of scheduling and dispatch procedures to be more reflective of existing generation requirements. This includes consolidating and updating related procedures, e.g. Tie-Break Procedure and Dispatch and Pricing Procedure.

December 2025 to August 2026

- Discussion of the requirements for connection and application of BESS within the regulated power systems. This is likely a substantive consultation over an extended period.

June 2026 to November 2026

- Contingency definition review: review of contingency definitions and application of contingency limits across the DKPS taking account of the BESS installations. There will be specific consideration of the application of contingency definitions and limits for the Darwin-Katherine Transmission Line.
- Power System Control procedures: minor review and update of existing procedures.

Attachment A – Proposed consultation schedule

