
NTESMO
Communications Guideline
and MSATS Procedures v1.0
Consultation

30 June 2022

Issues Paper

Proposed Changes

Initial adoption of Market Settlements and Transaction Solution
Procedures in the Northern Territory Electricity Market

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Notice of consultation

Date of Notice: 30 June 2022

This Notice of First Stage of Rules Consultation (Notice) informs all relevant parties including;

- Northern Territory Electricity Market (NTEM) participants
- NT Utilities Commission
- Australian Electricity Market Operator (AEMO) and
- 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 and Market Settlements and Transactions Solutions (MSATS) procedures.

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.

Matters under consultation

The changes (Changes) which are proposed (Proposal) are to:

- Adopt the version of the Communications Guideline attached to this consultation notice
- Adopt the use of the AEMO MSATS and B2B eHUB system for Information Exchange transactions within the NTEM
- Adopt the procedures as detailed below for managing information exchange transactions via the AEMO MSATS and B2B eHUB system
 - NTESMO MSATS Procedure – Consumer Administration and Transfer Solution (CATS) Procedure Principles and Obligations
 - NTESMO Standing Data for MSATS
 - NTESMO Meter Data File Format Specification NEM12 and NEM13
 - NTESMO Business to Business (B2B) Guide
 - NTESMO B2B Procedure Service Order Process
 - NTESMO B2B Procedure Customer and Site Details Notification
 - NTESMO B2B Procedure Meter Data Process
 - NTESMO B2B Procedure One Way Notification Process
 - NTESMO NT B2B Procedure Technical Delivery Specification

Table 1 Summary of Proposal

Instrument	New/Amended
NTESMO Communications Guideline	New document adopted in the NTEM
NTESMO B2B Procedure Customer Site Details Notification Process	New document adopted in the NTEM
NTESMO B2B Procedure Service Order Process	New document adopted in the NTEM
NTESMO B2B Procedure Meter Data Process	New document adopted in the NTEM

Instrument	New/Amended
NTESMO B2B Procedure One Way Notification Process	New document adopted in the NTEM
NTESMO B2B Procedure Technical Delivery Specification	New document adopted in the NTEM
NTESMO B2B Guide	New document adopted in the NTEM
NTESMO Meter Data File Format NEM12 and NEM13	New document adopted in the NTEM
NTESMO MSATS CATS Procedures	New document adopted in the NTEM
NTESMO Standing Data for MSATS	New document adopted in the NTEM

The consultation process

NTESMO invites written submissions for the matters under consultation, including any alternative or additional proposals which may provide a more efficient information exchange process for the Northern Territory Electricity Market.

Submissions in response to this Notice should be sent by email by 5:00pm (ACST) on 8 August 2022 to market.operator@powerwater.com.au.

A response template has been provided on NTESMO's website. Please send any queries in respect of the Consultation to the same email address.

NTESMO is not obliged to consider late submissions for this reason. A late submission should explain the reason for lateness and the detriment to you if NTESMO does not consider the submission.

Please identify any confidential parts of your submission which you wish to remain confidential, explaining why. NTESMO may still publish that information, if it does not consider it to be confidential, and contact will be made prior to publishing. Please note that material identified as confidential may be given less weight in the decision-making process than material that is published.

In your submission, you may request a meeting with NTESMO to discuss the matters under consultation, stating why you consider a meeting is necessary or desirable.

If appropriate, meetings may be held jointly with other Consulted Persons. NTESMO will generally make details of matters discussed at a meeting available to other Consulted Persons and may publish them, subject to confidentiality restrictions.

Table 2 Summary of consultation stages

Process Stage	Date
Publication of Issues Paper	30 June 2022
Closing date for submissions in response to Issues Paper	8 August 2022
Publication of Draft Report and Determination (Draft Report)	9 September 2022
Closing date for submissions in response to Draft Report	26 September 2022

Process Stage	Date
Publication of Final Report and Determination (Final Report)	4 November 2022

NTESMO developed the Changes in the interests of improving the NTEM information exchange processes. The Changes do not require AEMO MSATS or B2B e-Hub system changes. Some of the participants may require system changes due to the Changes.

1. Background

This Issues Paper has been prepared to detail the Proposal. The Changes have been developed under NTESMO's power to manage the ongoing development of the information exchange processes as contemplated by NT NER S7A.1.3.

This Issues Paper also provides information which is considered by NTESMO in determining whether to change the information exchange processes, namely:

- An issues statement in respect of the Proposal (see section 1.1)
- A summary of the Changes, including consideration of the information exchange rules
- A consideration of the NT Electricity Reform Act objectives (see section 2.5)

The Changes have been considered and recommended by NTESMO.

The Changes would result in the initial adoption of the following documents:

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

1.1 Issues statement and scope

NTESMO has developed the Changes to improve the functionality and efficiency of information exchange transactions between the NTEM participants. The Changes were developed by NTESMO.

In summary, the Changes are to:

- Adopt the version of the Communications Guideline attached to this Consultation notice
- Adopt the use of the AEMO MSATS system for information exchange transactions within the NTEM
- Adopt the procedures as detailed below for managing information exchange transactions via the AEMO MSATS system
 - NTESMO MSATS Procedure – CATS Procedure Principles and Obligations
 - NTESMO Standing Data for MSATS

- NTESMO Meter Data File Format Specification NEM12 and NEM13
- NTESMO B2B Guide
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Service Order Process
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Customer and Site Details Notification
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Meter Data Process
- NTESMO B2B Procedure One Way Notification Process
- NTESMO B2B Procedure Technical Delivery Specification

The relevant effective date for all the documents is 1 July 2023.

1.2 Proposed Consultation plan

The proposed consultation plan is as follows:

Table 3 Plan

Stage	Start Date	End Date
Publication of Notice of Consultation and Issues Paper	30 June 2022	
Participant submissions to be provided to NTESMO	30 June 2022	8 August 2022
Closing date for submissions in response to Issues Paper	8 August 2022	
NTESMO to consider all valid submissions and prepare Draft Report and Determination (Draft Report), including change-marked Procedures	8 August 2022	9 September 2022
Publication of Draft Report	9 September 2022	
Participant submissions to be provided to NTESMO	9 September 2022	26 September 2022
Closing date for submissions in response to Draft Report	26 September 2022	
NTESMO to consider all valid submissions and prepare Final Report and Determination (Final Report), including change-marked Procedures	26 September 2022	4 November 2022
Publication of Final Report	4 November 2022	

2. Proposed Changes

2.1 Adoption of the Communications Guideline

The NTEM rules for Customer Transfers and Service Orders (Business to Business communication) have been governed by the NT Electricity Retail Supply Code (ERSC). The Change Proposal is for the adoption of a new Communications Guideline published by NTESMO. The Communications Guideline is published under clause S7A.1.3 of the NT NER to specify the information exchange processes for the NTEM.

The Communications Guideline details rules for the retail transfer of a customer. These rules apply after a retailer has contracted with a customer. The ERSC rules still apply to retailers for the process of contracting new customers. The Communications Guideline does not change these rules. It solely changes the mechanism used to communicate when a retailer has contracted with a customer.

The Communications Guideline is published by NTESMO and will be applicable to Registered Participants operating in the NTEM.

The Procedures attached to the Communications Guideline are published by NTESMO to support the information exchange processes. As the NTEM is not part of the National Electricity Market, a separate version of the MSATS procedures must be published and maintained for use by the NTEM participants.

The Communications Guideline proposes the use of the same information exchange processes for both the Darwin Katherine Integrated System and for the other centres in the Territory. The Proposal is that the Procedure documents are stand-alone and will be consulted under the same Rules Consultation Procedures as the Communications Guideline.

Question 1: Do you support having the same information exchange processes for all NT electricity sites?

Question 2: Do you support the adoption of the Communication Guideline?

Question 3: Do you support the structuring of these documents and consultation under the Rules Consultation Procedure on future changes to these documents?

2.1.1 Use of AEMO MSATS system in the NTEM

The Communications Guideline adopts the use of the AEMO MSATS system to facilitate the information exchange processes in the NTEM. The use of the AEMO MSATS systems enables the NTEM to use the NEM model of information exchange processes and achieve economies of scale in service provision that are not available through a stand-alone NT solution.

Adopting the AEMO MSATS system necessitates the adoption of the MSATS procedures for maintaining standing data, transferring customers and for business to business communication. These are published through this Consultation and will be updated as required.

NTESMO will remain responsible for system control, market operations and settlements in the NTEM.

The Proposal is only to use the AEMO MSATS system for maintaining standing data, transferring customers and for business to business communication and not the other services AEMO provides in the NEM.

The Utilities Commission will remain responsible for registration and monitoring of market participants under this Proposal.

Question 4: Do you support the use of the AEMO MSATS system and associated procedures for the delivery of information exchange process in the Northern Territory?

Question 5: Do you understand the distinction in responsibilities between NTESMO and AEMO?

2.2 Use of MSATS for NMI Standing Data and Customer Transfers

Under this Proposal, all market participants will have a requirement to maintain the site data against the NMI in MSATS and update this data as required. MSATS will be the mechanism to deliver site data updates to all market participants with an association to that site. MSATS retains site data but no confidential information on the customer residing at the site.

Retailers will have access to this site data when quoting prospective customers. Retailers, have contracted with a customer will be required to update the MSATS record for that site.. The ERSC will remain the rule setting instrument for retailers when contracting with a customer. MSATS will become the mechanism for informing participants when a retailer has contracted with a site.

To maintain formatting alignment with the NEM MSATS procedures if a section is not required in the NT procedures it is labelled rather than have the whole component deleted in the NT MSATS procedures. This maintains alignment between the NT and NEM procedures.

NTESMO will utilise the NMI standing data and relationships in MSATS when calculating settlement statements for the registered market participant.

Question 6: Do you support the proposed new mechanism for the retail transfer of a customer?

Question 7: Do you support the adoption of NEM12 and NEM13 meter data file formats for the delivery of meter data under this Proposal?

2.3 Proposed B2B Procedures

The Communications Guideline contains reference to five B2B procedures and the Guide which are proposed for adoption in the NTEM. These procedures are based on the NEM equivalent documents and have been tailored to suit the requirements of the Territory.

2.3.1 NT B2B Procedure Service Order Process

The Service Order Process outlines how to transact between each participant for service orders and the required transaction processing, acknowledgments and timings. It also details the available business to business transactions that can be submitted between market participants.

While the Service Order process details the available business to business transactions, the ability for a participant to utilise these transactions is driven by the NT NER and the ERSC. Specifically, the remote reconnection and disconnection of a meter is supported by this process, but this function is not currently enabled in the Territory.

Question 8: Do you support the list of available business to business transactions?

2.3.2 NT B2B Procedure Customer and Site Details Notification

The Customer and Site Details notification process includes the manner for communicating the life support status of a site. This procedure is required as MSATS stores only site data and not customer data. The Procedure places obligations on parties when they have updated customer data to communicate it to other parties with a relationship to the site.

Question 9: Does the life support process and data contained within this Procedure satisfy your organisations requirements for life support? If not please explain any discrepancy.

2.3.3 NT B2B Procedure Meter Data Process

The Meter Data Process details the mechanisms for the delivery and querying of meter data together with requesting remote services from meters. The remote service requests for a meter are not currently a function that are enabled in the Territory.

Question 10: Does the proposed mechanisms for the delivery and querying of meter data support the operational requirements of your organisation? If not please explain any concerns.

2.3.4 NT B2B Procedure One Way Notifications

The One Way Notification Process enables Participants to send information or messages to other Participants in a single transaction. The one way notifications which support the separation of meter providers and network providers have been excluded as the NT NER excludes metering competition at this time.

2.3.5 NT B2B Guide

The NT B2B Guide is a supporting document outlining how the B2B transactions will operate and the options available to participants. This is a Guide and does not contain additional requirements on participants.

2.3.6 NT B2B Procedure Technical Delivery Specification

The technical delivery specification supports the obligation on NTESMO under S7A.1.3 (d) and specifies the technical requirements for the delivery of B2B Transactions using the e-Hub. This information will assist participants in design and development of information systems.

Question 11: Are the detailed technical specifications sufficient for participants to design and commission the information systems necessary for it to engage with the proposed information exchange processes?

2.4 Use of AEMO Guides and schema documents

While the MSATS and B2B procedures are published by NTESMO there is additional information on the AEMO website to assist participants with designing systems and transacting via MSATS. This is outlined in Section 2 and Appendix 1 of the Communications Guideline.

In addition to the guides, AEMO provides detailed information on the schema and format of aseXML transactions required in constructing the messages to be exchanged via MSATS. These are referenced in the Communications Guideline.

As these documents are readily available it is not the intention of NTESMO to publish and maintain a NT specific version of these guides

Question 12: Do you support the proposed NTESMO model of utilising the AEMO guides and technical documents where possible rather than reproducing a NT version of these documents?

2.5 NTESMO Market Assessment

NTESMO considers that this Issues Paper and Proposal supports and promotes the efficient operation of the Northern Territory Electricity Market:

Market Objectives	Justification
Promote economic efficiency	<p>Use of the AEMO MSATS system and procedures allows NTESMO to access economies of scale in service provision costs not available from alternative scenarios.</p> <p>The majority of customer information systems available to the NTEM participants are also utilised in the NEM and have existing support of the proposed transactions. NTEM participants can purchase 'off the shelf' software and incur lower customisation costs for using the standard information exchange processes.</p>
Ensure consumers benefit from competition	<p>By aligning with the NEM, NTESMO removes a barrier to entry for retailers operating in the NEM as they can transact in a comparable manner in the NTEM.</p> <p>By providing retailers with automated access to site data this can provide improved quality of information being available when retailers quote new customers.</p>
Prevent misuse of monopoly power	<p>All market participants operating in the NT will be transacting under the same set of business rules and this provides equal access to data for all participants.</p>

2.6 Benefits

The proposed information exchange processes will benefit the Northern Territory electricity consumers in the following manner:

- Reduced operating costs through the alignment of information exchange processes across the Territory and participants not supporting different methods for Darwin Katherine Integrated System and the minor centres
- Economies of scale in the provision of the information exchange systems through utilising the AEMO MSATS system
- Removal of a barrier to entry for retailers operating in the NEM by aligning with the processes currently used in the NEM.
- Enabling market participants to utilise 'off the shelf' software and share in the costs of any updates to the information exchange transactions with other users of those systems operating in the NEM

2.7 Costs

NTESMO will incur costs of providing access to the AEMO MSATS system and maintaining the MSATS procedures. NTESMO will seek to recover these costs through the Utilities Commission as part of the System Control and market operator fees. Each participant will incur costs for establishing their systems and processes to operate in compliance with the proposed information exchange processes.

2.8 Questions on proposed changes

Question 13: Are there other options to accommodate the proposed change that better achieve the stated objectives? What are the related pros and cons? How would they be implemented?

Question 14: What are the main challenges in adopting these proposed changes? How should these challenges be addressed?

Question 15: What are the costs and/or benefits if the proposed changes were not made? Consider the perspectives of process, training, system and customer impacts.

Question 16: These changes are proposed to be effective from 1 July 2023. Does that provide each participant with sufficient time to develop the required systems and process to transact according to the proposed new rules?

Question 17: Do you have any other suggestions, comments or questions regarding this consultation?

3.NT Communications Guideline Proposal

The proposed changes are detailed within the attached Communications Guideline and Procedures published with this Issues Paper.

