

NTESMO Communications Guideline V1.4 Issues Paper

18 October 2024

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Notice of consultation

Date of Notice: 18 October 2024

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:

- Include interim market procedures in the following document:
 - NTESMO Communications Guideline

There are no changes to any other NTESMO documents published under the Communications Guideline.

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 18 November 2024 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	18 October 2024
Closing date for submissions in response to Issues Paper	18 November 2024
Publication of Draft Report and Determination (Draft Report)	29 November 2024
Closing date for submissions in response to Draft Report	10 January 2025
Publication of Final Report and Determination (Final Report)	24 January 2025

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.

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 2.2)
- The Changes have been considered and recommended by NTESMO.

The Changes would result in the inclusion of interim procedures in the following document:

- NTESMO Communications Guideline

There are no other changes to these documents under consultation as part of this proposal.

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:

- Include interim procedures into the Communications Guideline to address a market discrepancy which has caused participants to not be transacting in accordance with the Communications Guideline

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 24 January 2025.

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	18 October 2024	
Participant submissions to be provided to NTESMO	18 October 2024	18 November 2024
Closing date for submissions in response to Issues Paper	18 November 2024	
NTESMO to consider all valid submissions and prepare Draft Report and Determination (Draft Report), including change-marked Procedures	18 November 2024	29 November 2024
Publication of Draft Report	29 November 2024	
Participant submissions to be provided to NTESMO	29 November 2024	10 January 2025
Closing date for submissions in response to Draft Report	10 January 2025	
NTESMO to consider all valid submissions and prepare Final Report and Determination (Final Report), including change-marked Procedures	10 January 2025	24 January 2025

2. Proposed Changes

2.1 Interim Market Procedures

NTESMO has developed section 9 of the Communications Guideline to include interim market procedures to apply in the NTEM. As the v1.3 consultation on the Communications Guideline was not completed by 31 August 2024 the Communications Guideline v1.2 came into effect on 1 September 2024 and this expired the relevant rules in the Electricity Retail Supply Code. As the market participants are not ready to transact via MSATS interim procedures are required to enable continued business to business communication to occur in the NTEM.

The interim procedures reflect the expired Electricity Retail Supply Code rules for customer transfers and service orders. The purpose of the interim procedures is to permit market participants to continue to transact via the expired ERSC rules until all market participants are ready to transact via clauses 3 & 4 of the Communications Guideline.

NTESMO is running this consultation now to prevent regulatory uncertainty. The consultation will permit all participants to transact in accordance with the Communications Guideline by mirroring the expired rules from the ERSC.

Question 1: Do you support the inclusion of the interim procedures into the Communications Guideline?

Question 2: Do you have any further questions or comments in relation to the inclusion of the interim procedures?

2.2 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	Clearly defined interim rules remove uncertainty and enable participants to utilise existing market processes rather than invest in additional interim tools for business to business communication.
Ensure consumers benefit from competition	The interim procedures include rules permitting customer transfers between retailers to allow customer to benefit from competitive pricing offers.
Prevent misuse of monopoly power	The rules define obligations on the network provider to continue to provide services to retailers for the consumers and places obligation on the network provider for the timely provision of these services.

2.3 Benefits

The proposed change in including the interim procedures will benefit the Northern Territory electricity consumers in the following manner:

- Providing market participants with a defined set of interim rules for business to business communication in delivery of services to the consumers

2.4 Costs

NTESMO will incur the costs of running this consultation. There are no other direct costs associated with this change proposal.

3.NT Communications Guideline Proposal

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

Contact

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