

Scheduling and Dispatch Guideline and System Control Plant Outage Procedure

Second-round submissions, NTESMO responses
and final consultation outcomes

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Purpose and consultation context

Power and Water Corporation, in its capacity as the Power System Controller, has undertaken a standard consultation on proposed amendments to the Scheduling and Dispatch Guideline and System Control Plant Outage Procedure.

The consultation was undertaken to improve the clarity and usability of the scheduling, dispatch and outage planning framework, align the documents with current operational practices, and support the ongoing development of the Territory electricity market.

Following consideration of submissions received during the first round of consultation, NTESMO published the draft amended documents and invited System Participants to provide further submissions during the second round. This report sets out the submissions received during the second round, NTESMO's responses and commentary, and the resulting amendments incorporated into the final documents.

Consultation outcome

Second-round submissions were received from Territory Generation and Assure Energy NT. The submissions raised matters relating to both the Scheduling and Dispatch Guideline and the System Control Plant Outage Procedure.

For the Scheduling and Dispatch Guideline, submissions addressed the treatment of inertia within the definition of Essential System Services and the application of Proportional Energy Dispatch in circumstances where generator forecast requirements and system constraints apply. NTESMO considered these matters in finalising the Guideline, with broader matters relating to future Essential System Service arrangements to be considered through the Territory Electricity Market reform process.

In response to second-round stakeholder feedback, the System Control Plant Outage Procedure has been amended to address Failed Starts separately from Forced Outages, including the introduction of specific Failed Start reporting requirements. Requests to introduce mandatory five-day response timeframes for medium-term and short-term OTRs were not accepted, with the existing approach retained to provide sufficient operational flexibility for System Control to assess outage requests having regard to prevailing system conditions and Power System Security and Reliability requirements.

Summary of second-round submissions

Item	Participant	Document	Topic	Outcome
1	Territory Generation	Scheduling and Dispatch Guideline	Definition of Essential System Services	No change / clarification provided
2	Territory Generation	Plant Outage Procedure	Forced Outage	Accepted – procedure amended

Item	Participant	Document	Topic	Outcome
3	Assure Energy NT	Scheduling and Dispatch Guideline	Proportional energy dispatch process	No change / clarification provided
4	Assure Energy NT	Plant Outage Procedure	Preliminary Assessment Response (Medium Term)	No change / clarification provided
5	Assure Energy NT	Plant Outage Procedure	Outage Assessment and Notification (short Term)	No change / clarification provided

Detailed participant submissions and NTESMO responses

The following sections reproduce the second-round participant submissions and provide NTESMO's response to each matter. The participant wording has been retained from the consultation response register.

Scheduling and Dispatch Guideline

Definition of Essential System Services

Participant	Territory Generation
Clause	Not specified

Participant submission

Territory Generation welcomes changes which bring improved clarity and transparency to current processes and reiterates the importance of these aspects during the future Territory Electricity Market (TEM) reforms. TGen makes the following further observations on Scheduling and Dispatch Guidelines: Inclusion of Inertia in the definition of Essential System Services – While Inertia may be broadly categorised as a frequency control service, it is defined in the secure system guideline, and the provision of the service in the risk notice requires the constrained dispatch of specific assets. TGen suggests it is appropriate to separately identify inertia as an Essential System Service.

NTESMO response

Outcome: Noted – No amendment proposed

NTESMO acknowledges Territory Generation's recommendation that inertia be separately identified as an Essential System Service.

Inertia is currently addressed within the Secure System Guidelines through the existing I-FCAS framework. NTESMO considers that any broader review of the definition, classification or procurement of inertia as an Essential System Service would be more appropriately considered through the Territory Electricity Market reform process. Any such change would also need to be considered in the context of the requirements of clause 5.1 of the System Control Technical Code.

Accordingly, no further amendment to the Scheduling and Dispatch Guideline is proposed as part of this consultation.

Proportional energy dispatch process

Participant	Assure Energy NT
Clause	5.4.5.1

Participant submission

Clause wording: "proportional energy dispatch process will always adhere to the concept of proportionality as far as practicable within the available capabilities. This method will be updated over time as these capabilities improve"

Stakeholder comment / rationale: It should be recognised that implementation of PED equally across all generators without consideration for the particulars of each generator's negotiated access standard (particularly in relation to NTC clause 3.3.5.17), may lead to a reduction in the fair proportionality of energy dispatched. Specifically, calculating PED curtailment on forecasts may unfairly curtail generators who must comply with 3.3.5.17. This is unfair because all forecasts need to be conservative to meet the requirement of clause 3.3.5.17, and therefore already include curtailment. Compliance to clause 3.3.5.17 requires that the level of conservatism increases for each future forecast interval T05 through to T30. Therefore, PED utilising forecasts other than T00, also introduces further curtailment.

NTESMO response

Outcome: Clarification provided – No amendment proposed

Under normal system conditions, solar farms are dispatched in accordance with their offered T00 availability, consistent with clause 3.3.5.17 of the Network Technical Code, and are therefore not subject to PED-based curtailment. This approach is consistent with the I-NTEM framework.

The PED principles are applied only where necessary to manage system-level constraints, such as regulation-down requirements, network constraints or other Power System Security requirements. In these circumstances, the forecast interval used within the PED process is selected having regard to the nature and timing of the anticipated system security risk. The use of forecast information beyond T00 enables emerging system security risks to be managed proactively over the relevant operational horizon, rather than relying

solely on current system conditions. This approach aims to balance equitable dispatch outcomes across participating generators while ensuring compliance with technical obligations and maintaining secure system operation.

The application of PED can provide improved dispatch outcomes for all sites compared with manual curtailment during these events, as manual interventions would typically be more conservative and may remain in place for longer durations. PED enables a more dynamic and responsive approach to constraint management, allowing generators to maximise dispatch opportunities within system security limits.

System Control Plant Outage Procedure

Forced Outage

Participant	Territory Generation
Clause	10.2

Participant submission

Territory Generation welcomes changes which bring improved clarity and transparency to current processes and reiterates the importance of these aspects during the future Territory Electricity Market (TEM) reforms. TGen makes the following further observations on the System Control Plant Outage Procedure: 10.2 Forced Outage – TGen requests that further clarity is provided regarding the inclusion of fail to start in the requirement to notify. TGen notes that there are circumstances where a fail to start is not a result of equipment failure requiring investigation, and the plant remains available, and therefore the requirement to notify should be limited to specified circumstances.

NTESMO response

Outcome: Accepted – procedure amended

NTESMO acknowledges Territory Generation's comment that a Failed Start does not necessarily indicate an equipment failure or result in the generating unit becoming unavailable.

Section 10.2 has been amended to separate Failed Starts from the definition and management of Forced Outages, with a new section 10.3 introduced specifically for Failed Starts. The revised provisions clarify that a Failed Start does not automatically constitute a Forced Outage. Where a subsequent start attempt is successful and the plant remains available for service, the event will not be classified as a Forced Outage. Where the plant remains unavailable, cannot be started within its normal starting timeframe, or requires investigation or rectification before it can be relied upon for service, the event will also be managed as a Forced Outage.

The requirement to formally report each Failed Start has been retained, irrespective of whether a subsequent start attempt on the same unit is successful or another generating unit is brought into service. Consistent

reporting will enable Failed Starts to be tracked more accurately, support identification of recurring issues and equipment performance trends, and provide an auditable record to support assessment of equipment availability and reliability requirements.

The OTR form will also be amended to include a specific Failed Start category, allowing Failed Starts to be recorded separately from Forced Outages and improving the consistency of reporting and analysis.

Preliminary Assessment Response (Medium Term)

Participant	Assure Energy NT
Clause	7.2

Participant submission

Clause wording: "Power System Controller will endeavor to provide a response within 14 days of the submission date".

Stakeholder comment / rationale: There is currently no firm requirement of response from System Control to a medium term (6mths to 30 days' notice) OTR. We request a firm requirement for system control response to OTR within 5 days of submission, to allow generators to make planning commitments for OTR.

NTESMO response

Outcome: Clarification provided – No amendment proposed

NTESMO acknowledges Assure Energy NT's request for greater certainty regarding the timeframe for responding to medium-term OTR submissions and recognises the importance of timely advice to support generator outage planning and associated commitments.

NTESMO does not propose to introduce a mandatory five-day response timeframe. The assessment of an OTR may require consideration of forecast demand, generation and network configuration, plant availability, concurrent outages, contingency arrangements, system security studies and supporting technical information. The complexity and level of assessment required can vary significantly between OTR submissions, and some matters may not be able to be appropriately assessed within a fixed five-day period.

Section 7.2 therefore retains the requirement that the Power System Controller will endeavor to provide a response within 14 days of submission. This timeframe is intended to provide an appropriate balance between supporting timely outage planning and allowing sufficient time for the Power System Controller to undertake the necessary system security assessment.

The 14-day timeframe is also an initial response timeframe and does not necessarily represent final approval of the OTR. The response may identify requirements for approval, agreed outage dates, contingency measures, test plans or additional supporting information required to progress the OTR.

Outage Assessment and Notification (short Term)

Participant	Assure Energy NT
Clause	8.2

Participant submission

Clause wording: Absence of any clause.

Stakeholder comment / rationale: There is no guideline or firm requirement of response from System Control to a Short term (at least 10 days' notice) OTR. We request a firm requirement for system control response to OTR within 5 days of submission, to allow generators to make planning commitments for OTR.

NTESMO response

Outcome: Clarification provided – No amendment proposed

NTESMO acknowledges Assure Energy NT's request for greater certainty regarding the timeframe for assessment of short-term OTR submissions and recognises the importance of timely advice to support outage planning.

NTESMO does not propose to introduce a fixed response timeframe for short-term OTRs. Short-term outage assessments are undertaken using the most current information available regarding forecast demand, generation and network configuration, plant availability, concurrent outages and Power System Security and Reliability risks. The complexity of individual OTRs and the assessment required can vary considerably, and committing to a fixed response timeframe may not allow sufficient flexibility to appropriately assess these matters.

The existing process will therefore be retained, with System Control progressing short-term OTR assessments as operationally practicable following receipt of the required information.

It is also important to note that approval of an OTR does not provide an unconditional commitment that the outage will proceed. In accordance with section 8.3, approval remains subject to the system conditions specified in the Risk Notification and the Power System Controller's authorisation immediately prior to commencement. An approved outage may subsequently be deferred or cancelled where system conditions change, including changes to generation or network availability, concurrent outages, demand conditions, or the Power System Security or Reliability risk.

Accordingly, NTESMO considers that retaining operational flexibility in both the assessment and final authorisation of short-term outages is necessary to support the secure and reliable operation of the Power System.

Finalisation and publication

Following completion of the consultation process and final approval, NTESMO will publish the final amended Scheduling and Dispatch Guideline and System Control Plant Outage Procedure together with this report containing the participant submissions and NTESMO responses and commentary.

A publication notification will accompany the final documents and confirm the date on which the amended Scheduling and Dispatch Guideline and System Control Plant Outage Procedure take effect.

This report should be read in conjunction with the final published documents. Where an NTESMO response identifies that an amendment has been made following consultation, the wording contained in the final published document represents the authoritative outcome of that amendment.

Scheduling and Dispatch Guideline and System Control Plant Outage Procedure

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NTESMO