



NEM Event – Directions Report 20 to 22 August 2020

February 2021

Important notice

PURPOSE

Where the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) intervenes in the National Electricity Market (NEM) through the use of directions, AEMO must publish a report in accordance with National Electricity Rules (NER) clauses 4.8.9(f) and 3.13.6A(a). This report satisfies those NER obligations and is based on information available to AEMO at 11 January 2021.

Unless otherwise indicated, terms in this report have the same meanings as those defined in the NER.

All references to time in this report are based on Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST).

Disclaimer

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Expanded name
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
DI	Dispatch Interval
MN	Market Notice
NEM	National Electricity Market
NER	National Electricity Rules
PS	Power Station
SA	South Australia

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1. Summary

To ensure adequate system strength for secure operation of the South Australian power system, certain combinations of synchronous generating units must be in service at all times¹.

Clause 4.8.9 of the National Electricity Rules (NER) allows AEMO to intervene in the market by issuing directions or clause 4.8.9 instructions, if AEMO is satisfied that it is necessary to maintain or re-establish the power system to a secure, satisfactory, or reliable operating state. Section 116 of the National Electricity Law allows AEMO to issue directions to take certain action if AEMO considers that it is necessary to maintain power system security or for reasons of public safety.

Between 20 and 22 August 2020, AEMO issued two directions across two events to a South Australian Market Participant to maintain power system security. These directions are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of the South Australia directions between 20 and 22 August 2020

Direction	Directed Participant	Event No.	Issue time	Direction instruction	Cancellation time
Pelican Point one Gas Turbine (GT) and Steam Turbine (ST) 18	Pelican Point Power Limited (ENGIE)	1	1700 hrs, 20 August 2020	Remain synchronised and follow dispatch targets from 0130 hrs, 21 August 2020	1530 hrs, 21 August 2020
Pelican Point one GT and ST 18	Pelican Point Power Limited (ENGIE)	2	1700 hrs, 21 August 2020	Remain synchronised and follow dispatch targets from 0030 hrs, 22 August 2020	1530 hrs, 22 August 2020

2. Intervention assessment

2.1 The need for intervention

To ensure adequate system strength for secure operation of the South Australian power system, certain combinations of synchronous generating units must be in service at all times. If market conditions lead to market participants seeking to decommit synchronous generation AEMO is required to intervene to maintain the required level of synchronous units. The need for intervention, and options considered, were assessed against the set of viable plant combinations available at the time the directions were issued.

The requirement to intervene for the direction events in this report arose when the bids in Table 2 were submitted.

¹ AEMO Transfer Limit Advice – System Strength, available at https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/nem/security_and_reliability/congestion-information/transfer-limit-advice-system-strength.pdf?la=en.

Table 2 Participant offers

Event No.	Unit	Offer date	Bid
1	Pelican Point PS	1356 hrs, 20 August 2020	Rebid to decommit from 0130 hrs, 21 August 2020 ^A
2	Pelican Point PS	1323 hrs, 21 August 2020	Rebid to decommit from 0030 hrs, 22 August 2020 ^B

A. Rebid reason: 1231~A~PRIMARY RESPONSE TO PREDISPATCH D+1

B. Rebid reason: 1231~A~PRIMARY RESPONSE TO PREDISPATCH D+1

2.2 Assessment of market response and latest time to intervene

Under NER clause 4.8.5A(a) and (c), AEMO must notify the market of any anticipated power system security or reliability issue, and the latest time for market response before AEMO would need to intervene.

AEMO contacted all participants who operate suitable generating units in South Australia to confirm their availability and the latest time to intervene. Those participants indicated that no market response would be provided but identified units that would be available if directed.

For each of the direction events, AEMO assessed the latest time to intervene taking account of the advised lead times. Table 3 shows market notices issued by AEMO, with the latest time to intervene.

Table 3 Summary of latest time to intervene

Event No.	Latest time to respond	Market Notice
1	1700 hrs, 20 August 2020	MN 76868
2	1700 hrs, 21 August 2020	MN 76903

3. Intervention process

AEMO considers that it followed all applicable processes under NER clause 4.8 for the management of the directions between 20 and 22 August 2020².

3.1 Adequacy of responses to AEMO inquiries

NER clause 4.8.5A(d) permits AEMO to request information from Scheduled Network Service Providers, Scheduled Generators, Semi-Scheduled Generators, and Market Customers.

AEMO is satisfied with the timeliness, adequacy, and effectiveness of all responses to its requests for information prior to issuing the directions between 20 and 22 August 2020.

3.2 Participant ability to comply with the intervention

NER clause 4.8.9(d) requires that a Registered Participant must immediately notify AEMO of its inability to comply, or intention not to comply, with a direction or clause 4.8.9 instruction.

AEMO is satisfied with all participants complying with the directions listed in Table 1.

² AEMO. Power system operating procedure SO_OP 3707, "Procedures For Issue Of Directions And Clause 4.8.9 Instructions", 06 September 2019, available at https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/electricity/nem/security_and_reliability/power_system_ops/procedures/so_op_3707-procedures-for-issue-of-directions-and-clause-4-8-9-instructions.pdf?la=en.

4. Dispatch and pricing outcomes

4.1 Changes to dispatch outcomes due to the directions

The directions resulted in approximately 5,271 megawatt hours (MWh) of synchronous generation being directed into the market.

Intervention pricing did not apply for these events

Under clause 3.8.1 of the NER, AEMO must operate a central dispatch process to balance power system supply and demand, using its reasonable endeavours to maintain power system security in accordance with NER Chapter 4 and the power system security standards. AEMO notes that in the absence of directions for system security, the central dispatch process would have produced an outcome which would have resulted in the operation of the power system in an unsecure state and would therefore have been an infeasible dispatch solution.

4.2 Direction costs

The compensation recovery costs for the directions between 20 and 22 August 2020 were \$460,528. Direction compensation recovery data can be found on the AEMO website³.

5. Conclusions and further actions

Between 20 and 22 August 2020, AEMO issued two directions to a South Australian Market Participant to maintain power system security, in response to a forecast lack of system strength in the region.

AEMO is satisfied that all applicable procedures and processes were followed in assessing the need for intervention, determining the latest time to intervene, enacting and managing the intervention and seeking market response from all generators capable of meeting the system strength requirements. The market was informed after each direction was issued.

AEMO is also satisfied with the timeliness and adequacy of participant responses and communication throughout.

³ AEMO. Direction Compensation Recovery, available at <https://aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/electricity/national-electricity-market-nem/data-nem/settlements-data/direction-compensation-recovery>.