

Decision

The Commission has approved Power and Water Corporation's (PWC) [proposed amendments to the System Control Technical Code](#) (Code) subject to the conditions summarised below:

- prior to the approved Code taking effect, PWC must develop the relevant Power System Reporting Guideline in accordance with clause 7.5 of the approved Code
- PWC must provide sufficient written notice to system participants of the approved Code's date of effect.

Background

Under section 37B of the [Electricity Reform Act 2000](#), the System Controller may make or amend a Code, which must be approved by the Commission. Under the [Electricity Reform \(Administration\) Regulations 2000](#), the Code may make provision for any matter relevant to the reliability, safety or security of the system or the monitoring or control of the operation of the system.

In March 2023, PWC submitted [proposed Code amendments](#) to the Commission for approval, following the System Controller's consultation with electricity entities in 2021 and further consultation with the Commission. The proposed amendments relate to power system incident reporting procedures, which at a high level, outline the roles and responsibilities for the investigation and reporting of power system incidents which have, or could have, a significant adverse effect on the security or reliability of the power system or electricity supply.

Regulation 5A(3) of the [Electricity Reform \(Administration\) Regulations 2000](#) states that the Commission must not approve any amendment to the Code unless satisfied that the System Controller has consulted with all electricity entities that are engaged in the operation of, contribute electricity to, or take electricity from, the power system.

Consultation

In accordance with good regulatory practice, the Commission conducted public consultation to inform its decision on the proposed Code amendments. One [submission](#) was received, from Assure Energy.

Assure Energy stated it was concerned with the proposed amendment to clause 7.3.1, which proposes to change "as soon as reasonably practicable" to include "and in any case no longer than three business days." Assure Energy indicated the firm deadline may be challenging in some cases due to the level of expertise required to investigate and report on an event, and the availability of those experts. The Commission sought further information from Assure Energy and was subsequently advised that the three days (notification) appears reasonable based on clarification of the revised definition of a reportable incident (that it is specific to 'significant' adverse effects or reliability of the power system) and given the change (to clause 7.3.1) is in regard to notification and not investigation or reporting.

The Commission also received informal feedback from Territory Generation that it has no concerns regarding the proposed Code amendments.

Assessment

The Commission noted the [PWC System Controller consulted](#) with electricity entities in 2021 regarding PWC's initial proposed Code amendments. This consultation meets that required by regulation 5A(3) of the [Electricity Reform \(Administration\) Regulations 2000](#) to enable the Commission's approval. No significant concerns were advised to the Commission following its associated six week public consultation on the [proposed Code amendments](#).

In considering PWC's [proposed Code amendments](#), the Commission identified a gap whereby for the updated Code to function effectively, the Power System Incident Reporting Guideline needs to be in place.

Accordingly, and having had regard to the general factors specified in section 6(2) of the [Utilities Commission Act 2000](#), the Commission approved PWC's [proposed Code amendments](#) subject to ensuring the relevant Power System Reporting Guideline is consulted on and published as required by clause 7.5 of the approved Code and sufficient notice is provided to system participants before the updated Code takes effect.