



INFORMATION

Extension of Time to Publish Model Technical Rules

The Economic Regulation Authority today extended the time to publish model technical rules (standards, procedures and planning criteria governing the construction and operation of an electricity network) for the South West Interconnected System (**SWIS**) from 1 June 2013 to 1 June 2014.

During the period 1 June 2012 to present, the Authority has formed a technical rules committee to assist with the development and review of model technical rules for the SWIS.

The committee is still in the process of forming its recommendation to the Authority on the development of model technical rules. This work has been delayed because it is unclear whether technical rules for non-covered networks are necessary or whether the technical rules of the covered network (Western Power's Network) are sufficient to ensure the security of supply for the SWIS.

Following the committee's recommendation, the Authority will begin the consultation process for the development of model technical rules as required by the *Electricity Networks Access Code 2004* (**Access Code**), unless a code change process is initiated to remove the requirement for the Authority to develop model technical rules.

Background

Service providers of non-covered networks that are part of the SWIS are required to have technical rules under section 12.6 of the Access Code. As an alternative to developing their own technical rules, these non-covered network service providers can adopt model technical rules which the Authority is required to draft, approve, publish and advertise under section 12.61 of the Access Code.

Section 12.63 of the Access Code permits the Authority to extend the deadline for the publication of model technical rules, subject to section 12.64 which requires the Authority to issue a notice with reasons for its decision to extend the deadline.

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