The background of the lower section is a photograph of a wind farm and power lines, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. On the left, several white wind turbines are visible, with their blades extending outwards. On the right, a tall, lattice-structured power line tower stands prominently. The overall scene is set against a clear sky.

**Independent Market Operator**

**Rule Change Notice**  
**Title: Annual Review of**  
**Margin Values**

**Ref: RC\_2010\_01**

**Standard Rule Change Process**

**Date: 15 February 2010**

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### DOCUMENT DETAILS

IMO Notice No.: RC\_2010\_01  
Report Title: Rule Change Notice: Annual Review of Margin Values  
Release Status: Public  
Confidentiality Status: Public domain  
Published in accordance with Market Rule 2.5.7

### Independent Market Operator

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## 1. THE RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

### 1.1. The Submission

On 12 February 2010 Verve Energy submitted a Rule Change Proposal regarding amendments to clause 3.13.3A of the Wholesale Electricity Market Rules (Market Rules).

This Rule Change Notice is published according to clause 2.5.7 of the Market Rules, which requires the Independent Market Operator (IMO) to publish a notice when it has developed a Rule Change Proposal.

#### 1.1.1 Submission details

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<b>Date submitted:</b>	12 February 2010
<b>Urgency:</b>	Standard Rule Change Process
<b>Change Proposal title:</b>	Annual Review of Margin Values
<b>Market Rule affected:</b>	3.13.3A

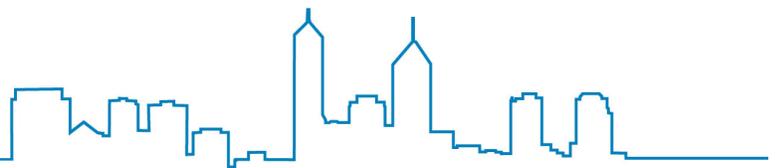
### 1.2. Details of the Proposal

#### Background

Verve's Rule Change Proposal noted that Ancillary Services are used to guarantee the safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity on the South West interconnected system (SWIS) by ensuring the system can adequately respond to real time changes in load and generation under a range of scenarios.

While Ancillary Services are required to support the Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM), they are not traded as part of the WEM. System Management has the responsibility of determining all Ancillary Services Requirements and procuring adequate quantities of these services, either from the Electricity Generation Corporation (Verve Energy) – the default option – or on a contestable basis from independent providers if they provide a lower cost option than Verve Energy's facilities.

Payments to both Verve Energy and independent providers for Ancillary Services are made by the IMO on behalf of System Management in accordance with clause 3.13.1 of the Market Rules. In particular, clause 3.13.1 includes an availability cost determined in accordance with clause 9.9.2, to which two key inputs are the Margin\_Peak and Margin\_Off-Peak parameters. These parameters reflect the payment margin, in peak and off-peak Trading Intervals, that, when multiplied by the volume of reserve provided and MCAP, will compensate Verve Energy for energy sales foregone and losses in generator efficiency resulting from backing off generation to provide Spinning Reserve. As clause 3.11.8 implies that any independent



providers will have lower costs than Verve Energy, it is assumed that they would be adequately compensated by the margin values determined to compensate Verve Energy. Note that one of the matters for consideration identified by the Oates Review is the efficacy and costs and benefits of amending the Market Rules that allocate costs among participants, for example for ancillary services and the Balancing mechanism.

Currently the values to apply for the Margin\_Peak and Margin\_Off-Peak parameters are determined by the Economic Review Authority (ERA) for each three-year Review Period. In particular, clause 3.13.3A(a) of the Market Rules requires the IMO to submit to the ERA a proposal containing the reserve availability payment margin for both Peak and Off-Peak Trading Intervals. This proposal must be provided by 30 November of the year prior to the start of the Review Period. The ERA will undertake public consultation on the values as part of its determination of Allowable Revenue for the relevant Review Period. Following the conclusion of the public consultation process, the ERA will make a determination whether to approve the margin values to apply for the next Review Period.

### Issue

There are a number of assumptions that are used in proposing the Margin Peak and Margin Off-Peak parameters and as such the market conditions on which these plant and fuel assumptions are based can change dramatically over a three-year period. The more time elapses, the more likely it is that changes will occur. Therefore the degree of confidence in an assumption for year three will be much lower than for year one. High margins of error associated with the input variables used in determining the Margin\_Peak and Margin\_Off-Peak parameters will reduce the appropriateness of these values in compensating Verve Energy and any independent suppliers of Ancillary Services.

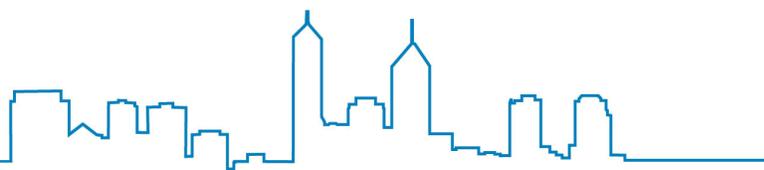
With regard to the review of the margin values undertaken in 2009, McLennan Magasanik Associates (MMA)<sup>1</sup> assumed that Bluewaters 3 would be operational by September 2012. The uncertainty surrounding this assumption increased the margin of error of the values determined by MMA. This is because at the time of undertaking the 2009 review it was uncertain whether Bluewaters 3 would enter the market by September 2012 or may delay its entry. This issue with assumptions around the entry of new plant is true of all new entrants. In addition, further assumptions around the type of plant that would be available for a Capacity Year in advance would also be likely to affect the determination of the margin values.

Additionally, MMA noted in its report that carbon price assumptions to apply in determining the margin values can be made only with considerable uncertainty regarding the start date of any adopted scheme and the price in subsequent years. If a scheme that differed from the one assumed by MMA – a 5% reduction target and a maximum introductory price of \$10/tCO<sub>2e</sub> – were to be implemented early in the Review Period, then the margin values to apply in the final years would be based on assumptions that would probably be incorrect by that time, and would not correctly compensate Verve Energy and other independent providers.

The assumptions relating to the gas prices for the three year Review Period are likely to result in the largest potential margin of error associated with the determined margin values. This is due

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<sup>1</sup>MMA was engaged by the IMO to assist in determining the appropriate margin values to apply for the next Review Period commencing 1 July 2010,



to the large level of volatility associated with fuel prices in the WEM, as evidenced during the consultation periods for the reviews of both the margin values and the Energy Price Limits during 2009. Verve Energy notes that the IMO will be undertaking a more thorough review of the gas prices in the WEM, which will feed into the Energy Price Limits review for 2010. Verve Energy considers that the outcomes of this review should also feed into the margin values process.

For further details of the assumptions made by MMA in undertaking its review of the margin values during 2009, please refer to MMA's Assumptions and Methodology Report available on the following webpage: <http://www.imowa.com.au/Fuel-Price-Assumptions-2009>

## **Proposal**

To allow for the margin values to be updated more frequently and therefore better reflect actual operating conditions, Verve Energy proposes that the review of margin values be conducted annually.

### **1.3. The Proposal and the Wholesale Market Objectives**

Verve Energy submits that the proposed Amending Rules will better achieve Wholesale Market Objectives (a) and (b):

- a) *to promote the economically efficient, safe and reliable production and supply of electricity and electricity related services in the South West interconnected system;*
- b) *to encourage competition among generators and retailers in the South West interconnected system, including by facilitating efficient entry of new competitor;*

This is by ensuring the economically efficient, safe and reliable production and supply of electricity related services in the SWIS through pricing that is reflective of current costs. Furthermore, the proposed Amending Rules should encourage Market Participants to participate in the provision of electricity related services as the price signals will be reflective of current market conditions and are not outdated.

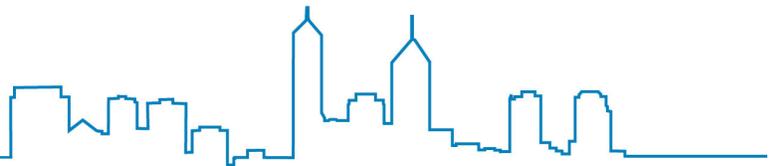
Verve Energy considers that the proposed Amending Rules are consistent with the remaining Wholesale Market Objectives.

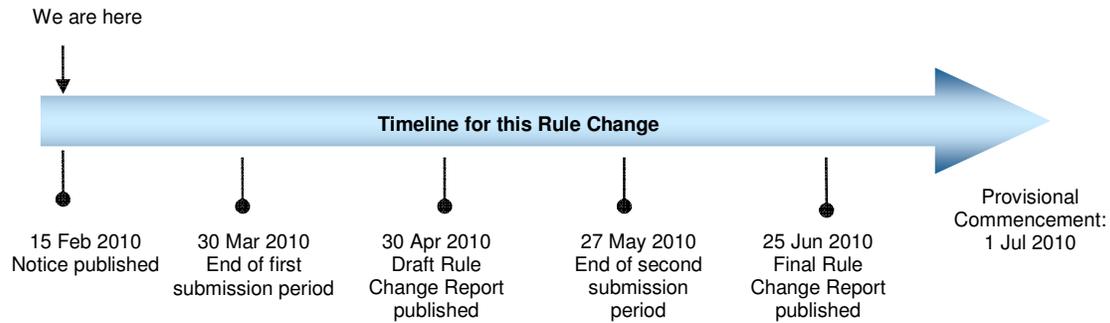
## **2. WHETHER THE PROPOSAL WILL BE PROGRESSED FURTHER**

The IMO has decided to proceed with this proposal on the basis that the IMO's preliminary assessment indicated that the proposal is consistent with the Wholesale Market Objectives.

This Rule Change Proposal will be processed using the Standard Rule Change Process, described in section 2.7 of the Market Rules.

The projected timelines for processing this proposal are:





Please note that the Commencement Date is provisional and may be subject to change in the Final Rule Change Report.

### 3. CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The IMO is seeking submissions regarding this proposal. The submission period is 30 Business Days from the publication date of this Rule Change Notice. Submissions must be delivered to the IMO by 5pm on **Tuesday, 30 March 2010**.

The IMO prefers to receive submissions by email to [market.development@imowa.com.au](mailto:market.development@imowa.com.au) using the submission form available on the IMO website:

<http://www.imowa.com.au/rule-changes>

Submissions may also be sent to the IMO by fax or post, addressed to:

Independent Market Operator  
 Attn: Manager Market Development and System Capacity  
 PO Box 7096  
 Cloisters Square, Perth, WA 6850

Fax: (08) 9254 4399

### 4. PROPOSED AMENDING RULES

Verve Energy proposes the following amendments to the Market Rules (~~deleted text~~, added text):

3.13.3A ~~For each Review Period, by 31 March of the year in which the Review Period commences, the~~ The Economic Regulation Authority must annually determine values for the parameters Margin\_Peak and Margin\_Off-Peak, taking into account the Wholesale Market Objectives and in accordance with the following:



- (a) by 30 November of the each year prior to the start of the Review Period, the IMO must submit a proposal for the Review Period to the Economic Regulation Authority:
- i. for the reserve availability payment margin applying for Peak Trading Intervals, Margin\_Peak, the IMO must take account of:
    - 1. the margin the Electricity Generation Corporation could reasonably have been expected to earn on energy sales forgone due to the supply of Spinning Reserve during Peak Trading Intervals;
    - 2. the loss in efficiency of the Electricity Generation Corporation Registered Facilities that System Management has scheduled to provide Spinning Reserve during Peak Trading Intervals that could reasonably be expected due to the scheduling of those reserves;
  - ii. for the reserve availability payment margin applying for Off-Peak Trading Intervals, Margin\_Off-Peak, the IMO must take account of:
    - 1. the margin the Electricity Generation Corporation could reasonably have been expected to earn on energy sales forgone due to the supply of Spinning Reserve during Off-Peak Trading Intervals;
    - 2. the loss in efficiency of the Electricity Generation Corporation Registered Facilities that System Management has scheduled to provide Spinning Reserve during Off-Peak Trading Intervals that could reasonably be expected due to the scheduling of those reserves;
- (b) the Economic Regulation Authority must undertake a public consultation process, which must include publishing an issues paper and issuing an invitation for public submissions.

## 5. ABOUT RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS

Market Rule 2.5.1 of the Market Rules provides that any person (including the IMO) may make a Rule Change Proposal by completing a Rule Change Proposal Form and submit this to the IMO.

The IMO will assess the proposal and, within 5 Business Days of receiving the proposal form, will notify the proponent whether the proposal will be progressed further.

In order for the proposal to be progressed the change proposal must explain how it will enable the Market Rules to better contribute to the achievement of the Wholesale Market Objectives. The market objectives are:

- (a) to promote the economically efficient, safe and reliable production and supply of electricity and electricity related services in the South West interconnected system;
- (b) to encourage competition among generators and retailers in the South West interconnected system, including by facilitating efficient entry of new competitors;
- (c) to avoid discrimination in that market against particular energy options and technologies, including sustainable energy options and technologies such as those that make use of renewable resources or that reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions;
- (d) to minimise the long-term cost of electricity supplied to customers from the South West interconnected system; and
- (e) to encourage the taking of measures to manage the amount of electricity used and when it is used.

A Rule Change Proposal can be processed using a Standard Rule Change Process or a Fast Track Rule Change Process. The standard process involves a combined 10 weeks public submission period, while the fast track process involves the IMO consulting with Rule Participants who either advise the IMO that they wish to be consulted or the IMO considers have an interest in the change.