



Notice

18 January 2024

Western Power

Withdrawal of Western Power's Technical Rules amendment proposal

On 19 December 2023, Western Power withdrew a [proposal](#) it submitted to the Economic Regulation Authority on 1 September 2023 to amend its technical rules.

Western Power's technical rules set out the standards, procedures and planning criteria that govern the Western Power network. The requirements for the technical rules are currently contained within the *Electricity Networks Access Code 2004*. The Access Code provides for Western Power or any interested person to submit a proposal to the ERA to amend the technical rules.

Since Western Power's proposal was submitted to the ERA in September, a range of major reform activities relevant to the technical rules have progressed including:

- The [Electricity Industry Amendment \(Distributed Energy Resources\) Bill 2023](#), which was introduced to Parliament on 30 August 2023, passed by the Legislative Assembly on 10 October 2023 and is expected to be considered by the Legislative Council early in 2024. Amongst other things, the Bill provides for the transfer of Western Power's technical rules to a consolidated set of rules that will govern the power system in Western Australia – the Electricity System and Market Rules.
- The [Power System Security and Reliability \(PSSR\) Standards Review](#), led by Energy Policy WA, commenced in November 2023. The review is considering all of the power system security and reliability standards currently contained within multiple instruments (including the technical rules) and will develop a single end-to-end power system security and reliability standard for the South-West Interconnected System.
- Work has advanced in relation to progressing the Government's [Distributed Energy Resources \(DER\) Roadmap](#), including the expansion of Western Power's role as Distribution System Operator, [DER Orchestration Roles and Responsibilities](#) development and the conclusion of [Project Symphony](#). This will inform a range of requirements relating to distribution network connections.

Effective implementation of these reforms is critical to addressing the pressing issues facing the power system and Western Power's network. Consequently, it is important that Western Power's proposed amendments to the technical rules are considered and progressed in alignment with those reforms. Undertaking a separate assessment process under the Access Code provisions while the reforms are being progressed is duplicative and risks inconsistent outcomes between the processes.

On that basis, Western Power has withdrawn its application made to the ERA under the Access Code process and will instead contribute the content covered within its proposal as a key input to the reforms outlined above. This will ensure the effort and consultation already undertaken by Western Power on the proposed amendments is taken account of when progressing the reforms and that critical elements are expedited.

In the meantime, the [current technical rules](#) will continue to be in effect and are available on Western Power's [website](#). If any matters under the current technical rules require urgent amendment, this will be addressed by Western Power in consultation with Energy Policy WA and the ERA.

Further information

General enquiries

Elizabeth Walters
Ph: 08 6557 7958
info@erawa.com.au

Media enquiries

Danielle Asarpota
Ph: +61 428 859 826
media@erawa.com.au