

## **NOTICE**

### **Draft Technical Rules for Western Power's South West Interconnected Network**

The Economic Regulation Authority (Authority) today published draft technical rules for Western Power Corporation's (Western Power) regulated electricity networks in the South West interconnected system (SWIS).

Pursuant to section 12.11(c)(ii) of the *Electricity Networks Access Code 2004* (Access Code), the Authority has published technical rules which are based on Western Power's proposed technical rules and amended only to the extent necessary to comply with chapter 12 of the Access Code and the Code objective. The technical rules were prepared based on advice received from the Technical Rules Committee (Committee), the Authority's technical advisers PB Associates and subsequent discussions with Western Power.

The Authority has also published a decision and explanatory memorandum to accompany the draft technical rules (Decision).

#### **Background and overview**

The Access Code provides the framework for preparing, reviewing and approving technical rules for a network and outlines the process the Authority must undertake in assessing and approving proposed technical rules.

Technical rules consist of the standards, procedures and planning criteria governing the construction and operation of a network.

After Western Power's proposed technical rules were submitted to the Authority they were considered by the Committee, which is an advisory panel of industry participants established by the Authority and chaired by a representative of the Coordinator of Energy.

As required by the Access Code, the Committee provided a preliminary report to the Authority in December 2005. The preliminary report is available at the Authority's website at [www.era.wa.gov.au/electricity/trc.cfm](http://www.era.wa.gov.au/electricity/trc.cfm).

In the preliminary report the Committee, which included Western Power, recommended that the proposed technical rules not be approved. Instead, the Committee recommended that the Authority work with Western Power to develop draft technical rules based on the Committee's "conformed rules", which were included in the preliminary report. Accordingly, the Authority drafted technical rules, based on the proposed technical rules submitted by Western Power in August 2005 and amended only to the extent necessary to comply with chapter 12 of the Access Code and the Code objective.

In addition, the preliminary report contained 11 “deadlock issues” on which the Committee could not reach agreement. The Authority has considered the deadlock issues and reached a decision on each. These matters are detailed in the Decision which accompanies the draft technical rules. This Decision also further explains the process undertaken by the Authority and raises particular issues which interested parties are asked to consider and provide further guidance to the Authority.

The Committee will also prepare a final report to assist the Authority further.

### **Invitation to make a submission**

Pursuant to section 12.11(d) of the Access Code, interested persons are invited to make submissions to the Authority on the draft technical rules within 15 business days, by **4:00pm WST, Friday 5 May 2006**.

The Access Code requires that submissions on the draft technical rules be made within 15 business days; no extensions are possible to the closing date.

Submissions on any matters raised in the draft technical rules should be in printed and electronic form and addressed to:

Mr Alistair Butcher  
Director, Electricity Access  
Economic Regulation Authority  
PO Box 8469  
Perth Business Centre PERTH WA 6849

Telephone: (08) 9213 1900  
Facsimile: (08) 9213 1999

Alternatively submissions can be sent to the email address:  
[wpcdraftdecision@era.wa.gov.au](mailto:wpcdraftdecision@era.wa.gov.au)

The Authority will consider any submissions on the draft technical rules which are received by the due date before issuing final technical rules. The final technical rules must be published at the same time as an approved access arrangement for Western Power’s regulated electricity network in the SWIS.

### ***Confidentiality***

In general, all submissions from interested parties will be treated as in the public domain and placed on the Authority’s website. Where an interested party wishes to make a submission in confidence, it should clearly indicate the parts of the submission in respect of which confidentiality is claimed, and specify in reasonable detail the basis upon which the claim is made. Any claim of confidentiality will be considered in accordance with the requirements of section 14.14 of the Access Code.

The receipt and publication of any submission lodged for the purposes of the Access Code shall not be taken as indicating that the Authority has formed an opinion as to whether or not any particular submission contains any information of a confidential nature.

### **Public access to submissions**

Subject to any confidentiality constraints, submissions will be available for public inspection at the offices of the Authority, or on its website at [www.era.wa.gov.au](http://www.era.wa.gov.au). If you experience any difficulty gaining access to documents please contact the office on (08) 9213 1900.

### **Further information**

The draft technical rules and the accompanying decision and explanatory memorandum are available on the Authority's website at [www.era.wa.gov.au](http://www.era.wa.gov.au). Printed copies of both are available from the Authority on request at a cost of \$25.00 each.

For further information contact:

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LYNDON ROWE  
**CHAIRMAN**

11 April 2006