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16 August 2013

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Dear Victoria,

RE: Harmonisation Project – Consequential Amendments to Victorian Energy Instruments

United Energy and Multinet (the businesses) appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Energy Retail Code and the Consequential Amendments as part of the Harmonisation of the Energy Retail Code and Guidelines with the National Energy Customer Framework.

The businesses have provided detailed comments in the attachment.

Should you have any questions in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to call (03) 8846 9856.

Yours sincerely

Verity Watson
Manager Regulatory Strategy

Attachment

Clause Nos	Clause	Description of the Issue	Drafting recommendations
	Electricity Distribution Code		
9.1.14	<p>The distributor must twice advise each customer, who has an annual electricity consumption of less than 20 MWh, that their electricity network tariffs in the future may be set on the basis of time of use tariffs. The first advice must be sent at least 20 business days prior to the meter exchange and the second advice at least 4 business days prior to the meter exchange. The words to be inserted by the distributor in the notification are:</p> <p>“The rollout of smart meters may result in your tariff being changed in future to a time of use tariff. Your retailer will notify you of any change and implications for your retail prices and charges.”</p>	<p>The Victorian Government has moved from a network tariff moratorium to a flexible pricing policy where the customer/retailer selects the network tariff. In view of the changed policy UE consider that this clause is no longer required and should be repealed. Customers would still continue to be notified of any meter exchanges consistent with planned interruption requirements.</p>	<p>UE suggest repealing clause 9.1.14</p>
	Energy Retail Code, Electricity Customer Transfer Code, Electricity Metering Code		
	<p>smart meter means an interval <i>meter</i> designed to transmit data to a remote locality that meets the functionality requirements for advanced metering infrastructure set out in any relevant Order made under section 46D of the <i>Electricity Industry Act</i>;44</p>	<p>The Codes containing this definition establish customer protections and obligations for a smart meter that is being remotely read and meets the functionality and the service level requirements. As drafted this clause places remote read or remote service obligations on meters that may be manually read</p>	<p>The definition should be amended from a meter that simply meets the hardware requirements whether read remotely or locally to a meter that meets the hardware requirements and the remote service requirements.</p>

		<p>basic or interval meters. In addition the functionality requirements are not set out in the Specifications Order. They are set out in a Ministerial document published on the Department's website which is referred to in the Order.</p>	
Energy Retail Code			
25 (y)	<p>(y) if a <i>customer's</i> bill is derived from <i>smart meter</i> interval data: (i) the <i>index read</i> at the end of the billing period; and (ii) the <i>index read</i> at the start of the billing period¹²⁴; and (iii) the actual tariffs; and (iv) the total amount of electricity (in kWh) ¹²⁵consumed in each period or class of period in respect of which a relevant tariff applies to a <i>customer</i>.¹²⁶</p> <p>Note: Additional obligations in relation to the provision of metering information to customers are contained in the Electricity Metering Code.</p>	<p>Where a meter is operating as an AMI meter (functionality and service levels) then UE provides index reads to the retailer in the NEM file format. Where the meter is a manually read interval meter and is not operating as an AMI meter and data is forwarded from our legacy systems, then the index reads are not captured and provided. UE understands that this meets the intent, however the drafting could benefit from a clearer definition of a smart meter.</p>	
35A (3) (b)	<p>(b) without limiting paragraph (a), any charge the <i>retailer</i> may impose as a direct pass through of a distribution tariff, excluded service charge for electricity, ancillary reference tariff for gas or other charge imposed on the <i>retailer</i> by a distributor for <i>connection</i> to, or use of, the distributor's distribution system is not an additional retail charge; and</p>	<p>UE query whether Alternate Control Services should also be included in the list.</p>	<p>Suggest amending 'excluded service charge for electricity' to read 'alternate control service charge or excluded service charge for electricity'</p>