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12 September 2008

Review of Regulatory Instruments
Essential Services Commission
2nd Floor, 35 Spring Street
Melbourne 3000

EnergyRegulatoryReview@esc.vic.gov.au

Dear Energy Regulatory Review Group,

**DRAFT DECISION FOR THE COMMISSIONS'
REVIEW OF REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS - STAGE 1**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft decision: "Review of Regulatory Instruments – Stage 1", which arises from your review of various instruments to streamline the regulatory framework. The following comments are offered for your consideration on behalf of both CitiPower and Powercor Australia.

Section 4.3.1: Energy Retail Code (page 15)

Part (a) Faults number on the bill

In its Draft decision the Commission amended clause 4.2(o) of the ERC to require reference to the distributor against the fault and emergencies line number.

CitiPower/Power supports this draft decision as like SP AusNet's submission, CitiPower/Powercor also receives a number of calls that are incorrectly dialled to our faults number.

Section 4.6.1: Electricity Customer Metering Code (page 22)

Part (b) Treatment of Franchised Unmetered Load

In its Draft decision the Commission has recognised that Distributors are not able to follow the NEM Metrology Procedure for franchised unmetered loads but has then also proposed to repeal clause 18 dealing with calculation of energy data for unmetered loads.

Inventory and load tables have been developed for contestable unmetered loads such as street lighting and it is appropriate that these loads be regulated by the NEM Metrology Procedure, however this has not occurred for franchised unmetered loads such as traffic lights, parking meters etc. It is therefore necessary to retain a provision in the ECMC to deal with the franchise unmetered loads, the following replacement for clause 18 is offered for consideration:

Clause 18 - Franchise Unmetered Loads

The former metrology arrangements relating to franchise unmetered supply continue to apply until such time as the affected parties have agreed the detailed inventory tables at the appropriate device level and NEMMCO has approved the load table for the device

Appendix B: Electricity Customer Metering Code (page 75)

Clause 13 - Meter reading for customer transfer

In its Draft decision the Commission proposes to repeal Clause 13 of the ECMC based on duplication in the National Metrology Procedure (refer clause 3.3.12), which provides that a distributor "must use best endeavours to carry out a special meter read or an estimated read to enable the transfer of a customer to the requesting retailer within a reasonable time of the request."

CitiPower/Powercor does not support this proposal as it will have significant cost impacts on the businesses due to current contractual obligations allowing our service provider to carry out special reads consistent with this obligation.

CitiPower/Powercor previously supported the change to the Metrology Procedure to carry out a special read within 3 business days (clause 3.3.12) based on clause 13 in the ECMC preceding the Metrology Procedure. By removing clause 13 in the ECMC, CitiPower/Powercor "must use reasonable endeavours to carry out a special read within 3 business days." CitiPower/Powercor will incur significant costs to meet this increased obligation.

CitiPower/Powercor supports the removal of redundant requirements from the various Regulatory Instruments and look forward to reviewing the drafting amendments for the Energy Retail Code, Code of Conduct for Marketing Energy Retail in Victoria and the Electricity Customer Metering Code in early October.

If you wish to discuss any of matter raised in the CitiPower and Powercor Australia submission please do not hesitate to contact me on (03) 9683 4282.

Yours sincerely

Rolf Herrmann
Manager Regulation