

Industry Consultation Schedule

Updated 2025/26 Schedule

15/12/2025

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1. Introduction

Northern Territory Electricity System and Market Operator (NTESMO)¹ in its capacity as the Power System Controller and Market Operator advises participants and interested parties that it is progressing its 2025/26 industry consultations to plan with a few enhancements.

The efforts of participants and interested parties in making submissions to proposed amendments is commendable and represents a healthy dialogue regarding the evolution of the regulated power systems.

NTESMO continues to follow the recognised industry consultation process that is defined in the National Electricity Rules as in force in the Northern Territory (NER (NT)) Version 125 Chapter 8.9. Expedited consultations are now giving way to more comprehensive standard consultations as NTESMO progresses through the plan and tackles the longer-term developments that will integrate with the NT Government's Territory Electricity Market (TEM) reform program.

2. Rationale

There has been a significant shift in the topology of the power system over the past 5 years with the implementation of more inverter-based and decentralised systems. Furthermore, there has been the application of more contemporary technologies that requires a significant uplift in the development, review, consultation, publication and implementation of guidelines and procedures related to the regulated power systems and electricity wholesale market.

The power system themes and topics have been specifically prioritised as part of the NTESMO consultation process is to expedite necessary and urgent amendments taking consideration of the power system topology that currently exists, namely a significant grid-connected inverter-based renewable capacity, unprecedented behind the meter consumer energy resources, and rapidly increasing grid-connected BESS capacity. There is a significant urgency to review and amend guidelines in a bid to preserve power system security and the TEM reforms will proceed unhindered concurrently to the prioritised review of guidelines and procedures. These amendments are based on the need to give operative effect to the existing regulatory instruments but are conceived in such a manner as to not be inconsistent with the proposed reforms. Where TEM reform implementation is accelerated, the industry consultation plan will be adapted to leverage the benefits of accelerated reform implementation in a timely manner. At no point will the amendment of existing guidelines and procedures hinder or circumvent the need to progress the TEM reforms, and the plan has been derived to compliment the reform process as a guiding principle and to ensure the prevailing guidelines and procedures are fit for purpose prior to implementation of the reform program. NTESMO has a regulatory obligation to ensure that the prevailing guidelines and procedures support system security outcomes.

3. Approach

Two separate routine consultation periods are followed to ensure minimal overlap between consultations as follows:

- Market Operation - March and September
- Power System Control - May and November.

NTESMO has found that this scheduled approach is yielding benefits and will continue to progress consultations on this basis into the future.

¹ NTESMO is a subordinate business unit in Power and Water that forms part of the Core Operations Business Unit

4. Progress update regarding industry consultation

4.1 Market Operations

- Market Operations has continued through a series of consultations for the implementation of market interactions enablement (MIE) and further deployment of the AEMO MSATS system. The consultation for late 2025 has been deferred to early 2026 as there was insufficient changes implemented by AEMO for the MSATS system over the latter half of 2025.
- Market Operations is currently reviewing the structure and content of the NTESMO website. NTESMO will be improving the online structure and content to better align with the market and industry expectations. The development of a revised website for NTESMO will coincide with the initial implementation of TEM reforms during 2026 and market participants and interested parties will be informed of any amendments to the content and structure as they are developed.

Power System Control

- Secure System Guidelines (SSG) Version 5, 2025:
 - The expedited consultation of the amendments to the secure system guidelines (SSG) regarding restructuring and frequency control methods has been concluded ahead of schedule. SSG version 5 has been published and became effective on 1 November 2025.
 - NTESMO thanks industry participants and interested parties for their contributions toward the finalisation of the amended SSG.
 - Implementation of frequency control methods for inertial, contingency and regulating reserves is ongoing and subject to the final operationalisation of the upgraded energy management system (EMS). It is likely that the full extent of frequency control applications would be realised during the 2026 dry season following the completion of the EMS upgrade. Deferral of this matter pending the systems upgrades is not considered material at this stage.
- Scheduling and Dispatch Procedural Review, 2025:
 - The industry discussion paper for amendments to the scheduling and dispatch procedures was published on 3 November 2025, as planned. This paper invited inputs from participants and interested parties on the future construct of procedures as well as amendments to existing scheduling and dispatch procedures to account for the evolution of the power system and apply the principles of security constrained economic dispatch.
 - There were comprehensive and detailed responses from 3 Generator Licensees and a Retailer Licensee, representing a broad base of industry participants. These responses have been well received and there are several well justified recommendations provided by participants that will support the timely amendment to the existing procedure suite. NTESMO has already commenced the review and draft amendments to an amalgamated Scheduling and Dispatch procedure and will further consult with the industry on proposed amendments by early 2026.
 - It is envisaged that amendments to the amalgamated procedure relating to the scheduling and dispatch consultation would take effect by the middle of 2026. Pragmatic operational workarounds will continue concurrently until a comprehensive set of revised procedures are finalised through stakeholder inputs over the course of the consultation period.

- Participants have invested in the opportunity to make submissions that effectively shape the evolution of the scheduling and dispatch procedures. The outcome of these will form the basis of the design of systems and tools designed to enhance the scheduling and dispatch capability, which includes the Territory Dispatch Engine.
- NTESMO thanks participants for their pro-active contributions and their collaboration.
- Gird-connected BESS Guidelines, 2026:
 - An industry discussion paper is being drafted to introduce the application of grid-connected BESS with a specific emphasis upon the predominant use case and operational philosophy governing large-scale BESS for power system operations. Planned for publication in early 2026, this paper will provide the foundation for the application of grid-connected storage systems.
 - Sufficient time would be afforded for participants and interested parties to review and make written submissions that enable the development of pragmatic guidelines for the application of grid-connected BESS.
 - The development and implementation of these guidelines will follow an extended standard consultation with the final implementation likely during
- SSG Version 6, 2026:
 - The minor updates to Power System Controller procedures and guidelines have been superseded by a plan to undertake a more comprehensive review and amendments to the SSG, excluding frequency control that has already been completed during 2025 (SSG Version 5).
 - This consultation is likely to commence by mid-2026 and continue into the latter part of the 2026, rounding out the two-year consultation cycle for the SSG.

4.1. Other consultations

- Power and Water - Power Services, the licensed Network Service Provider, has commenced consultation with industry participants and interested parties regarding the specification of connection and access considerations for small-scale BESS up to 2 MW. Presently, the NSP BESS consultation is currently open until the 21st of January 2026 and NTESMO has re-scheduled its consultations to ensure no overlapping of the consultations.
- NTESMO has been in contact with the NT Government regarding the TEM reform program and the industry reference groups. Whilst it is unlikely that conflicts would arise, NTESMO remains open to adapting the two-yearly industry consultation schedule to align with the Government's schedule once finalised and published. NTESMO will inform participants and interested parties when these developments have been finalised.

NTESMO invites participants to submit their responses to matters that they consider to be material in nature for consideration in the development of the ongoing two-year program of amendments and industry consultation.

5. Consultations

The consultation schedule, which follows the annual consultation cycles, is provided in Appendix A. The core themes for consultation remain unaltered at this stage. The themes identified have been driven by the immediate needs identified by NTESMO.

5.1 Consultation materials

Each consultation, as a minimum, will include:

- A summary document outlining the proposed development and amendments and rationale.
- A timeframe mapping out the consultation steps.
- A discussion paper for each theme or methodology providing more detail of the proposed changes.
- A list of questions to prompt participants' responses.
- A proposed implementation schedule

5.2 Planned consultation themes

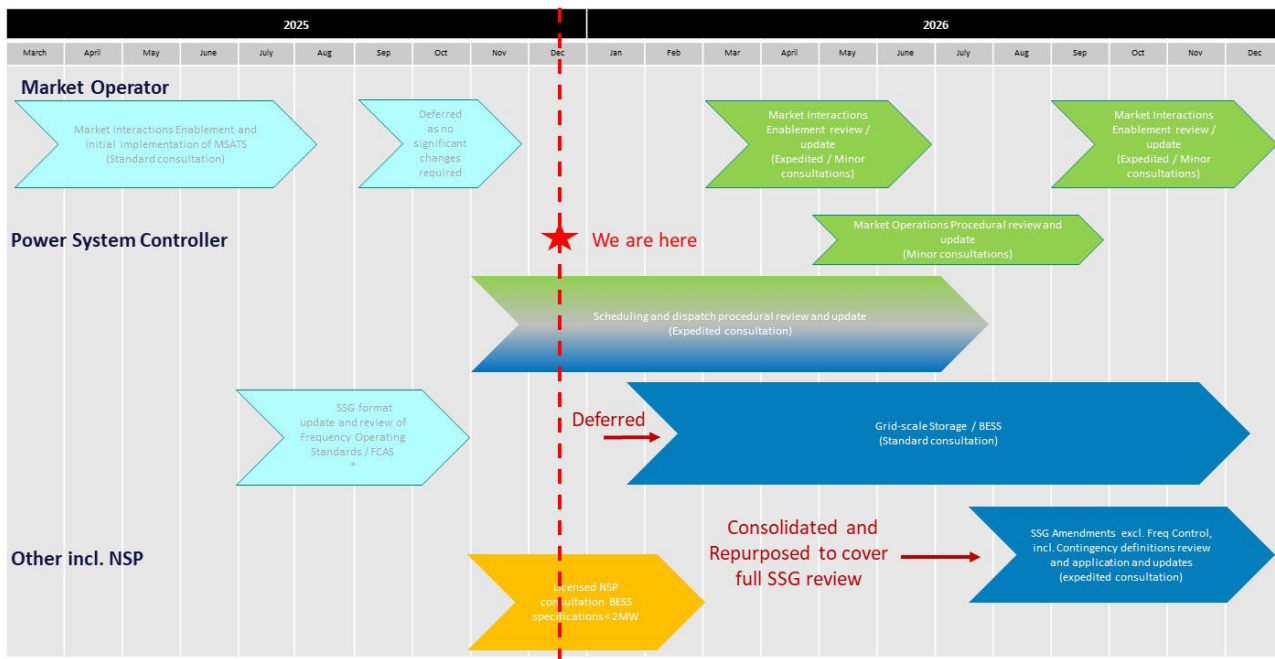
Market Operator

- March 2026 to September 2026:
- Market interactions enablement: development of market procedures aligned to the implementation of MSATS.
- Market Operations Procedures- Minor review and update of existing procedures which will be detailed in the respective consultation package – yet to commence.

Power System Controller

- November 2025 to July 2026 - Review and amendment of scheduling and dispatch procedures to be more reflective of existing generation requirements. This includes consolidating and updating related procedures, e.g. Tie-Break Procedure and Dispatch and Pricing Procedure - commenced.
- February 2026 to November 2026 - Discussion of the requirements for connection and application of BESS within the regulated power systems. This will be a substantive consultation over an extended period and covers grid-connected BESS applications.
- June 2026 to November 2026 - Consolidated to a comprehensive review of the Secure System Guidelines (SSG), excluding frequency control. The contingency definition review will be absorbed into the SSG review and amendment, which includes the minor review and update of existing procedures – yet to commence.

5.3 Updated consultation schedule December 2025



Industry Consultation Schedule

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NTESMO