

NEW METER TYPE FOR THE REGISTRY: ADVANCED METERS

Ron Beatty

Senior Adviser Retail

DISCUSSION

1 May 2007

NEW METER TYPE FOR THE REGISTRY: ADVANCED METERS

Introduction

1. The registry is a national database that contains reconciliation information on every point of connection on a local network or embedded network from which electricity is supplied to a site. These points of connection are referred to as installation control points (ICP). Each ICP is a unique identifier. The registry is the electricity industry's 'database of record' of all ICPs.
2. Through the use of ICPs, the registry helps manage both the customer switching and reconciliation processes.
3. Part E of the Electricity Governance Rules 2003 (Rules) provides for the management of information held by the registry and outlines the process for switching customers between retailers.

Purpose of this paper

4. The purpose of this paper is to seek the Standing Data Formats Group's (SDFG) approval of the new meter type for the registry and to consider if any changes need to be done to the Electricity Information Exchange Protocols (EIEP).

Meter types

5. Currently the available meter types in the registry for selection are:
 - a. half hour;
 - b. non half hour;
 - c. unmetered; and
 - d. pre-pay.
6. There is no differentiation available within the meter type for 'advanced' metering solutions that may be a hybrid half hour/non half hour and have remote communications for meter reading and disconnection. This information is required by retailers at the time of examining an ICP for switching.
7. The Electricity Commission (Commission) proposes introducing a new meter type of 'advanced' to indicate the presence of meters of this type.

Electricity Information Exchange Protocols

8. The purpose of the EIEPs is to enable the exchange of low cost, standardised, and reliable information between participants. The protocols are agreed between participants and are not mandatory.

9. The Commission requests that the SDFG consider if there should be a change to the EIEPs for the addition of advanced metering information (e.g. EIEP7 could have a disconnection code added).
10. The EIEPs can be found on the Commission's website at <http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/opdev/retail/protocols/index.html>.

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that the SDFG:
 - a. **discuss** the paper;
 - b. **suggest** recommendations for the inclusion of this meter type within the registry and the registry format;
 - c. **consider** if there should be a change to the EIEPs;
 - d. **agree** that the paper should be forwarded to the Retail Market Advisory Group for approval; and
 - e. **agree** to publish the paper on the Commission's website.