

WITS Access Policy

Version 2.0

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Revision history

Version	Date amended	Comments
1.0	4 September 2018	Board approved draft for consultation
1.1	18 April 2019	Initial Issue
2.0	25 February 2021	Updated content

Overview and disclaimer

This document sets out the policy the Electricity Authority (Authority) follows when considering applications for access to the wholesale information trading system (WITS). The document reflects the Authority's view.

The information contained in this policy should not be used instead of legal advice. If there is any inconsistency between this policy and the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (Code), the Code takes precedence.

Glossary of abbreviations and terms

API	Application Programming Interface
Authority	Electricity Authority
Code	Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010
Participant	A person, or a person belonging to a class of persons, identified in section 7 of the Electricity Industry Act 2010 as being a participant in the electricity industry
SFTP	Secure File Transfer Protocol
SPA	Service Provider Agreement
WITS	The system operated by the WITS manager
WITS manager	The market operation service provider for the time being appointed as wholesale information trading system provider under this Code
WITS user	A person who accesses WITS (ie, a WITS Data Hub user or WITS Trader user)

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1. Introduction

1.1. This document sets out the terms and conditions under which the Authority grants access to WITS:

(a) Section 2 provides background information.

(b) Section 3 sets out the terms and conditions for WITS.

This category of access provides read and write access to WITS and the clearing manager's portal. Only participants approved by the Authority are allowed access to WITS Trader. The WITS Data Hub is publicly available.

2. An overview of WITS

WITS facilitates information provision in the wholesale electricity market.

- 2.1. WITS is a “24 by 7” web-based platform for exchanging, and for making available, information related to New Zealand’s wholesale electricity market. The Code contains various obligations in this regard, including those listed below, which make WITS critical to the efficient operation of the wholesale market:
- (a) purchasers, generators, and ancillary service agents must use WITS when submitting energy bids, energy offers, or reserve offers to the System Operator
 - (b) the WITS manager must make available on WITS all final energy bids, final energy offers, and final reserve offers
 - (c) the system operator must use WITS to give notice to generators of the implication of any block security constraints that apply within a block dispatch group
 - (d) the system operator must use WITS to issue a dispatch instruction to a dispatchable load purchaser
 - (e) the system operator must use WITS to make available forecast prices, forecast reserve prices, and real time prices
 - (f) the pricing manager must use WITS to give notice of a scarcity pricing situation
 - (g) the pricing manager must make available on WITS provisional prices, provisional reserve prices, interim prices, interim reserve prices, final prices, and final reserve prices
 - (h) the clearing manager must make the details of constrained off amounts and constrained on amounts available on WITS
 - (i) the clearing manager must use WITS to advise a participant of amounts owing and payable, and the participant must immediately confirm, through WITS, receipt of this information
 - (j) the clearing manager must use WITS to provide information about prudential security requirements to each participant that must comply with such requirements.
- 2.2. The Code also requires the WITS manager to make certain information publicly available. The WITS manager uses WITS to do so. Examples include:
- (a) the WITS manager must make available, at no cost on a publicly accessible approved system, all final energy bids, final energy offers, and final reserve offers

- (b) the WITS manager must make real time prices available at no cost on a publicly accessible approved system
- (c) the WITS manager must make certain risk management contract information available at no cost on a publicly accessible approved system.

NZX's role as the WITS manager

- 2.3. The Authority must appoint a person(s) to perform the market operation service provider role of WITS manager.
- 2.4. The Authority has appointed NZX Limited (NZX) to be the WITS manager. The services that NZX must provide as WITS manager are set out in:
 - (a) the Code
 - (b) the WITS service provider agreement (SPA)
 - (c) the WITS functional specification
 - (d) the WITS operational requirements.¹

Additional information

- 2.5. Further information on WITS is available on the Authority's website at: <https://www.ea.govt.nz/operations/market-operation-service-providers/wits-manager/>
- 2.6. Please contact the Authority if you require any further information about WITS:

Electricity Authority
PO Box 10041
Wellington
Attention: Manager Market Operations

Telephone: 04 460 8860
Email: marketoperations@ea.govt.nz

¹ The operational requirements and the functional specification for WITS are published on the Authority's website at: www.ea.govt.nz/operations/wholesale/spot-pricing/wits/wits-manager/wits-functional-specifications/

3. An overview of access to WITS

Categories of access to WITS

3.1. There are two main categories of access to WITS:

- (a) **WITS Data**, formerly known as WITS Free to Air, provides web browser read-only access to all non-confidential market data. The WITS Data Hub is publicly available to anyone and does not need Authority approval.
- (b) **WITS Trader** provides read and write access to WITS and the clearing manager's portal. It allows participants to access public and private market data and to submit information to WITS to comply with their obligations under Part 13 of the Code.

The level of read and write access will vary in each case depending on the information that the participant is required to submit or receive under the Code. Only participants approved by the Authority are allowed access to WITS Trader.

WITS Data Hub and WITS Trader may be accessed using a web browser and SFTP.

3.2. This document sets out the terms and conditions of access to WITS. The terms of use for the WITS Data Hub are available when creating a login on the WITS Data Hub website.²

3.3. Participants that may require WITS Trader access to fulfil Code obligations are:

- (a) generators
- (b) purchasers
- (c) load aggregators
- (d) ancillary service agents³
- (e) dispatchable demand purchasers
- (f) grid owners.

Authority's approach to considering access to WITS

3.4. The Authority considers that it is preferable to provide (rather than prevent) access to the information in WITS.

3.5. However, restrictions on access to WITS are necessary to address problems that could arise from providing unlimited access. For example, the operation of the wholesale electricity market may be severely compromised if a person was able to interact with WITS in a manner that jeopardised WITS' operation.

² www.electricityinfo.co.nz

³ An ancillary service agent is a person who, pursuant to an agreement with the system operator, provides ancillary services as defined in the Code.

Access restrictions are directed at preventing any action that would compromise the security, reliability, or efficiency of WITS.

- 3.6. Further, given that some participants access WITS as part of complying with their Code obligations, the Authority's approach is to give priority access to those users.

4. Terms and conditions of access to WITS

General

- 4.1. Clause 13.3D of the Code requires that a participant with access to WITS must comply with the terms and conditions specified by the Authority. These terms and conditions are as specified below.
- 4.2. By using WITS, you agree to these Terms and Conditions. If you do not accept these Terms and Conditions, you must not use WITS and will need to use alternative means to meet your Code obligations.
- 4.3. You agree that:
 - (a) The Authority may amend these Terms and Conditions at any time. Amendments are effective as soon as the Authority posts them on its website. You are responsible for ensuring you are familiar with the latest Terms and Conditions. By continuing to use WITS, you agree to be bound by the Terms and Conditions as amended.
 - (b) The particular type or level of read and/or write access within WITS that the Authority grants to a particular person will depend on the type of information that the person is required to submit or receive to or from WITS to comply with its Code obligations, or the type of information it provides, and wishes to receive.
 - (c) If a participant's status or circumstances change such that it no longer requires the level of access that was originally granted, the participant must notify the Authority immediately.
 - (d) The Authority may, at its sole discretion, amend a person's category and/or level of WITS access.
 - (e) There may be circumstances in which it is necessary to reduce or suspend access to WITS, such as to maintain the WITS or protect the integrity of the system. The Authority prefers that access is restricted in a way that will minimise interference with participants' ability to comply with their functions and obligations under the Code, but this is not always practicable.
- 4.4. WITS and these Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of New Zealand and by using WITS you submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the New Zealand courts.
- 4.5. You may use WITS to send and receive information in accordance with the access provisions granted to you by the Authority. Access to WITS Trader is only granted to participants that need to access market data and to submit information to WITS, as the specified 'information system', to comply with their obligations under Part 13 of the Code.
- 4.6. You must at all times:

- (a) use the unique participant identifier or a four letter identifier provided by the Authority in all WITS transactions
 - (b) safeguard your password from unauthorised access or use
 - (c) protect the integrity and security of WITS, and not do anything that will damage, harm, or compromise the integrity or security of WITS or any connected network or system, or impede the use of WITS by other users.
- 4.7. You agree to comply with all applicable laws, and to not infringe the Authority's or the WITS manager's rights, or the rights of anyone else, or restrict or inhibit any person's use of WITS.
- 4.8. You agree not to do, or try to do, any of the following:
 - (a) anything that would damage or harm WITS, or any underlying or connected network or system
 - (b) use any unauthorised programme, including a harvesting bot, robot, spider, or scraper to access the API or content available through it for any purpose
 - (c) introduce any viruses, content other than that required to meet Code purposes, or software code to WITS
 - (d) do anything that could disable, overburden, or impair the proper working of the API, such as a denial of service attack
 - (e) solicit log in information or access an account belonging to someone else
 - (f) bully, intimidate, or harass any user of WITS.
- 4.9. Specifically, you agree not to:
 - (a) use WITS to do anything unlawful, misleading, malicious, or discriminatory
 - (b) facilitate or encourage any violations of these terms and conditions.
- 4.10. If you infringe any of these terms and conditions that apply to your use of WITS Trader, without limiting any other rights and remedies, the Authority may do one or more of the following:
 - (a) restrict your access to WITS to the extent that it is necessary to maintain WITS or protect the security, reliability, or integrity of WITS, provided that such restriction does not prevent you from complying with the Code
 - (b) modify WITS
 - (c) allege a breach of the Code.

- 4.11. In the event your access to WITS is restricted, you acknowledge that you may need to:
- (a) reduce the volume of your uploads or downloads to WITS; or
 - (b) rely on the backup procedures prescribed by the Code.
- 4.12. You agree that the Authority and the WITS manager will not be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, consequential, or exemplary loss or damages, including, but not limited to, damages for loss of profits, goodwill, use, data, or other intangible losses, resulting from:
- (a) any restriction to access imposed should the participant infringe these terms and conditions; the reliability, accuracy, or availability of information provided or received from WITS; or
 - (b) loss or corruption of your data or records or loss or corruption to your computing resources, software, or other information technology infrastructure caused by information received from WITS; or
 - (c) derivative works or modifications of the information from the API by yourselves or your agents; or
 - (d) your use of, or the inability to use, WITS (including in relation to any conclusions or assumptions derived from the information provided through WITS).
- 4.13. You agree that you have no rights of ownership to any part of WITS or the information in it.

5. Application Process

- 5.1. Authority approval is required before you may access WITS as a WITS Trader user.
- 5.2. Application for WITS Trader access must be made to the Authority for approval using the appropriate form. A copy of the application form is attached in Appendix A.
- 5.3. WITS Data provides real-time, secure, online access to all non confidential market data. Individual users may sign up directly through the website: www.electricityinfo.co.nz

Appendix A



WITS Trader application form

WITS Trader access is only required if submitting bids and offers for physical supply

WITS Trader provides real-time, secure and online access to all market data and functions required to participate in New Zealand's electricity market. Only official Electricity Authority approved participants are allowed access to this product.

WITS Data provides real-time, secure, online access to all non confidential market data. Individual users may sign up directly through the website: www.electricityinfo.co.nz

NZX Hydro provides online access to a complete hydrological database with market dispatch pricing data. For more information, email NZX at energy.data@nzx.com

Please fill out and return this form to the Electricity Authority by email to marketoperations@ea.govt.nz or by post to PO Box 10041, Wellington.

COMPANY DETAILS

Company name	
Company address	
Primary contact name	
Email address	
Phone number	

USER INFORMATION

Full name	Email address	Full Trader access Yes/No (NB: 'No' means that user will just have read only access)

DELIVERY OPTIONS

WITS may be accessed using a web browser and SFTP.

Tick ✓

1. Web browser <i>This is provided by default for all active traders as approved by the Authority</i>	✓
2. Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) <i>This revolves around the use of SFTP to transfer files, and GZIP compression to reduce the file sizes.</i>	

AUTHORISATION

Signed	
Name	
Position	
Company	
Date	

Please return this form to the Electricity Authority by email to marketoperations@ea.govt.nz or by post to PO Box 10041, Wellington. The Authority will consider your application, and if approved, will forward to NZX for processing.

Prior to accessing WITS, you will be required to sign NZX's Use of System Agreement. NZX will contact you directly regarding this Agreement and other administrative details.

AUTHORISATION BY THE ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY (OFFICE USE ONLY)

Signed	
Name	
Date	