



Gas Statement of Opportunities (GSOO) Procedures

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Contents

Current version release details	2
1. Introduction	3
1.1. Purpose and scope	3
1.2. Legal framework	3
1.3. Definitions and interpretation	3
2. GSOO reporting entities	3
2.1. Participation in a GSOO survey	4
2.2. Exemptions	4
3. GSOO survey process	5
3.1. Determining and maintaining contact details	5
3.2. Notices	5
3.3. Form of GSOO surveys and responses	6
3.4. Obligations of a GSOO reporting entity	7
3.5. GSOO clarifications	7
3.6. Survey updates or correcting errors	8
4. Publication of a supplement to the gas statement of opportunities	8
5. Forecast horizon for GSOO survey	8
6. Confidentiality	9

Current version release details

Version	Effective date	Summary of changes
0.1	15 February 2023	Initial procedures for consultation

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose and scope

These are the Gas Statement of Opportunity (GSOO) Procedures (**Procedures**) made under section 91DF of the National Gas Law (**NGL**) for the regulation of the GSOO.

These Procedures have effect only for the purposes set out in the NGL and the National Gas Rules (**NGR**). The NGL and the NGR prevail over these Procedures to the extent of any inconsistency.

The purpose of these Procedures is to specify the requirements of the process for a GSOO survey in Part 15D of the NGR

1.2. Legal framework

These Procedures are made under section 91DF of the NGL and include matters contemplated by section 91D of the NGL, Part 15D of the NGR. These Procedures may only be amended in accordance with Part 15B of the Rules.

These Procedures apply to AEMO and each person to whom they are expressed to apply under the NGL or NGR.

1.3. Definitions and interpretation

1.3.1. Glossary

Terms defined in the NGL and the NGR have the same meanings in these Procedures unless otherwise specified in this clause.

Defined terms outlined in the NGR or NGL are intended to be identified in these Procedures by italicising them, but failure to italicise a defined term does not affect its meaning.

1.3.2. Interpretation

The following principles of interpretation apply to these Procedures unless otherwise expressly indicated:

- (a) These Procedures are subject to the principles of interpretation set out in Schedule 2 of the National Gas Law.
- (b) All values should be provided to the level of accuracy noted in the survey.

2. GSOO reporting entities

Rule 135KF(1) requires AEMO to specify the persons, or classes of persons, who are GSOO reporting entities.

The following classes of persons are *GSOO reporting entities*:

- A person owning or operating a *natural gas industry facility*:

- a pipeline
- a compression service facility
- a gas processing plant
- an LNG facility
- a storage facility
- a user facility
- a *BB reporting entity* as defined in Part 18 of the National Gas Rules
 - a *field owner* for a *BB field interest*
 - a *facility operator* for a *BB facility*
 - a *facility developer* for a *facility development project*
- a gas retailer
- other person(s) identified in section 3.2.

The following persons will be *GSOO reporting entities*:

- an owner or operator of a *gas production facility*, *LNG export facility* or *LNG import facility* which currently processes more than 2 PJ per year, from one or more sites, or intend to do so in the next 3 years
- a *field owner* or operator of a *BB field* that holds a reserve greater than 20 PJ
- a *gas retailer*, *gas shipper*, or *facility operator* for a *user facility*, that consumes more than 0.5 PJ per year, or intends to do so in the next 3 years
- a facility owner or operator for a *user facility* for gas-fired generation, that consumes gas for the purposes of electricity generation in the National Electricity Market, or intends to do so in the next 3 years.
- a facility owner or operator for a *storage facility* that holds a capacity of more than 0.5 PJ, at one or more sites, or intend to do so in the next 3 years
- a facility owner or operator for a *pipeline* that will have an annual flow of more than 2 PJ per year, or intend to do so in the next 3 years.

2.1. Participation in a GSOO survey

AEMO may require a GSOO reporting entity to participate in a GSOO survey in accordance with Rule 135KE(2) and that entity must participate in the GSOO survey as per Rule 135KE(3).

A *GSOO reporting entity* must participate in a *GSOO survey* when the *GSOO reporting entity* receives a notice from AEMO to participate in the *GSOO survey*.

2.2. Exemptions

Once a person no longer meets the criteria as a *GSOO reporting entity* in these Procedures they will be treated as exempt from the requirement to participate in the *GSOO survey* and will not be informed by AEMO.

A GSOO *reporting entity* or its authorised agent may apply to AEMO for an exemption from the obligation to participate in a GSOO survey.

An application for an exemption must be in the form and contain the information specified by AEMO on its website.

The GSOO *reporting entity* or its agent applying to AEMO for the exemption must provide any information requested by AEMO to consider the application for exemption.

Applications for exemption will be considered by AEMO on a case-by-case basis.

AEMO will notify a GSOO *reporting entity* if an application for exemption is approved. Until the exemption application is approved, the GSOO *reporting entity* will still have the same obligations as before the application was made.

AEMO may include conditions in any exemption granted to a GSOO *reporting entity* and the GSOO *reporting entity* must comply with any conditions of an exemption.

3. GSOO survey process

3.1. Determining and maintaining contact details

Rule 135KF(2)(a) provides that the GSOO Procedures must include pre-survey procedures to identify potential GSOO reporting entities and obtain organisation contact details for GSOO reporting entities.

AEMO will maintain a register of contacts for each GSOO *reporting entity* by communicating, by telephone or email, with the GSOO *reporting entity* at least annually prior to issuing a GSOO survey.

All notices from AEMO in relation to a GSOO survey will be sent by AEMO to the nominated email address of each GSOO *reporting entity*. (See section 3.2 for determining contact details of each GSOO *reporting entity*.)

Each GSOO *reporting entity* must notify AEMO if the contact details for the GSOO *reporting entity* for the purpose of the GSOO survey changes at any time.

3.2. Notices

Rule 135KF(2)(a) specifies that the GSOO Procedures must include the pre-survey procedures to identify potential GSOO reporting entities.

AEMO will send notices in relation to a GSOO survey to the registered contact details for GSOO *reporting entities* that are *Registered participants*.

If AEMO has no contact details for a potential GSOO *reporting entity*, contact details through publicly available information will be used to attempt to identify potential GSOO *reporting entities*.

Pre-survey notices from AEMO will specify how and by when each GSOO *reporting entity* must confirm its contact details with AEMO, including valid phone number and email address.

If a person becomes aware that it meets the criteria of a GSOO *reporting entity* and has not received a notice from AEMO requesting contact details, that person must notify AEMO as soon as practicable.

If AEMO sends a pre-survey notice to a potential *GSOO reporting entity*, the potential *GSOO reporting entity* must provide the contact details specified in the pre-survey notice.

If a *GSOO reporting entity* wishes to use an agent to provide information on behalf of the *GSOO reporting entity*, the *GSOO reporting entity* must provide to AEMO a signed confirmation from the *GSOO reporting entity* authorising the agent to provide its *GSOO survey response* on behalf of the *GSOO reporting entity*. The *GSOO reporting entity* must also provide the contact details of the agent, and a signed consent from the agent agreeing to provide *GSOO survey responses* on behalf of the *GSOO reporting entity* including details of the tenure of the agent appointment (including the date of commencement and, if applicable, the date when the agency arrangement will cease).

Specific to the appointment of an agent:

- AEMO is not required to verify the validity of an appointment or consent of agent for a *GSOO reporting entity*.
- AEMO will notify the *GSOO reporting entity* if the use of the agent is approved.
- If AEMO approves the use of an agent to provide information on behalf of the *GSOO reporting entity*, for the purpose of liability under the NGL, the Rules and these Procedures, the *GSOO reporting entity* remains responsible for providing to AEMO the requested information in the *GSOO survey* in accordance with the NGL, Rules and these Procedures.

3.3. Form of GSOO surveys and responses

Rule 135KF(2)(b) requires the GSOO Procedures to specify the form of GSOO surveys, which may vary by GSOO reporting entity or by class of GSOO reporting entity.

The format of the *GSOO survey* will be electronic.

The *GSOO survey* will be in one of the following formats :

- Stand-alone electronic file, such as an excel spreadsheet. In this instance, the lodgement of the *GSOO survey* would be returning the completed spreadsheet to AEMO via the communication method specified in the *GSOO survey*.
- Online *GSOO survey* tool.
- Data management web portal.
- Other information delivery method that is provided by AEMO or otherwise agreed by AEMO.

The *GSOO survey* for a *GSOO reporting entity* or class of *GSOO reporting entities* will be comprised of questions that are relevant to that *GSOO reporting entity* or class of *GSOO reporting entities*.

The *GSOO survey* may request specific information from *GSOO reporting entities* that could have an influence and impact on the demand-supply balance of natural gas for each *participating jurisdiction*. Therefore, the information to be provided in a *GSOO survey response* may vary from year to year.

The format of a *GSOO survey* for a *GSOO reporting entity* or class of *GSOO reporting entities* and the method of submission of the *GSOO survey response* will be specified in the notice sent by AEMO to each *GSOO reporting entity*.

The most recent version of the *GSOO survey* templates will be made available on AEMO's website.

AEMO will typically require a valid completed *GSOO survey response* from a *GSOO reporting entity* within 20 business days of issuing the *GSOO survey*, or as otherwise agreed between AEMO and the *GSOO reporting entity*. In the case of an urgent request, for example for the publication of a supplement to the GSOO as per Section 4, response timelines may be reduced in discussion with industry.

Once AEMO has determined it has received a valid completed *GSOO survey response* from a *GSOO reporting entity*, AEMO will notify the *GSOO reporting entity* of the receipt of a valid *GSOO survey response*.

A timeline for the overall process for the *gas statement of opportunities* from issuing surveys to publication will be published on AEMO's website. This will include the cut-off date for when *GSOO survey* responses need to be submitted to be considered in the next *gas statement of opportunities*.

Changes to survey templates and the published GSOO timeline will be raised for discussion at a relevant industry forum, such as the Gas Wholesale Consultative Forum, ahead of publishing these on the website.

3.4. Obligations of a GSOO reporting entity

Rule 135KF(2)(c) requires the GSOO Procedures to specify the obligations of a GSOO reporting entity when participating in a GSOO survey, including the time by which a response must be provided

A complete *GSOO survey response* must be provided to AEMO when a *GSOO reporting entity* receives a *GSOO survey* from AEMO.

All information in a *GSOO survey response* must be accurate as at the date the *GSOO survey* was issued or if practical at the time the information is provided to AEMO should changes happen within the response period.

The *GSOO survey response* must be submitted to AEMO in the format specified in the notice sent by AEMO with the *GSOO survey* and before the expiry of the *GSOO survey* deadline specified in the notice from AEMO.

For joint ventures (JV), the operator for the joint venture must provide the *GSOO survey response* on behalf of all the JV parties. AEMO may also require a *GSOO survey response* from each other party of the JV only in respect of their share of the JV, if AEMO considers that the additional information is required for the purpose of the *gas statement of opportunities*. AEMO may make appropriate enquiries to ensure the received information from all JV parties is clear and accurate.

3.5. GSOO clarifications

Rule 135KF(2)(d) requires the GSOO Procedures to specify the requirements for AEMO to request clarification of a GSOO survey response

AEMO may notify a *GSOO reporting entity* at any time after a *GSOO survey response* is provided and prior to the publication of the related *gas statement of opportunities* if AEMO considers the *GSOO survey response* is incomplete or requires clarification.

If AEMO notifies a *GSOO reporting entity* that a *GSOO survey response* is incomplete or requires clarification, the *GSOO reporting entity* must provide AEMO with the information required to complete or clarify the *GSOO survey response* in the format and by the date specified in the notice.

3.6. Survey updates or correcting errors

Rule 135KF(2)(e) requires the GSOO Procedures to specify the requirements for a GSOO reporting entity to update a survey response or to correct an error.

3.6.1. Process to correct errors reported in GSOO surveys

If a *GSOO reporting entity* becomes aware that a *GSOO survey response* contains an error, is missing information or there has been a material change to the information in its *GSOO survey response*, the *GSOO reporting entity* must, as soon as practicable:

- (a) notify AEMO of the need to update the *GSOO survey response*; and
- (b) provide to AEMO an updated *GSOO survey response*, within 10 business days after the date of the notice in subparagraph (a), in the same format as the *GSOO survey response* being updated.

AEMO may notify a *GSOO reporting entity* at any time after a *GSOO survey response* is provided if AEMO considers the *GSOO survey response* contains an error.

If AEMO notifies a *GSOO reporting entity* that a *GSOO survey response* potentially contains an error, the *GSOO reporting entity* must provide AEMO with an updated *GSOO survey response* correcting the error in the format and by the date specified in the notice, or provide information to AEMO that confirms that the data provided in the *GSOO survey response* is not in error.

4. Publication of a supplement to the gas statement of opportunities

There may be instances where there is significant change to the gas market or where significant and verifiable new information relevant to the *gas statement of opportunities* is brought to AEMO's attention. When this occurs, AEMO is required to publish a supplement to the *gas statement of opportunities* under clause 135KD of the NGR, summarising the new information and indicating how the *gas statement of opportunities* is affected by the new information.

If AEMO is required to provide a supplement to the GSOO, AEMO may issue a new *GSOO survey* to specific *GSOO reporting entities* to confirm or update *GSOO survey responses*.

If AEMO notifies a *GSOO reporting entity* that it is required to provide an update to a *GSOO survey response* for a supplement to the *gas statement of opportunities*, the *GSOO reporting entity* must provide AEMO with a *GSOO survey response* in the format and by the date specified in the notice.

5. Forecast horizon for GSOO survey

Rule 135KE(5) requires AEMO to specify the medium-term forecast horizon.

The *medium-term forecast horizon* is the minimum publication horizon for the GSOO specified in Rule 135KB(1).

6. Confidentiality

Rule 135KF(2)(f) requires AEMO to specify how it will handle claims of confidentiality in relation to a GSOO survey response.

All information in a GSOO survey response provided by a GSOO reporting entity may be published by AEMO in the *gas statement of opportunities* or any supplement to the *gas statement of opportunities* unless AEMO approves a claim of confidentiality in relation to a GSOO survey response.

Specific information in a GSOO survey response will not be considered confidential if the information:

- is available in the public domain at the time it is to be included in the *gas statement of opportunities* or a supplement of the *gas statement of opportunities*;
- has rightfully been received by AEMO from a third party who is under no obligation of confidence in relation to the information at the time it is to be included in the *gas statement of opportunities* or a supplement of the *gas statement of opportunities*; or
- is required by the NGL or the Rules to be published in the *gas statement of opportunities* or a supplement of the *gas statement of opportunities*.

A GSOO reporting entity may request in a GSOO survey response that specific information in the GSOO survey response is treated as confidential.

If a GSOO reporting entity requests that specific information in a GSOO survey response is treated as confidential, the GSOO reporting entity shall provide appropriate information to AEMO to justify its request for AEMO to assess. AEMO may request additional information in considering the request.

If AEMO accepts a request to treat specific information in a GSOO survey response as confidential, AEMO:

- will still use the relevant confidential information for relevant analysis and assessments to reach *gas statement of opportunities* or supplement of the *gas statement of opportunities* conclusions;
- will not publish that specific information in the *gas statement of opportunities* or a supplement to the *gas statement of opportunities*;
- may include in a *gas statement of opportunities* or supplement of the *gas statement of opportunities* an aggregation of relevant confidential information;
- may re-publish information provided for previous *gas statement of opportunities* publications, and still use the relevant confidential information for relevant analysis and assessments to reach *gas statement of opportunities* or supplement of the *gas statement of opportunities* conclusions.

AEMO will choose the most appropriate option to protect confidentiality of the relevant information on a case-by-case basis.

If AEMO does not accept a request to treat specific information in a *GSOO survey response* as confidential, AEMO will endeavour to contact and inform the *GSOO reporting entity* prior to the release of the information.