

26 September 2019

Mr Neil Jenkins
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Dear Neil,

**ENERGY SAFE VICTORIA CONSULTATION PAPER – PROPOSED ELECTRICITY SAFETY
(MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 2019**
**ENERGY SAFE VICTORIA CONSULTATION PAPER – PROPOSED ELECTRICITY SAFETY (CATHODIC
PROTECTION) REGULATIONS 2019**

Thank you for your email of 5 September 2019, which referenced the remake of the Electricity Safety (Management) Regulations and the Cathodic Protection Regulations with a website link to the Regulations Consultation Papers for the [Electrical Safety \(Management\) Regulations](#), the [Electrical Safety \(Cathodic Protection\) Regulations](#), and their associated appendices.

Thank you also for the opportunity to comment on these drafts.

United Energy is generally supportive of ESV's proposed regulatory changes, and offers the comments below.

Following on from your email of 29 August, United Energy confirms that we will be attending the workshop on 17 October to discuss:

- [ESV Energy Infrastructure Safety Management Policy](#),
- [Electricity Safety Case \(ESMS\) Preparation and Submission Guideline for MECs](#),
- [Incident and Safety Performance Reporting Guidelines - MECs](#)

We would expect that now the Exposure Draft of the Electrical Safety (Management) Regulations has been released, these may also be discussed at the meeting on 17 October. We note that the Agenda for this meeting is still to be released, and United Energy may wish to provide additional comment on the Guidelines and the Regulations following this meeting.

Consultation Paper – Proposed Electricity Safety (Management) Regulations 2019

United Energy is pleased to note that the feedback provided on the "issues paper" released in March 2019 has been considered by ESV in the Consultation Paper, refer to the letter of 23 August 2019 providing comments on the:

- [ESV Energy Infrastructure Safety Management Policy](#),
- [Electricity Safety Case \(ESMS\) Preparation and Submission Guideline for MECs](#),
- [Incident and Safety Performance Reporting Guidelines - MECs](#)

United Energy supports the review of "Feasible options" described in section 4 of the Consultation Paper and is supports the Preferred option (Option 4).

United Energy understands that the reporting requirements and associated guidelines specified in Part 3 – Records and reporting, specifically Regulations 27, 28 and 29 will be reviewed during the

workshop on the 17 October to improve the alignment between the Act, the Regulations and the Guidelines.

United Energy suggests the following amendments to the Regulations:

28 Requirements for reporting of serious electrical incidents by major electricity companies

(1) For the purposes of section 142(1) and (2) of the Act, an electricity supplier that is an MEC must, if this regulation applies—

(a) notify Energy Safe Victoria of a serious electrical incident as soon as practicable as specified in ~~reporting guidelines issued by Energy Safe Victoria from time to time;~~ and

(b) provide Energy Safe Victoria with a report of the incident ~~in accordance with the reporting guidelines~~ *at the completion of the incident investigation.*

(2) The notification of a serious electrical incident to which sub-regulation (1) applies must specify, to the extent that the information is available –

(a) the nature of the incident;

(b) where and when the incident occurred;

(c) the particulars of any person involved in the incident; and

(d) whether any emergency service attended the incident.

(3) The report of the serious electrical incident to which sub-regulation (1) applies must specify –

(a) the cause of the incident;

(b) if any emergency service attended the incident, what action was required to be taken by emergency service;

(c) what remedial actions (if any) were taken by the relevant asset operator; and

(d) what actions are proposed by the relevant asset operator to prevent a repetition of the incident.

(4) This regulation applies if a serious electrical incident—

(a) caused the death of or injury to a person; or

(b) caused significant property damage; or

(c) caused significant disruption to the community; or

*(d) involved an electric **transmission** line with a nominal voltage of more than ~~66 000 volts;~~*

(e) involved an imminent risk of electrocution; or

*(f) involved a **ground** fire originating from the MEC's supply network; or*

(g) involved any of the following—

(i) an explosive failure of an asset;

(ii) a reverse polarity;

(iii) a high voltage injection;

(iv) a switching operation that inadvertently caused energisation;

(v) a person coming into contact with an energised network asset;

~~*(vi) an energised bare conductor that is less than 4.3 metres above the ground;*~~

~~*(vii) part of the MEC's supply network becoming dislodged from its supporting structure;*~~

(viii) ~~an uncontrolled release of a live conductor.~~ *a protection system mal-operation following a live conductor incident*

*In sub-regulation (4) – **transmission line** means an electric line with a nominal voltage more than 66,000 volts.*

29 Reporting of other serious electrical incidents by major electricity companies

- (1) This regulation applies to serious electrical incidents other than serious electrical incidents described in Regulation 28(4)
- (2) For the purposes of section 142(1) and (2) of the Act, an electricity supplier that is an MEC must ~~report to Energy Safe Victoria a serious electrical incident to which this applies in accordance with the reporting guidelines referred to in regulation 28(1)~~ *provide Energy Safety Victoria with a report of a serious electrical incident to which this regulation applies at the completion of the incident investigation in accordance with sub-regulation 28(3).*

Consultation Paper – Proposed Electricity Safety (Cathodic Protection) Regulations 2019

We confirm that we have previously provided feedback to Energy Safe Victoria, refer to letter of 12 April 2019 providing comments on the: [Electricity Safety \(Cathodic Protection\) Regulations Re-make](#).

United Energy notes “Appendix 2 – Statement explaining the proposed Regulations” and is supportive of the explanations provided in this paper.

United Energy notes the changes that have been recommended to the proposed Regulations, recognising that they maintain current requirements and are primarily focused on improving both administrative clarity and efficiency. The definition of a prescribed cathodic protection system now removes certain low output galvanic anode cathodic systems (below a total output of 250 milliamperes) from the operation of the Act. United Energy has no objection to these changes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Consultation Papers for [Electrical Safety \(Management\) Regulations](#) and [Electrical Safety \(Cathodic Protection\) Regulations](#), and their associated appendices.

United Energy looks forward to working with the project team established by Energy Safe Victoria to develop the structure and align the future combined ESMS / Safety Case, the [Electricity Safety Case \(ESMS\) Preparation and Submission Guideline for MECs](#), and the [Incident and Safety Performance Reporting Guideline - Major Electricity Companies](#) with the [Energy Infrastructure Safety Management Policy](#).

Should you have any further queries in relation this matter please contact [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely
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