

**PLANNED OUTAGE COORDINATION PROCESS (POCP)  
INDUSTRY REVIEW  
MEETING MINUTES FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2006**

**ATTENDEES:**

Mark Pearce (Chair)  
Chris Sadler (Vector)  
Rick Liew (Contact)  
Greg Salmon (Meridian)  
James Denham (Genesis)  
Tim Dobbs (Mighty River)  
Richard Smith (Trustpower)  
Brendan Olsen (Grid Owner)  
Ray Basher (Grid Owner)  
Greg Spence (System Operator)  
Grant Tuffery (System Operator)  
Alan Jenkins (ENA)  
Richard Clark (RedSpider)  
Stephanie Wenman (Project Manager)

**MINUTES**

1. Mark Pearce formally opened the Review meeting. Greg Spence gave an introductory presentation on behalf of the System Operator. See Appendix A for the presentation.
2. Mark Pearce provided some background context for the development of the POCP in 2003.
3. Richard Clark from RedSpider gave an update on the current status of the POCP database. Key points noted were:
  - The database was originally designed as a prototype.
  - The database has been enhanced several times since 2003, to meet user requests for improved functionality.
  - The database has reached the its flexibility limits in terms of further development.
  - The database could continue functioning “as is” for some time to come, but would struggle with any significant additional load or functional changes.
  - Recommended approach would be to re-engineer the database completely in order to move it from a prototype model to a production model, to allow for greater load, and to remedy the current operating issues.
4. Greg Spence then gave an update on the System Operator’s plans for future IT development and how this could affect the POCP database. See Appendix B for the presentation.
5. The Review Team then discussed how the POCP (both the overall process and the supporting database) might develop over the next five years. Items noted for further investigation/action were:

*In relation to the overall process:*

- The impact that additional users would have on database performance;
- A focus on information about the impacts of outages – especially for “non-technical” users;
- The need for more engagement and input from major users/demand side;

- Holding annual (or more frequent) meetings to coordinate outage planning;
- Possibility of the System Operator proactively checking the status of key electricity kit;
- The need for more engagement and input from the gas industry and other fuel sources;
- More information on the actual impact of generator outages;
- Making outage information more relevant to specific areas/regions – either through the database or through regional forums;
- Having “alertable” links/changes, and more explanation about changes and the firmness or flexibility of outages.

*In relation to the database:*

- Improved filtering and search capability – this would require tighter naming protocols and standards;
  - Continuing the current open access to the outage information;
  - Sourcing additional development funding from either the System Operator or the Electricity Commission;
  - Continuing the current industry input to the functionality of the database;
  - Ensuring that future developments are responsive to users needs (as per status quo);
  - Possibility of migrating the database to Comit Free or similar industry environment;
  - Consider possible websites that could host the database e.g. Transpower, EC, etc
6. Fiona Abbot from Transpower then spoke briefly to the meeting about the proposed Rules change relating to Operational Communications – Technical Code C, and in particular the requirement to notify communications outages through the POCP. General discussion followed on the possible implications of the proposed Rules change for POCP.
  7. The Review Team then identified a range of issues to be addressed by the Review. These are:
    - The role of POCP in identifying, communicating and mitigating the impacts of outages, including pricing outcomes.
    - The timeliness of information provided by asset owners, and of the System Operator assessment of the information.
    - The certainty and variability of outage plans.
    - The sustainability of the existing database.
    - Need for additional information fields in the database.
    - Interpretation of the POCP business rules/specific issues relating to the business rules.
    - POCP and the Operational Communications Rules change, and related issues.
    - Routine governance and operational meetings – both for the actual POCP, and for outage planning coordination in general.
    - Focus on users and useability.
    - Stakeholder management e.g. EC, major users, interested parties.
  8. The Review Team then began addressing each issue at a detailed level.
  9. The first issue to be addressed was “Timeliness of information provided by Asset Owners, and the System Operator assessment of information”. The Review Team identified the following points about the current situation:

- Transpower as the Grid Owner prepares an Annual Plan;
- As well as outages identified in the Annual Plan, the Grid Owner also has additional outages resulting from projects, maintenance and faults.
- Generator outages are reviewed as they are received by the SO, to identify any significant issues.
- An increasing level of complexity is required to arrange outages, due to regulatory requirements, demand growth, and increasing volume of outages.
- Increasing volumes of outages are more sensitive to “natural” variables such as actual demand, hydrology/generation patterns, and forced outages. This means that detailed outage arrangements cannot be confirmed until system conditions become more certain i.e. 2 – 6 weeks out from realtime. This leads to more situations of unexpected problems not being identified until within this timeframe.
- Regional issues that are being managed by forums or smaller focus groups are quite successful – but additional resources are required to achieve this.

Action points resulting from the discussion of this issue are:

- System Operator to further consider all of the above points, to respond and, as appropriate, suggest possible strategies for managing the situation, and report back to the next Review Team meeting.
  - All Review Team participants to further consider the issue, and raise any further related items for discussion at the next meeting.
10. The next issue discussed was “The certainty and variability of outage plans”. As discussion on (9) had also covered this item, it was agreed that the System Operator would incorporate consideration of this issue into its response on the first issue to the next meeting.
11. Discussion then moved to “The role of POCP in identifying, communicating and mitigating the impacts of outages, including pricing outcomes”. Points noted in the initial discussion were:
- The role of POCP is to provide information that allows participants to assess their risk.
  - There is a desire for better information on demand limits and generation requirements needed for an outage to proceed without security problems.
- As the meeting was due to close, the following points were noted for continued discussion at the next meeting:
- Notification of security constraints.
  - Suitability of information for “non-technical” parties.
12. An action point was noted for Tim Dobbs to provide the Grid Owner with examples of a possible database error where it appeared that GO outages which were labeled as Tentative had actually gone ahead without the label being changed to Confirmed.
13. The next meeting of the Review Team will be held on Wed 5 April, from 9.30 – 4.00 at Transpower House.

Stephanie Wenman  
POCP Review Project Manager

# Planned Outage Co-ordination Process Forum

## Introduction

8 March 2006



# POCP Forum Review

- Timely review of roles, responsibilities and environment
- Maintain and develop industry knowledge
- Ensure sustainability of tools & process



# Roles Responsibilities and Environment

- Introduced in 2003
  - Ratified by EGR's in 2004
  - Process continues unchanged
- Process delivering desired outcomes
  - Functionality / information
- Consideration to voluntary nature of business rules
  - Confirming status quo
  - Consideration to further embed requirements



# Maintain & Develop Industry Knowledge

- Maintaining the POCP process
  - Industry representation
- Maintain process understanding and awareness
  - Managing key stakeholders
  - Ongoing industry / company change



# Sustainability of Tools and Process

- Database integrity and sustainability
  - Developed as a prototype
  - Increased industry dependence
  - Need for enhanced capability / functionality and cost / benefit



# Planned Outage Co-ordination Process Forum

## SO IT Development

8 March 2006



# IT Developments in Progress

- Market System Program
- Outage Management Information System (OMIS)



# Market Systems Upgrade Project

- Current toolset implemented 1996 for introduction of NZEM.
- Scheduling, Pricing and Dispatch processes
  - SPD database
  - AIMMS solver
  - Real Time Dispatch
  - Reserves Management Tool
  - Manual Logging and reporting tools
  - Associated architecture and hardware
- Multiple tools and applications
  - High interdependency
  - High level of user interaction/ data manipulation
  - No upgrade path due to customised nature
  - 3- Further development / process improvement limited



# Market Systems Upgrade Project

- Overview of Project Objectives
  - Use of supported products and hardware
  - Integration of Scheduling, Pricing and Dispatch processes
  - Consolidation of source information
- Project Details
  - Contracted vendor Areva/Synergy
  - Areva Standard Market Design concept
  - Implementation mid 2007 -tentative



# Market Systems Upgrade Project

- Planning Process Implications
  - Integration of planning / scheduling functions
  - Use of market systems for Security Assessment
  - Enhanced interface with third party data
  - Greater use of market systems for Security analysis
  - Scope tightly defined
  - Limited scope for POCP integration



# Outage Management Information System

- SO/GO Planning Process
  - Multiple data sources / inputs
  - Multiple parties and responsibilities
  - Limited capture of outage information
- SO/GO Internal Process Improvement Project
  - Data repository for outage information
  - Common interface for multiple parties
  - Process integration – incl POCP



# Outage Management Information System

- Limited Scope for POCP replacement
  - dB upgrade
  - Enhanced functionality
  - Additional cost / benefit

