NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY (NORTHERN TERRITORY) (NATIONAL UNIFORM LEGISLATION) CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2019

Subordinate Legislation No. 16 of 2019

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Subordinate Legislation No. 16 of 2019*

National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Consequential Amendment Regulations 2019

I, Vicki Susan O'Halloran, Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council, make the following regulations under the *National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015.*

Dated 27 June 2019

V. S. O'Halloran Administrator

By Her Honour's Command

L. J. Moss Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture acting for Treasurer

* Notified in the Northern Territory Government Gazette on 1 July 2019.

Preliminary matters Part 1

1 Citation

These Regulations may be cited as the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Consequential Amendment Regulations 2019.

Commencement 2

These Regulations commence on 1 July 2019.

Part 2 Amendment of Electricity Reform Act 2000

3 Act amended

This Part amends the *Electricity Reform Act 2000*.

Note for regulation 3

Section 15(2) of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015 allows regulations to amend any law of the Territory to make amendments of a consequential nature consequent on the deferred provisions within the meaning of that section starting to have effect as part of a law of the Territory.

Section 4 amended (Interpretation) 4

(1)Section 4(1)

insert

AER means the Australian Energy Regulator established by section 44AE of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth).

dedicated connection asset, see Chapter 10 of the National Electricity (NT) Rules (as in force from time to time).

large dedicated connection asset, see Chapter 10 of the National Electricity (NT) Rules (as in force from time to time).

National Electricity (NT) Law, see section 3(1) of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015.

National Electricity (NT) Rules, see section 3(1) of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015.

National Electricity Rules means the National Electricity Rules as defined in section 2(1) of the National Electricity Law set out in the Schedule to the National Electricity (South Australia) Act 1996 (SA).

small dedicated connection asset, see Chapter 10 of the National Electricity (NT) Rules (as in force from time to time).

(2)Section 4(1), definition *Network Technical Code*

omit

, see section 66A(2)

insert

means a network technical code, and any associated network planning criteria, prepared under section 111(2)(da)

5 Section 14 amended (Requirement for licence)

(1)Section 14(3)(b), after "network"

insert

or a dedicated connection asset

(2) Section 14(3), at the end

insert

Note for subsection (3)

Transitional provisions relating to dedicated connection assets in existence or proposed to be constructed at the time that subsection (3)(b) was amended by the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Consequential Amendment Regulations 2019 are included in Part 4, Division 4 of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015.

Section 22 amended (Authority conferred by licence 6 authorising operation of electricity network)

After section 22(1)(a)

insert

(ab) to operate any dedicated connection asset specified in the licence: and

7 Part 4, Division 6 repealed (Network Technical Codes)

Part 4, Division 6

repeal

8 Section 87 amended (Power of exemption)

After section 87(5)

insert

(6) This section does not apply in relation to dedicated connection assets.

9 Section 87A inserted

After section 87

insert

87A Specific power of exemption in relation to dedicated connection assets

- (1) The Utilities Commission may grant an exemption from the requirement to hold a licence under Part 3 to own or operate a dedicated connection asset specified in the exemption.
- (2) An application for an exemption must comply with any requirements prescribed by the Regulations.
- (3) Without limiting any other matter, the Utilities Commission may only grant an exemption if the Utilities Commission is satisfied that the dedicated connection asset is appropriately classified as a large dedicated connection asset or a small dedicated connection asset in accordance with any requirements prescribed by the Regulations.
- (4) An exemption will be granted on terms and conditions determined by the Utilities Commission.
- (5) The Utilities Commission, in determining the conditions of an exemption:
 - (a) may have regard to the guidelines issued by the AER for the purposes of clause 2.5.1(d) of the National Electricity Rules insofar as they apply to dedicated connection assets, and to any other matter determined by the Utilities Commission; and

- (b) must make the exemption subject to any conditions that the Utilities Commission is required by the Regulations to impose on granting an exemption.
- (6) Except as otherwise provided in the exemption, and subject to any requirement prescribed by the Regulations, an exemption under this section may be varied or revoked by the Utilities Commission by notice in writing.
- (7) Without limiting subsection (6), a variation may include:
 - a variation to add a dedicated connection asset to the (a) exemption; or
 - (b) a variation to remove a dedicated connection asset from the exemption; or
 - both a variation envisaged by paragraphs (a) and (b). (c)
- (8) An exemption will operate for the purposes of section 11(2)(b) of the National Electricity (NT) Law in relation to the activity of owning, controlling or operating a dedicated connection asset specified in the exemption.

Note for section 87A

Transitional provisions relating to dedicated connection assets in existence or proposed to be constructed at the time that this section commenced are included in Part 4, Division 4 of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015.

10 Section 111 amended (Regulations)

(1)After section 111(2)(d)

insert

- (da) the preparation or amendment of a network technical code, and associated network planning criteria, (a Network Technical Code) for a network by a network provider, including the following:
 - consultation before a Network Technical Code is made (i) or amended:
 - the matters that must be included in, or covered by, a (ii) Network Technical Code;
 - the effect or operation of a Network Technical Code in (iii) specified circumstances;

- Part 3 Amendment of National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015
 - (iv) the publication of a Network Technical Code, and the provision of a Network Technical Code to other parties;
- (2)Section 111(2), at the end

insert

Note for subsection (2)(da)

Transitional provisions consequent on the repeal of the Electricity Networks (Third Party Access) Act 2000, and relating to network technical codes, are included in Part 4, Division 4 of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015.

11 Schedule 2 repealed (Operational and technical requirements for access)

Schedule 2

repeal

Part 3 Amendment of National Electricity (Northern **Territory**) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015

12 Act amended

This Part amends the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015.

Note for regulation 12

Section 13(1) of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015 allows regulations to amend Schedule 1 of that Act, including to provide for matters of a transitional nature to facilitate the transition to the application and operation of the National Electricity (NT) Law.

Section 15(1) of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015 allows regulations to amend Part 4. Division 4 of that Act to provide for matters of a transitional nature consequent on the repeal of an Act repealed by section 17 of that Act, or consequent on the deferred provisions within the meaning of that section starting to have effect as part of a law of the Territory, or to otherwise facilitate the transition to the operation of the National Electricity (NT) Law including the deferred provisions.

Section 15(2) of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015 allows regulations to amend any law of the Territory to make amendments of a consequential nature consequent on the deferred provisions within the meaning of that section starting to have effect as part of a law of the Territory.

13 Part 4, Division 4, note amended

Part 4, Division 4, note

omit, insert

18 Definitions

In this Division:

commencement day means 1 July 2019.

dedicated connection asset, see section 4(1) of the *Electricity Reform Act 2000.*

electricity entity, see section 4(1) of the *Electricity Reform Act 2000.*

existing DCA means a dedicated connection asset which, immediately before the commencement day:

- (a) exists; or
- (b) is contracted to be constructed under an existing connection agreement; or
- (c) a network provider has agreed to connect to a power system under an existing connection agreement.

existing DCA owner means the owner or operator of an existing DCA.

existing document means an Act or other document in existence or having effect immediately before the commencement day.

existing technical code means a network technical code and network planning criteria in force under section 66A of the *Electricity Reform Act 2000* immediately before the commencement day.

large dedicated connection asset, see Chapter 10 of the National Electricity (NT) Rules (as in force immediately before the commencement day).

small dedicated connection asset, see Chapter 10 of the National Electricity (NT) Rules (as in force immediately before the commencement day).

Utilities Commission means the Utilities Commission established under section 5 of the *Utilities Commission Act 2000.*

Part 3 Amendment of National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015

19 Existing dedicated connection assets

- (1) Subject to this section, the requirement to hold a licence or an exemption under the Electricity Reform Act 2000 in relation to a dedicated connection asset does not apply to an existing DCA until 1 August 2020.
- (2) In connection with the operation of subsection (1), but subject to subsection (4), the amendments made to the Electricity Reform Act 2000 which take effect on the commencement day do not apply so as to impose any additional conditions or other requirements in relation to an existing DCA.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not affect the terms or conditions of a or exemption in force immediately before licence the commencement day.
- (4) By 1 August 2020, an existing DCA owner must, in relation to each of its existing DCAs:
 - comply with the requirements of subsection (5); or (a)
 - comply with the requirements of subsection (7). (b)
- (5) The requirements of this subsection are that the existing DCA owner must notify the Utilities Commission of the following information in relation to each of its existing DCAs:
 - the identity of each owner or operator of the existing DCA; (a)
 - (b) whether the existing DCA is:
 - (i) a large dedicated connection asset; or
 - (ii) a small dedicated connection asset;
 - the location and route of the existing DCA; (c)
 - (d) in the case of an existing DCA that is covered by a licence or an exemption under the Electricity Act 2000 - information identifying the licence or exemption;
 - any other information that the Utilities Commission may (e) reasonably require.
- (6) A notification under subsection (5) must be made in a form determined by the Utilities Commission.

- (7) The requirements of this subsection are:
 - (a) in relation to an existing DCA covered by a licence that the licence has been varied under the *Electricity Reform Act 2000*, as amended on or after the commencement day, and in accordance with section 21, to add the existing DCA to the licence; and
 - (b) in any other case that a licence or exemption has been obtained under the *Electricity Reform Act 2000*, as amended on or after the commencement day, in relation to the existing DCA.
- (8) The Utilities Commission must establish a register of existing DCAs notified under subsection (5).
- (9) The register must include, in relation to each existing DCA that has been notified:
 - (a) in the case of an existing DCA that is covered by a licence or an exemption under the *Electricity Act 2000* – the identity of the holder of the licence or exemption; and
 - (b) in the case of an existing DCA that is not covered by a licence or an exemption under the *Electricity Act 2000* – the identity of each owner or operator of the existing DCA; and
 - (c) the classification of the existing DCA as:
 - (i) a large dedicated connection asset; or
 - (ii) a small dedicated connection asset; and
 - (d) the location and route of the existing DCA.
- (10) The register may include any other information determined by the Utilities Commission.
- (11) The Utilities Commission must ensure the register is made available to the public.

Part 3 Amendment of National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015

20 New dedicated connection assets associated with existing licences

- (1) If an electricity entity holding a licence under Part 3 of the *Electricity* Reform Act 2000 that authorises the operation of an electricity network wants to own or operate a dedicated connection asset (other than an existing DCA) on or after the commencement day, the electricity entity must:
 - apply for a variation of the licence in accordance with (a) section 21; or
 - apply for an exemption under section 87A of the *Electricity* (b) Reform Act 2000 in relation to the dedicated connection asset.
- (2) To avoid doubt, an application under subsection (1)(b) will be dealt with as an entirely new matter under the Electricity Reform Act 2000 as amended on or after the commencement day.

21 Processes associated with the variation of existing licences for dedicated connection assets

- (1) This section applies to the variation of a licence under section 19(7)(a) or 20(1)(a).
- (2) An application for the variation of a licence to which this section applies must:
 - be made in a form determined by the Utilities Commission; (a) and
 - state whether the dedicated connection asset is: (b)
 - (i) a large dedicated connection asset; or
 - (ii) a small dedicated connection asset; and
 - identify the location and route of the dedicated connection (c) asset.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the applicant must provide to the Utilities Commission any other information the Utilities Commission may reasonably require in relation to the dedicated connection asset.
- (4) In deciding on the appropriate classification of a dedicated connection asset, the Utilities Commission may seek the advice of the system controller for the relevant transmission network.

- (5) A system controller whose advice is sought under subsection (4) must provide that advice within a period specified by the Utilities Commission in the request.
- (6) If the Utilities Commission varies a licence under this section:
 - (a) the Utilities Commission must state in the licence (as varied) whether the dedicated connection asset is classified as:
 - (i) a large dedicated connection asset; or
 - (ii) a small dedicated connection asset; and
 - (b) the Utilities Commission may impose any conditions the Utilities Commission thinks appropriate in relation to the operation of the dedicated connection asset.

22 Connection processes commenced before commencement day (dedicated connection assets)

- (1) This section applies in relation to a dedicated connection asset if:
 - (a) an application to connect the relevant apparatus, equipment or plant was made to the network provider in accordance with the *Electricity Networks (Third Party Access) Act 2000* before the commencement day; and
 - (b) the dedicated connection asset is put in place as a result of that application on or after 1 July 2019 and before 1 August 2020.
- (2) In a case where this section applies:
 - (a) the dedicated connection asset will be taken to be an existing DCA under section 18; and
 - (b) section 20 will not apply in relation to the dedicated connection asset.

23 Connection applications

If an access application that complies with the requirements of the *Electricity Networks (Third Party Access) Act 2000* has been received before the commencement day, that Act will continue to apply, despite its repeal under section 17, in relation to that application until:

(a) a connection agreement is entered into, or varied, on account of that application; or

- (b) any access dispute is resolved or determined (including by the making of an award); or
- (c) the access application lapses, is laid aside or withdrawn, or otherwise no longer has effect under that Act.

24 Existing connection agreements

- (1) The amendments to the *Electricity Reform Act 2000* that commence on the commencement day are not intended to have the effect of:
 - (a) altering any of the terms of an existing connection agreement (including the location of a connection point); or
 - (b) altering the contractual rights or obligations of any of the parties under an existing connection agreement as between those parties; or
 - (c) relieving the parties under any such existing connection agreement of their contractual obligations under such an agreement.
- (2) In subsection (1):

connection point, see clause 3 of the Electricity Networks (Third Party Access) Code set out in the Schedule to the *Electricity Networks (Third Party Access) Act 2000.*

25 Existing network technical codes

- (1) On the commencement day, an existing technical code becomes a Network Technical Code under the *Electricity Reform* (Administration) Regulations 2000.
- (2) On and after the commencement day, to the extent that a provision of an existing technical code is inconsistent with a provision of the National Electricity (NT) Rules, the provision of the National Electricity (NT) Rules will prevail (and the provision of the existing technical code will not have effect to the extent of the inconsistency).
- (3) A reference in an existing document to section 66A of the *Electricity Reform Act 2000* includes a reference to regulation 25 of the *Electricity Reform (Administration) Regulations 2000*, unless the context otherwise requires.

14 Schedule 1 amended

Schedule 1, clause 6(4), (5), (6) and (7)

omit, insert

(4) Section 11(1)(a) and (b)

omit, insert

- (a) the person is a Registered participant in relation to that activity and that local electricity system; or
- (b) the person is the subject of a derogation that exempts the person from the requirement to be a Registered participant in relation to that activity under this Law and the Rules; or
- (ba) the person holds an exemption from the requirement to hold a licence under the *Electricity Act 2000* of the Northern Territory in relation to that activity; or
- (bb) the person has the benefit of a provision of the *Electricity Act 2000* of the Northern Territory, or a regulation made under that Act, that has the effect that the relevant activity does not require a licence under that Act in relation to a generating system, including on the basis that an activity is declared not to be generation of electricity for the purposes of that Act; or
- (bc) the person is prescribed by local instrument not to be a Registered participant in relation to that activity and that local electricity system.
- (5) Section 11(2)

omit

the interconnected national electricity system

insert

a local electricity system

(6) Section 11(2)(a) and (b)

omit, insert

(a) the person is a Registered participant in relation to that activity and that local electricity system; or

- (b) the person is the subject of a derogation that exempts the person, or is otherwise exempted by the AER, from the requirement to be a Registered participant in relation to that activity under this Law and the Rules; or
- (ba) the person holds an exemption from the requirement to hold a licence under the *Electricity Act 2000* of the Northern Territory in relation to that activity; or
- (bb) the person is prescribed by local instrument not to be a Registered participant in relation to that activity and that local electricity system.
- (7) After section 11(2)

insert

- (3aa) A Registered participant who holds a licence authorising the carrying on of operations that correspond to an activity and a local electricity system mentioned in subsection (1) or (2) is deemed to be a Registered participant in relation to that activity and that local electricity system for the purposes of that subsection or those subsections, as the case requires.
- (3ab) Subsection (2) does not apply to the activity of owning, controlling or operating an embedded network within the meaning of the National Electricity (NT) Rules (as in force from time to time).

Part 4 Amendment of Utilities Commission Act 2000

15 Act amended

This Part amends the Utilities Commission Act 2000.

Note for regulation 15

Section 15(2) of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015 allows regulations to amend any law of the Territory to make amendments of a consequential nature consequent on the deferred provisions within the meaning of that section starting to have effect as part of a law of the Territory.

16 Section 3 amended (Definitions)

Section 3

insert

National Electricity (NT) Rules, see section 3(1) of the National Electricity (Northern Territory) (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015.

17 Section 6 amended (Powers and functions)

After section 6(1)(g)

insert

(ga) to perform any function assigned to the Utilities Commission under the National Electricity (NT) Rules;

Part 5 Amendment of Electricity Reform (Administration) Regulations 2000

18 Regulations amended

This Part amends the *Electricity Reform* (Administration) Regulations 2000.

19 Regulation 4A inserted

After regulation 4

insert

4A Licence conditions – classification of dedicated connection assets

- (1) If a licence authorises the ownership or operation of a dedicated connection asset, the dedicated connection asset must be classified as:
 - (a) a large dedicated connection asset; or
 - (b) a small dedicated connection asset.
- (2) For subregulation (1):
 - (a) an application for a licence that authorises the ownership or operation of a dedicated connection asset, or an application for the variation of a licence to add a dedicated connection asset to the licence, must state whether the dedicated connection asset is:
 - (i) a large dedicated connection asset; or
 - (ii) a small dedicated connection asset; and
 - (b) the applicant must provide to the Utilities Commission any information the Utilities Commission may reasonably require to ensure that the dedicated connection asset is appropriately classified; and

- (c) for the purpose of verifying the appropriate classification of a dedicated connection asset, the Utilities Commission may seek the advice of the system controller for the relevant transmission network; and
- (d) a system controller whose advice is sought under paragraph (c) must provide that advice within a period specified by the Utilities Commission in the request.

20 Regulation 6 amended (Classification of customers as contestable customers)

Regulation 6(1)

omit

the Schedule

insert

Schedule 1

21 Regulation 6A amended (Ceasing to be a contestable customer)

Regulation 6A

omit

the Schedule

insert

Schedule 1

22 Regulation 7 amended (Applying for contestable customer certificate)

Regulation 7(1) and (2)

omit

the Schedule

insert

Schedule 1

23 Parts 7 and 8 inserted

After regulation 22

insert

Part 7 **Dedicated connection assets – exemptions**

23 **Requirements relating to applications**

For section 87A(2) of the Act, an application must:

- specify each dedicated connection asset to which the (a) application relates; and
- (b) state, in relation to each dedicated connection asset, whether the dedicated connection asset is:
 - (i) a large dedicated connection asset; or
 - a small dedicated connection asset. (ii)

24 Classification of dedicated connection assets

- (1) For regulation 23(b), the applicant must provide to the Utilities Commission any information the Utilities Commission may reasonably require to ensure that the dedicated connection asset is appropriately classified.
- (2) For the purpose of verifying the appropriate classification of a dedicated connection asset, the Utilities Commission may seek the advice of the system controller for the relevant transmission network.
- (3) A system controller whose advice is sought under subregulation (2) must provide that advice within a period specified by the Utilities Commission in the request.
- (4) The Utilities Commission must, when granting an exemption, state in the exemption whether the dedicated connection asset is classified as:
 - a large dedicated connection asset; or (a)
 - (b) a small dedicated connection asset.

Part 8 Network technical codes

25 Preparation of network technical codes

- (1) This regulation applies to the following electricity networks:
 - the Darwin-Katherine electricity system operated by Power (a) and Water Corporation;
 - the Alice Springs electricity system operated by Power and (b) Water Corporation: and
 - the Tennant Creek electricity system operated by Power and (c) Water Corporation.
- (2) The network provider for an electricity network to which this regulation applies must publish a Network Technical Code for the electricity network.
- (3) Subject to this regulation, the network provider may amend a Network Technical Code at any time.
- (4) A Network Technical Code must cover the requirements set out in Schedule 2, other than:
 - matters dealt with in the National Electricity (NT) Rules; or (a)
 - matters appropriately dealt with in the System Control (b) Technical Code.
- (5) Before making or amending a Network Technical Code, a network provider must:
 - (a) consult the Utilities Commission; and
 - alter the proposed Network Technical Code or amendments if (b) required by the Utilities Commission.
- (6) Before amending a Network Technical Code in a material way, a network provider must:
 - publish a draft of a proposed amendment on the network (a) provider's website; and
 - invite submissions from interested parties within a reasonable (b) time specified by the network provider; and
 - consider any submissions from interested parties provided (c) under paragraph (b).

- (7) As soon as practicable after making or amending a Network Technical Code, a network provider must give a copy of the code, or the code as amended, to the Utilities Commission and the AER.
- (8) To the extent that a provision of a Network Technical Code is inconsistent with a provision of the National Electricity (NT) Rules, the provision of the National Electricity (NT) Rules will prevail (and the provision of the Network Technical Code will not have effect to the extent of the inconsistency).

24 Schedule heading amended

Schedule, heading, at the end

insert

1

25 Schedule 2 inserted

After Schedule 1

insert

Schedule 2 Operational and technical requirements for access

regulation 25

1 Network Technical Code

The Network Technical Code for a network must contain the following:

- (a) performance standards in respect of service quality parameters in relation to the electricity network;
- (b) the technical requirements that apply to the design or operation of plant or equipment connected to the electricity network;
- (c) requirements relating to the operation of the electricity network (including the operation of the network in emergency situations);
- (d) obligations to test plant or equipment in order to demonstrate compliance with the Network Technical Code;

- (e) procedures that apply if the network provider believes that an item of plant or equipment does not comply with the requirements of the Network Technical Code;
- (f) requirements relating to the inspection of plant or equipment connected to the electricity network;
- (g) requirements that relate to control and protection settings for plant or equipment connected to the electricity network;
- (h) procedures that apply in the case of commissioning and testing of new plant or equipment connected to the electricity network;
- (i) procedures that apply to the disconnection of plant or equipment from the electricity network;
- procedures relating to the operation of generating units connected to the electricity network (including the giving of dispatch instructions and compliance with those instructions);
- (k) metering requirements in relation to connections;
- (I) the information required to be provided to the access provider in relation to the operation of plant or equipment connected to the electricity network at a connection and how and when that information is to be provided.

2 Network planning criteria

The network planning criteria for a network must be consistent with the Network Technical Code for the network and must contain the following:

- (a) contingency criteria;
- (b) steady-state criteria including:
 - (i) voltage limits; and
 - (ii) thermal rating criteria; and
 - (iii) fault rating criteria;
- (c) stability criteria including:
 - (i) transient stability criteria; and
 - (ii) voltage stability criteria;

- (d) quality of supply criteria including:
 - (i) voltage fluctuation criteria; and
 - (ii) harmonic voltage criteria; and
 - (iii) harmonic current criteria; and
 - (iv) voltage unbalance criteria; and
 - (v) electro-magnetic interference criteria;
- (e) construction standards criteria;
- (f) environmental criteria.

Part 6 Amendment of Electricity Reform (System Control and Market Operator Functions Code) Regulations 2015

26 Regulations amended

This Part amends the *Electricity Reform* (System Control and Market Operator Functions Code) Regulations 2015.

27 Schedule amended

Schedule, clause 2, definition Network Technical Code

omit