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The Retail Advisory Group requests feedback on two discussion papers

The Authority's Retail Advisory Group (RAG) has published two discussion papers:

The discussion paper '*Retail customers in retailer default situations*' seeks feedback on:

- the potential risks and consequences of a retailer not paying for electricity or electricity services (a retailer default situation); and
- three options for limiting any adverse effects on consumers and electricity industry participants of a retailer default.

The discussion paper '*Investigating barriers facing small-scale distributed generation*' seeks feedback on:

- the potential barriers facing consumers wishing to invest in small-scale distributed generation, and possible solutions to these barriers.

The discussion papers are available at:

<http://www.ea.govt.nz/our-work/consultations/advisory-group/retail-customers-default-situations/>

<http://www.ea.govt.nz/our-work/consultations/advisory-group/investigating-barriers-small-scale-generation/>

Submissions on both papers may be emailed to rag@ea.govt.nz and are required by 5pm on Monday, 19 March 2012.

RAG will use the feedback on each discussion paper to provide advice and recommendations to the Authority.

RAG provides independent advice to the Authority on the development of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 and market facilitation measures, focusing on retailer/distributor/consumer relationships.

RAG has an independent chairperson and comprises members from industry and consumer representatives.

Summary paper on Transmission Pricing Review Consultation Paper

The Authority has published a summary paper on its decision-making and economic framework for the transmission pricing methodology review which is currently out for consultation.

The summary paper provides a broad, non-technical overview of the Authority's proposals. Parties wanting to make submissions should refer to the Consultation Paper.

The summary paper is available at:

<http://www.ea.govt.nz/our-work/consultations/transmission/tpm-economic-framework/>

Release of the Electricity Authority Briefing to the Incoming Minister

The Authority has published the briefing provided to the incoming Minister.

The briefing, which provides an overview for the new Minister on the Authority, its role and functions, key recent events and key upcoming events, is available at:

<http://www.ea.govt.nz/about-us/documents-publications/>

The briefing contact person is the Authority's Business Planning Manager, Torsten Baker, at: torsten.baker@ea.govt.nz.

Participant registration and requirement to update information

The Authority reminds participants of the requirement to register with the Authority and ensure the information provided for registration purposes is up to date.

Failure to register or to update information is an offence under section 31 of the Electricity Industry Act 2010.

Definitions of participants and registration details are available at:

<http://www.ea.govt.nz/act-code-regs/participant-register/>

Locational price risk technical group

The locational price risk technical group (LPRTG) is beginning a new phase of work to consider options for intra-island locational price risk. The Authority considers this is an ideal opportunity to seek additional skills to complement those of existing members. Accordingly, the Authority is asking for nominations for an additional member/s of the group.

A copy of the call for nominations and details of how to make a nomination are available from:

<http://www.ea.govt.nz/our-work/advisory-working-groups/lprtg/>

CPI shows further drop in electricity prices

Electricity prices have dropped two quarters in a row for the first time in almost 13 years according to Statistics New Zealand's Consumers Price Index (CPI).

The CPI revealed that electricity prices have dropped by 0.5% in the December 2011 quarter, following a 0.3% decrease in the previous quarter.

The drop in prices has been attributed to changes in the industry, including increased competition and more consumers switching.

These changes have gained momentum in the past year with the introduction of the Authority's **What's My Number** campaign.

More information on the **What's My Number** campaign is available at:

<https://www.ea.govt.nz/consumer/csf/>

DSBF implementation forum

The Authority is holding a forum on demand-side bidding and forecasting (DSBF) implementation at the Terrace Conference Centre in Wellington on Wednesday, 15 February 2012. The forum will start at 9.30am and finish around 2.00pm.

The forum will cover compliance with DSBF Code obligations, participant testing including user acceptance testing (UAT), the new schedules, changes to the Wholesale Information and Trading System (WITS), and transitioning to the new DSBF arrangements. The agenda is available at:

<http://www.ea.govt.nz/about-us/news-events/events-calendar/dsbf-implementation-forum/>

Prospective attendees should register by sending their names and company details to conference@ea.govt.nz with 'Forum attendee DSBF implementation' in the subject line.

Part 10 implementation forum

The Authority is holding a forum on Part 10 implementation on Wednesday, 22 February 2012 in the Civic Suite at the Wellington Town Hall. The forum will start at 9.00am and finish around 5.00pm.

The new Part 10 Code affects the obligations of distributors, traders, test houses, metering equipment owners and Metering Equipment Providers (MEPs). The forum will provide information on participants' obligations under the new Part 10 Code, guidelines, key processes such as livening, and Registry transition arrangements.

The agenda will be published shortly. Prospective attendees should register by sending their names and company details to conference@ea.govt.nz with 'Forum attendee Part 10 implementation' in the subject line.

New version of the WITS Automation Manual published

A new version of the wholesale information and trading system (WITS) Automation Manual updated for implementation of demand-side bidding and forecasting (DSBF) changes has been published and is available at:

<http://www.ea.govt.nz/our-work/programmes/priority-projects/demand-side-bidding-forecasting/implementation/>

Any questions regarding the manual can be directed to Zane Doran at zane.doran@nzx.com

Market Commentary

The first edition of *Market Commentary* for 2012 will be published mid month.

Market Commentary is published bi-monthly and provides background on key electricity market issues and updates progress on major projects in the Authority's workplan.

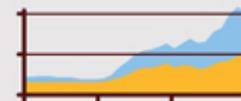
If you would like to receive *Market Commentary*, please email your details to info@ea.govt.nz.

Current consultations

- **Creating additional fields in the registry**
The purpose of this consultation is to obtain feedback on a set of proposals to create eight new fields in the registry.
The consultation paper is available at:
<http://www.ea.govt.nz/our-work/consultations/retail/creating-additional-fields-registry/>
Starting: 13/12/2011, Ending: 07/02/2012 5:00pm
- **Decision-making and economic framework for transmission pricing methodology review**
The Authority has released a consultation paper to obtain feedback on its proposed decision-making and economic framework for the Transmission Pricing Methodology (TPM) Review.
The consultation paper is available at:
<http://www.ea.govt.nz/our-work/consultations/transmission/tpm-economic-framework/>
Starting: 26/01/2012, Ending: 24/02/2012 5:00pm
- **Electricity Information Exchange Protocols – Proposed amendments**
The purpose of this paper is to consult with parties likely to be affected by proposed revisions to the existing EIEPs, definitions of billing methodologies and alignment of definitions with the registry and reconciliation manager functional specifications.
The consultation paper is available at:
<http://www.ea.govt.nz/our-work/consultations/retail/eiep/>
Starting: 17/01/2012, Ending: 02/03/2012 5:00pm

NZ Electricity Hedge Contracts

NZ Electricity Hedge Contracts 2 February 2012



<http://www.ea.govt.nz/industry/market/statistics-reports/nz-electricity-hedge-contracts/>