

Notification of the Authority's Decision under regulation 29 of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010

Under regulation 29(1) of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010 (Regulations), the Electricity Authority (Authority) must publicise every decision made under regulation 23(3) together with the reasons for the Authority's decision.

Investigation

On 28 July 2011, the Electricity Authority's (Authority) Compliance Committee (Committee) met and considered the investigator's report on the alleged breaches of clauses 9 and 10 of schedule 11.1; clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 18 of schedule 11.3 and clause 8(1) of schedule 15.1 of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (Code) by Meridian Energy Limited (Meridian).

The breaches were self-reported by Meridian and reported by TrustPower when Meridian did not comply with non-half hour switching procedures associated with an upgrade of its billing system.

On 28 July 2011, the Authority received and considered a report and a recommendation from the investigator to discontinue the investigation.

The Authority decided, under regulation 23(3)(a) of the Regulations, to discontinue the investigation. This means that the Authority will not lay a formal complaint with the Rulings Panel.

The reasons for the Authority's decision to discontinue the investigation were that:

- Although the breaches caused widespread operational impact, the market impact was minor and Meridian has taken steps to achieve compliance and minimised the impact of its non-compliance.
- TrustPower was the only party to join the investigation, but had no settlement requirements. TrustPower asked Meridian to send monthly updates to keep participants informed and Meridian is doing so.