

Investigation of an alleged breach of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 by Country Connect Solar Limited

On 4 December 2018, Wellington Electricity Lines Limited reported to the Electricity Authority (Authority) that it believed on reasonable grounds that Country Connect Solar Limited had breached clause 11.16(a) of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (Code).

On 13 February 2019, under regulation 12 of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010 (Regulations), the Authority appointed Peter Wakefield as the investigator to investigate the alleged breach.

Under regulation 16 of the Regulations, the investigator must promptly notify the industry participant alleged to have breached the Code of the allegations that it is being investigated. On 15 February 2019, the investigator notified Country Connect Solar Limited of the investigation.

Under regulation 17 of the Regulations, at the same time as the investigator sends a notice under regulation 16, the investigator must publicise the information about the matter under investigation, including the content of the notice given under that regulation. This notice publicises the information about the matter under investigation, and a copy of the notice given under regulation 16 is attached.

Any participant who considers that it is affected by the matter being investigated, and who wishes to become a party to this investigation, should notify the investigator within 10 working days after the date on which this notice is published.

The investigator's contact details are:

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Senior Investigator
Electricity Authority
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NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 16 OF THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY (ENFORCEMENT) REGULATIONS 2010

Date:	15 February 2019
Addressee:	Country Connect Solar Limited (Country Connect)
Subject:	Country Connect began trading on Wellington Electricity Lines Limited's network without having an arrangement for the provision of line function services in place.
Investigator:	Peter Wakefield , Senior Investigator, peter.wakefield@ea.govt.nz (appointed investigator under regulation 12 of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010 (Regulations)).
Notifying industry participant:	Wellington Electricity Lines Limited (Wellington Electricity)
Clause allegedly breached:	<p>11.16(a) of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010.</p> <p>Clause 11.16(a) requires traders to make necessary arrangements for the provision of line function services in relation to an ICP before providing information to the registry manager about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICPs at which the trader trades; and• the metering equipment provider responsible for the metering installation.
Circumstances of alleged breach:	<p>On 8 October 2018, the Authority, in relation to a similar alleged breach of clause 11.16(a) on a different network, advised Country Connect that it needed to have processes in place to ensure it had arrangements in place for line function services before it traded on a distributor's network. .</p> <p>On 17 October 2018, Country Connect provided the registry manager with a switch request for an ICP on Wellington Electricity's network without first making arrangements for the provision of line function services in relation to the ICP.</p> <p>Country Connect subsequently provided the registry manager with further switch requests in October 2018 and in January 2019 for ICPs on Wellington Electricity's network also without first making arrangements for the provision of line function services in relation to the ICPs.</p>

Date and time of alleged breach:	On 17 October 2018
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Please note, under regulation 16 of the Regulations, you are obliged to respond to this allegation, in writing, to the investigator within 10 working days of receipt of this notice (unless the investigator allows, in writing, a longer period).

Please provide your response by return email to the investigator.

Include the following in your response:

Whether you believe you have breached the Code

Whether there is another provision you consider more accurately describes the nature of the event

A full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the alleged breach

Identification of any information provided in your response that you consider confidential and that should not be included in the investigator's report under regulation 19 of the Regulations (regulation 15(2) of the Regulations).