

# Notice Under Regulation 16 of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010

<b>Date</b>	20 March 2026
<b>Addressee</b>	Meridian Energy Limited
<b>Subject</b>	Meridian has been alleged to have breached clause 8.23(a) and (b) by not being capable of meeting its voltage support obligations at its Harapaki wind farm (Harapaki).
<b>Investigator</b>	Investigator appointed under Regulation 12 of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010 (Regulations)
<b>Notifying industry participant</b> Transpower New Zealand Limited - System Operator	
<b>Clauses allegedly breached</b> Part 8 clause 8.23(a) and Part 8 clause 8.23(b) of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (Code).	
<b>Circumstances of alleged breaches</b> The System Operator reported that on 18 July 2024 from 5.00pm to 6.30pm Harapaki operated at very low active power (MW) due to low wind availability.  During this event the System Operator reported the Harapaki 220kV bus fluctuated rapidly between +10MVAR to -10MVAR to compensate for the reactive power injection and absorption. The System Operator attributed this to the wind farm's reticulation circuits and considered the root cause was the number of online wind turbines for low wind conditions.  The System Operator reported: that when no turbine is online, the wind farm was injecting 10MVAR of reactive power into the Harapaki bus causing the bus voltage to rise to ~224kV. As	

wind availability increased and more turbines came online the wind farm reverted to absorbing 10MVAR from the Harapaki bus and reducing its voltage to ~221kV. At the time the wind farm was dispatched to provide voltage support and regulate the Harapaki bus to a setpoint of 221kV.

**Date and time of alleged breaches**

from 18/07/2024 05:00 pm - 18/07/2024 06:30 pm

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 to this allegation, or request a longer period to respond, via the Authority's Compliance portal by clicking [here](#) ↗ .

**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 breaches
- 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). If your response includes confidential information, please provide a second copy where the confidential information has been redacted in case your response needs to be shared with any other parties.

# Notice Under Regulation 17 of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010

## Investigation of alleged breach of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 by Meridian Energy Limited

On 30 May 2025, Transpower New Zealand Limited - System Operator reported to the Authority that Meridian Energy Limited had breached Part 8 clause 8.23(a) and Part 8 clause 8.23(b) of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (Code).

On 13 March 2026, the Authority appointed an investigator to investigate the alleged breaches under Regulation 12 of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010 (Regulations).

Under Regulation 16, the investigator must promptly notify the industry participant alleged to have breached the Code of the allegations that are being investigated. On 20 March 2026, the investigator gave Meridian Energy Limited such notice.

Under Regulation 17, 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 that considers it is affected by the matter being investigated and that 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 (by 5pm, 7 April 2026).

The investigator can be contacted, citing the reference **2506MERC1** in the subject line, by email at [compliance@ea.govt.nz](mailto:compliance@ea.govt.nz), or at:

Compliance Investigator  
**Electricity Authority - Te Mana Hiko**  
Level 7, AON Centre  
1 Willis Street

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