

Meeting Date: 10 August 2022

## REGISTER OF TOP SECURITY AND RELIABILITY RISKS

## SECURITY AND RELIABILITY COUNCIL

This paper is to help the SRC brainstorm about electricity industry risks with the objective of ensuring that they spend their time dealing with the most consequential matters that could manifest over a mix of timeframes.

**Note:** This paper has been prepared for the purpose of the Security and Reliability Council (SRC). Content should not be interpreted as representing the views or policy of the Electricity Authority.

# Register of top security and reliability risks

## 1. Purpose and background

- 1.1. This paper presents the latest version of the SRC's register of top security and reliability risks (Table 1). The register supports the SRC to triage their time and attention in a risk-based way.
- 1.2. Risks are sorted into four categories:
  - a) risks that could manifest within one year.
  - b) risks that could manifest within five years.
  - c) risks that could manifest in more than five years.
  - d) persistent risks that could manifest at any time.
- 1.3. Within each category, risks are ordered by the SRC secretariat's rough estimation of consequence and likelihood.

## 2. Changes since the previous version

- 2.1 There have been a few changes from the 1 June 2022 meeting, as tracked.
- 2.2 For the August 2022 meeting:
  - a) Add to the risk register, 'Simultaneous replacement of assets'.
  - b) Change S3 to a medium-level risk
- 2.3 Additions to the register are marked in **red** and removals with ~~strikethrough~~.

## 3. Questions for the SRC to consider

- 3.1 The SRC may wish to consider the following questions.

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| <b>Q1.</b> | <b>What content changes would the SRC like made to this risk register for the next meeting?</b>       |
| <b>Q2.</b> | <b>What further information, if any, does the SRC wish to have provided to it by the secretariat?</b> |
| <b>Q3.</b> | <b>What advice, if any, does the SRC wish to provide to the Authority?</b>                            |

**Table 1: Top security and reliability risks**

<b>Short term</b> Within 1 year	<b>Medium term</b> Within 5 years	<b>Long term</b> More than 5 years	<b>Persistent</b> Could arise at any time
<p>S1: COVID-19 coronavirus harms industry's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) personnel capability/travel.</li> <li>b) availability and increased prices of imported goods/services.</li> <li>c) general level of preparedness and responsiveness for managing incidents, with the transition from elimination to "living with COVID" and the potential impact on critical industry plant such as generating stations and control rooms; and the ability to get enough critical expertise into the country with the aggregate impacts of COVID, a growing economy and big investments.</li> </ul>	<p>M1: Inefficient market response to significant industrial demand reductions (eg Tiwai exit).</p>	<p>L1: the risk of a growing disconnect between energy and capacity issues due to more intermittent renewables (without adequate firming) causing more regular industry disruption and could result in unplanned outages (e.g., 9 August 2021).</p>	<p>P1: Cyber-attack damages power system assets and/or cuts supply, for example Waikato DHB and Colonial Pipeline (both 2021).</p>
<p>S2: Risk of lack of preparedness for the next wave of COVID-19 causing further economic hardship (with consequent impact on potential reduction in maintenance).</p>	<p>M2: Continued delay to the Review of 'Tree Regs' increases risk of damage and blackouts due to tree interference with lines.</p>	<p>L2: Ageing and/or under-invested generation, distribution, and transmission assets lead to increased failures.</p>	<p>P2: Gas supply running down (in part due to exploration uncertainty) reduces generation adequacy and availability</p>

<b>Short term</b> Within 1 year	<b>Medium term</b> Within 5 years	<b>Long term</b> More than 5 years	<b>Persistent</b> Could arise at any time
			P3: Physical attack (war, terrorism, sabotage, and political unrest/protest) damages power system assets and/or cuts supply.
<del>S3: Generator investor incentives weakened due to uncertainty, for example, arising from Tiwai closure and central government investigation into solutions to dry-year risk such as pumped hydro storage.</del>	M3: Aspirational Government carbon goals leading to early thermal exit potentially causing reduced reliability and security of supply.	L3: The increasing dependence on artificial intelligence (AI) and automation reduces the industry's ability to deal with unusual and unexpected critical issues (in real time or to quickly recover)	P4: Natural disaster damages power system assets and/or cuts supply.
S3: Black out risk rises if the transition from the current two-block to a four-block extended reserve scheme is delayed/poorly implemented.	M4: Lack of thermal generation (Huntly, Taranaki - both existence and availability) for its firming role adversely affecting reliability and security.	L4: Undersized generation fleet due to demand growth from greater electrification (without adequate demand response) exceeds generation capacity causing unplanned outages.	P5: National or international pandemic harms access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the availability of imported goods/services</li> <li>b) international specialists</li> </ul> and reduces ability for work crews to travel domestically.
S4: Reduced output from hydro due to changes in generation output arising from the National Policy Statement on	M5: Poor standards governance and enforcement permits inadequate standards and/or		P6: Insufficient information sharing and planning amongst industry participants in relation to

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freshwater management.	significant non-compliance of equipment against standards.		reliability of supply risks increases costs and reduces reliability.
S5: Reduction in investment confidence due to uncertainty about how Electricity Price Review conclusions and other Government policy interventions (eg Onslow pumped hydro) will be implemented.	M6: Increased peak demand on some LV networks from electric vehicles causes localised supply outages and potential network damage and unnecessary network investment.	L5: Loss of industry knowledge and capability through an aging workforce and younger people moving overseas.	P7: Changes in industry live line and supply restoration operating guidelines, for example continued reluctance to use live line techniques for suitable work, lead to reduced supply reliability performance through increased planned outages.
S6: Unsignalled or quickly changing strategic priorities of the regulator increases investment uncertainty for industry participants.	M7: Commerce Commission's regulatory control period #3 (April 2020-March 2025) impacts on reliability and asset health by inhibiting investment.	L6: Reliability treated less like a public good as new technology makes it more customisable and left to individual response, which causes an unstable system if individuals don't take up DER.	P8: AUFLS is not set per the current Code requirements potentially causing blackouts if AUFLS does not arrest frequency drop.
S7: Unreliable social media commentary impacting on assets or personnel in the industry (e.g. critical comments inciting physical attacks on repair personnel, equipment or thermal fuel deliveries).	M8: Generation market structure not aligning with or reacting to physical structural change, reducing investment incentives, e.g. pumped hydro, thermal decommissioning, and the transition	L7: the risk of stranded assets increasing the cost for those left using them (the "death spiral") becoming increasingly apparent making networks	P9: LV network congestion, due to rapid increase in small scale distributed generation, increasing likelihood of network damage and unplanned outages.

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	to 100% renewables	commercially unviable.	
<p>S8: The prospect of Dry winter / official conservation campaign increasing prices and carbon emissions through increased thermal generation and as the risk becomes realised there is likely to be supply reductions both voluntary and mandatory.</p>	<p>M9: Impact of increased climate and weather-related events causes an increase in severity and frequency of network and transmission outages.</p>		<p>P10: Unplanned gas supply interruption may limit gas fired thermals' ability to generate.</p>
<p>S9: Market confidence reduced by the pain from high prices and security of supply (dry year) causing regulatory intervention impacting on investor's willingness to invest long-term in assets for de-carbonisation.</p>	<p>M10: Simultaneous replacement across multiple networks of ageing assets causing resource and supply chain issues, reducing security and reliability of supply.</p>		
	<p>M11: Generator investor incentives weakened due to uncertainty, for example, arising from Tiwai closure and central government investigation into solutions to dry-year risk such as pumped hydro storage.</p>		