



## SECURITY OF SUPPLY

### PARTICIPANT OUTAGE PLAN

#### ***Master Process: Operate and Restore***

**OR-108**

**ISSUE: A**

The following person is responsible for the development / redevelopment, review, resolution of non compliances and maintenance of this document.

Owner      N Puljic, Network Manager      Date: 31/03/2010

#### **DOCUMENT ISSUE STATUS**

Issue	Review Status	Prepared by	Approved by	Date
A	New Document	N Puljic, Network Manager	J van Brink, General Manager Asset Investment and Growth	31/3/2010



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## 1 PURPOSE

This plan was written to comply with the Electricity Commission's Security of Supply Outage Plan (SOSOP).

The procedures outlined are in response to major generation shortages and/or significant transmission constraints. Typical scenarios include unusually low inflow into hydro-generation facilities, loss of multiple generating stations or multiple transmission failures.

The main energy saving measure listed is rolling outages, the structure and implementation of these is summarised in this document.

Under the regulations, Participant Outage Plans (POP) are required to specify the actions that would be taken to:

- Reduce electricity consumption when requested by the Electricity Commission
- Comply with requirements of the Electricity Commission's Security of Supply Outage Plan (SOSOP)
- Comply with Electricity Governance (Security of Supply) Regulations 2008 and Electricity Governance (Security of Supply) Amendment Regulations 2009.
- Supplement the Electricity Commission's Security of Supply Outage Plan

Reducing demand by disconnecting supply to customers will be treated as a last resort, after all other forms of savings (including voluntary savings) have been exhausted. WEL Networks Limited (WEL) will always endeavour to keep supply on to customers. WEL will only disconnect customers when directed to by the Electricity Commission or its designated agent.

## 2 DEFINITIONS

<b>AUFLS</b>	Automatic Under-Frequency Load Shedding
<b>CG 106</b>	Disruption Recovery / Business Continuity Plan
<b>Commission</b>	Electricity Commission
<b>Electricity Act</b>	Electricity Act 1992 and subsequent amendments
<b>Feeder</b>	A high voltage supply line typically supplying between 100 and 2000 customers at 11kV
<b>GXP</b>	Transpower Grid Exit Point
<b>GEN</b>	Grid Emergency Notice
<b>POP</b>	Participant Outage Plan (this plan)
<b>Regulations</b>	Electricity Governance (Security of Supply) Regulations 2008 and Electricity Governance (Security of Supply) Amendment Regulations 2009
<b>Retailers</b>	Electricity Retail Companies
<b>Rolling Outages (Cuts)</b>	Planned electricity disconnections spread over different parts of the network at differing times to avoid prolonged outages at any one location
<b>Security Coordinator</b>	The person responsible for system security at the System Operator
<b>SOSOP</b>	Security of Supply Outage Plan
<b>Supply Shortage Declaration</b>	Declaration made by the Electricity Commission under regulation 9
<b>System Operator</b>	Operator of the national electricity transmission grid

### 3 BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 *Electricity Commission*

The Electricity Commission is a Crown entity set up under the Electricity Act to oversee New Zealand's electricity industry and markets.

A function of the Electricity Commission under the Electricity Act is to use reasonable endeavours to ensure the security of electricity supply. The Commission's activities include forecasting supply and demand, developing and publishing guideline hydro levels for security of supply, contracting for reserve energy, and improving the ability of consumers to manage price risks in the market.

#### 3.2 *Transpower*

Transpower is a State Owned Enterprise, tasked with owning and operating New Zealand's National Grid – the network of high voltage transmission lines and substations that transports bulk electricity from where it is generated to distribution line companies such as WEL Networks.

As System Operator, Transpower manages the real-time operation of New Zealand's electricity transmission system. It keeps the right amount of energy flowing to match generated supply with demand.

#### 3.3 *WEL Networks*

WEL Networks Ltd is an electricity distribution company which supplies and maintains electricity infrastructure, delivering energy to over 84,000 homes, businesses and organisations throughout the Waikato region.

The company employs approximately 180 staff and has its offices in Hamilton City.

### 4 RANGE OF EVENTS

Events that could lead the Commission to make a supply shortage declaration can in general terms be categorized as:

- **Developing Event** – Events that evolve over time, for example low hydro lake or fuel levels
- **Immediate Event** – Events that occur with little or no warning, usually as a result of a transmission line or major generation failure.

#### 4.1 *Major Event*

A Developing or Immediate Event will be classed by WEL as a major event and WEL's management team will activate the appropriate contingency plan (CG 106) to will manage the event accordingly.

Communication with retailers, civil defence and other stakeholders will be as per procedures described in our Business Continuity Disaster Recovery document set.

## 5 WEL STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE	WEL PERSONNEL
Receive communication from Commission	Chief Executive or General Manager Asset Investment and Growth (GM AIG)
Receive communication from System Operator	Network Manager
Implement this plan	Incident Controller (normally GM AIG)
Preparation of load shedding schedules	System Control Manager
Customer notification	Business Development Manager
Weekly savings reporting	System Control Manager
Revoking rolling outages	Network Manager
Reporting to the Electricity Commission	Incident Controller
Reporting to the media, public agencies	Customer Relations Manager
Reporting to CEDM and Lifelines	Control Systems Manager

## 6 COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMISSION

The Commission will contact WEL using the following details:

WEL Networks Limited  
Fax: +64 7 850 3210  
Phone: +64 7 850 3100  
PO BOX 925, Hamilton 3240  
114 Maui Street, Te Rapa Hamilton 3200

WEL will contact the Commission's Emergency Response Project Manager for administration purposes (including reporting performance against targets) using the following details:

Electricity Commission  
Fax: +64 4 460 8879  
Phone: +64 4 460 8860  
PO Box 10041  
Level 7, ASB Bank Building, 2 Hunter Street  
Wellington

## 7 ACTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE EVENTS

### 7.1 *System Stability*

Transpower, as the System Operator, is required to keep enough reserve generation to cover the risk of the largest connected generator tripping or HVDC link failure. They are also required to keep the system frequency at 50Hz. If a large generator trips, it may cause a reduction in frequency which, if not rectified, can result in other generators tripping and could lead to cascade failure of the transmission system.

As reserve generation cannot immediately pick up the load of a disconnected generator, an immediate load reduction is required until additional generation can pick up load. Automatic load shedding groups reduce load in stages until the frequency stabilizes.

To recover from Immediate Events, electricity consumption can be reduced by:

## **7.2 Reserve Market**

Generators and load users with interruptible load such as distribution networks may offer in reserve capacity to cover the risk of the largest generating unit of a critical transmission line tripping. The ability to do this is affected by the numbers of frequency capable relays installed and the likely revenue stream from the market, less the compliance costs of participating in the reserve market. The frequency threshold is at or below 49.2Hz. WEL participates in the market and has always maintained full compliance.

## **7.3 Disconnecting Customers**

### **7.3.1.1 Automatic Under Frequency Load Shedding (AUFLS)**

If the load shed by the Reserve Market tripping is insufficient to stabilise the network, further automatic load reduction is required.

Each distribution network company must unless exempted have available at all times two blocks of load, each of 16% of its total load, to be shed by automatic under frequency relays.

At WEL, this protection operates at the feeder level, initiated by relays located at zone substations.

### **7.3.1.2 AUFLS Zone 1**

If system frequency fails to recover after Reserve Market load shed, AUFLS Zone 1 shedding will occur by disconnecting customers' supply. In the North Island within 0.4 seconds after the frequency reduces to and remains at or below 47.8Hz.

### **7.3.1.3 AUFLS Zone 2**

If Zone 1 tripping fails to restore frequency, the next stage, Zone 2 activates. This will disconnect a further 16% of WEL's load. In the North Island after 15 seconds after the frequency reduces to and remains at or below 47.8Hz (remains inside Zone 1) or within 0.4 seconds after the frequency reduces to and remains at or below 47.5Hz.

### **7.3.1.4 Manual Shedding**

If AUFLS Zone 1 and Zone 2 tripping fails to stabilise frequency the System Operator will shed more load. Once the frequency has stabilised the System Operator will advise when load can be restored.

## **7.4 Supply Restoration**

Disconnected load must be restored in conjunction with the System Operator. This is to prevent overloading the transmission grid and/or creating further instability.

### **7.5 Transmission Grid Emergency**

The System Operator may ask WEL to reduce load under a grid emergency notice (GEN). WEL will shed all water heating load, the System Operator will be advised and, if more shedding is required, the System Operator will instruct the Grid Owner to further disconnect load by shedding feeders to provide a nominated demand reduction.

If an Immediate Event is in place, the grid emergency will take precedence.

If the Commission declares a supply shortage during a Grid Emergency, then WEL will respond by implementing rolling outages as described in the following sections 8 to 18.

## **8 DEVELOPING EVENTS**

If the Commission requests, through the System Operator, a load reduction for a planned Developing Event, WEL must reduce supply to meet the Commission's targets. The targets are likely to be in the form of a weekly energy savings target that is reviewed each week. To reduce energy usage WEL would disconnect feeders or groups of feeders where they belong to a parallel or ring supply (rolling outage feeders) in a controlled manner to enable targets to be reached.

There are financial penalties for not meeting the targets specified by the Commission.

Water heating load shedding is generally not an option for energy savings as this only defers usage.

## **9 DECLARATION OF A DEVELOPING EVENT**

The Commission will endeavour to provide nine days prior notice of the requirement for weekly energy savings and any increase in the weekly energy savings target.

To declare a Developing Event the Commission would need to make a request through the System Operator who will specify the energy savings target to be enforced for a specific region for a specified time-frame.

The Commission is responsible for general media advertising of the need to conserve electricity and the impending rolling outages when they are requested.

If WEL plans to issue a public message related to rolling outages then this will be sent to the Commission for review before being released. Any such communication will give a time for response from the Commission, so that their feedback can be included before WEL issues the message to the public.

## **10 CRITERIA FOR ROLLING OUTAGES**

To ensure public health and safety is preserved and costs to the economy are minimised the following table shows the desired criteria for selecting rolling outage feeders to be included in rolling outages. Rolling outage feeders will all contain a variety of customers. The priority for each rolling outage feeder will be based on the priority ratings assessed for the connections within each feeder. Lowest priority loads will be scheduled for interruption before higher priority loads.

10.1 Table 1. Priority Loads

Priority	Priority Concern	Maintain Supply to:	Examples
1	Public health and safety	Major hospitals, air traffic control centres and emergency operation centres	WDHB hospitals Hamilton International Airport Major police stations WEL main building
2	Important public services	Energy control centres, communication networks, water and sewerage pumping, fuel delivery systems and major port.	Telecom major connections Major malls Rural fire and police stations
3	Public health and safety	Minor hospitals, medical centres, schools and street lighting	Dental Medical Schools Colleges Universities Halls of residence Prisons Major hotels
4	Food production	Dairy farms and milk production facilities	All irrigation category All rural connections with a description that includes dairy, farm, irrigation, pig, poultry or cow. Milk factory
5	Domestic production	Commercial and industrial premises	Every 'BUS' connection with an account name starting with 'Mr' or 'Mrs' Temporary builders' supplies
6	Disruption to consumers	Residential premises	All 'RES' connections Embedded networks Churches Speed cameras Parks (mainly lighting and irrigation)

## **10.2 Vulnerable Customers and Priority Sites**

It is not possible for WEL to prevent rolling outages affecting individual vulnerable customers and priority sites. In addition to the prioritisation of rolling outage feeders WEL will:

- Provide information in its public notices and on its website alerting vulnerable customers to the risks, and
- Request that retailers consider individually notifying their vulnerable customers.

## **11 AUFLS CRITERIA**

The level of AUFLS during rolling outages has to be maintained. The criteria used to select feeders for the AUFLS scheme was very similar to the criteria for rolling outages as shown in Table 1. Thus, AUFLS load blocks are predominantly from lower priority load categories. WEL will include AUFLS feeders in shedding, but will limit the participation ratio to ensure that both AUFLS blocks of 16% are maintained at all times.

## **12 SHUTDOWN NOTIFICATION**

With the wide scale impact of rolling outages it is not feasible to use our standard planned outage notification process (mainly because retail and postal systems could not process the hundreds of thousands of outage notifications required).

When implementing a rolling outage plan, WEL will notify the outages in a number of ways:

- Public notices – WEL will place public notice advertisements providing a rolling outage timetable showing the times and areas affected by rolling outages. The advertisement will provide details of our website page for customers that wish to seek more information.
- WEL website – a dedicated website page will be set up which shows the approximate rolling outage timetable.
- Retailer notification – WEL will provide the rolling outage timetable to all electricity retailers together with a schedule showing the rolling outage group for all ICPs (it would probably not be practical to filter the schedule for an individual retailer's ICPs).

Where possible, WEL will provide up to 7 days notice of all rolling outage plans.

## **13 COMMUNICATION WITH SYSTEM OPERATOR**

All communications with the System Operator will be between WEL's Control Centre and Transpower's Regional Operating Centre (RCN Otahuhu) using Transpower's TSX telephone or normal communication systems.

Prior to notifying and implementing a rolling outage plan, WEL will consult with the System Operator Security Coordinator to establish a process for shedding and restoration, which may include a MW load cap to operate under during restoration phases. Unless a different agreement is made with the System Operator, load shedding and restoration shall be no more than 25MW per any five minute period.

WEL will provide the System Operator with daily, rolling week-ahead forecast of half-hourly load at each GXP, taking into account the impact of the planned rolling outages. Whenever any change in the forecast for a GXP of more than 20% for any half hour is expected WEL will highlight this to the System Operator.

## 14 GRID EMERGENCY DURING A DEVELOPING EVENT

If the System Operator declares a grid emergency during a Developing Event, the grid emergency will take priority. As water heating load generally would not be used to reduce load in a Developing Event, WEL would have water heating load available for load reduction when required for the grid emergency. This load would be shed, the System Operator advised and, if more shedding is required, the System Operator will instruct the Grid Owner to further disconnect load. The rolling outage feeders may have to be rearranged to comply with the grid emergency.

After the grid emergency is cancelled the rolling outages pattern would continue.

## 15 ROLLING OUTAGES STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

If and when it comes to rolling outages there is always a chance that, due to the positive change in circumstances (i.e. steady rain), the need for them will cease to exist sooner than originally expected. To avoid a situation where some customers are repeatedly selected for interruption at the start of an event, WEL has developed and employs a model (Reference WIRE # 288353) to randomly select feeders for load shedding.

Some of the key features of the shedding model are:

- The model takes the snapshot of all feeder data (Amps) on request, with an update every 5 minutes (through a prompt).
- A record is maintained of feeders that have already experienced outages, to ensure "equity".
- Overall load shed ratio is not preset to pre-defined values. This feature can be used to fine tune customer outages near the end of a shed period (say a week) so that no more customers than absolutely necessary are disconnected and customers are not disconnected for any longer than necessary, whilst still complying with the target given by the System Operator.
- The model can deal with seven levels of load shedding priorities. One level is for feeders where shedding is not allowed, followed by up to six subsequent levels from most to least allowed.

WEL will start with randomly selected customers from low priority feeders. If the need for shedding is required for a longer period, the established order will be cyclically repeated. Flexibility in selecting the required amount for shedding combined with the outage duration will provide the required daily/weekly saved amount of energy.

Where possible WEL will apply internal rules to minimise consequences of these outages, including:

- No longer than 4 hours per day for any customer (possible for the targets under 10%).
- Shed only between 0800 and 1700 on all days (daylight time).
- Cater for specific needs such as milking times
- Lower priority feeders up to 10%, mid priority up to 20% almost all for 25% and above.

A set of switching instructions will be prepared for each step. Sufficient time must be planned for switching, particularly during restoration phases.

Feeders that could be subject to rolling outages will be separately shown as belonging to zone substations and GXPs. WEL has five GXPs:

- Hamilton 33kV
- Hamilton 11kV (single zone substation)

- Te Kowhai 33kV
- Huntly 33kV
- Meremere 33kV (fed out of Bombay Substation)

## **16 TARGET MONITORING**

To avoid discrepancy over the accuracy of different data sources, the Electricity Commission (in conjunction with the System Operator) will report on actual demand versus the target.

For load shedding to a weekly target, the Commercial Analyst will monitor (either directly or through the Electricity Commission reports) our actual cumulative savings compared to our target and together with the Commercial, System Control or Network Manager, adjust as required future load shedding to increase or decrease the amount of rolling outages and enable the weekly target to be met. In parallel (as a check) with the Electricity Commission, the Commercial Analyst will be responsible for daily and weekly reporting of consumption relative to target levels (using our data sources).

In the case of daily or real time limits where the Electricity Commission reporting will be too slow for real time action to be taken, WEL Management will monitor our savings and adjust accordingly in the timeframe required. These savings will be calculated using GXP loads measured by our SCADA system and compared to the targets supplied by the System Operator.

## **17 LOG OF ROLLING OUTAGES**

Controllers will enter in the Rolling Outage Log, times of disconnection and reconnection of all feeder interruptions. The log sheet to be used by Controllers is shown in Appendix 1

## **18 CONTINGENT EVENTS**

If an unplanned event occurs that will alter planned rolling outages, the Incident Controller or Network Manager will be responsible for all decisions. Where possible, any changes to the planned timetable should be published on WEL's website and communicated to retailers.

