



Participant Rolling Outage Plan

Effective Date: 12 June 2017

Version AEL.OP.001 R7 20170612

Version control

The list of amendments made to this policy is available in [Table 1](#) below.

Table 1: Amendments made to date

Issue No.	Amendment Details	Date of Amendment	Amended by
1	Issue 1	17 May 2010	S Small
2	All pages amended	4 June 2010	S Small
3	All pages amended	2 July 2010	S Small
4	Page 13 amended.	21 July 2010	S Small
5	All pages amended	6 January 2014	S Small
6	All pages amended	30 January 2014	S Small
7	Update to meet amended Participation code	12 June 2017	S Small

Note: any alteration to this policy must obtain final approval from the System Operator.

This policy is to be reviewed by **12 June 2019**.

Amendments are updated with an issue number and date in the footer of every page.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities for this policy are available at [Table 2](#)~~Table-2~~ below.

Table 2: Alpine Energy Limited staff responsibilities

Title	Responsibility
Chief Executive Officer	Approval
General Manager - Network	Owner
General Manager – Safety and Risk	Reviewer

This policy document is for use by all Alpine Energy Limited’s area of operations.

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This document is for the use of Alpine Energy Limited and The System Operator.

Any use outside of the Electricity Generation, Transmission, and Distribution industry is unauthorised.

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1. Introduction

Our Participant Rolling Outage Plan (PROP) has been written to comply with legislative requirements in Part 9 of the *Electricity Industry Participant Code (the Code)*.

The procedures outlined in this PROP are in response to major generation shortages and/or significant transmission constraints.

Typical scenarios include unusually low inflows into hydro-generation facilities, loss of multiple thermal generating stations, or multiple transmission failures.

How an event is declared, and how the System Operator should communicate its requests are detailed.

The main load reduction scheme is implantation of rolling outages, and how these are structured and implemented is discussed.

2. General

This PROP was written to comply with the *System Operator Rolling Outage Plan* (current version 19 June 2016). It should be read in conjunction with our *Emergency Preparedness Plan*, which provides detailed contingency and emergency procedures; and specifies staff roles, emergency contact lists, resource allocation, communications etc.

2.1 Aims and objectives

This PROP meets our obligations to prepare and publish a PROP for approval by the System Operator.

Under the regulations PROPs are required to specify the actions that would be taken to:

- Reduce electricity consumption when requested by the System Operator.
- Comply with requirements of the *System Operator Rolling Outage Plan*.

Reducing demand by disconnecting supply to customers would be a last resort after all other forms of load reduction including voluntary load reduction had been exhausted. We will always endeavour to keep supply on to customers.

2.1 Scope

This PROP applies to our entire network.

2.2 Definitions

Definitions for the terms that are used in this PROP are available in [Table 3](#) below.

Table 3: List of definitions

Term	Definition
AUFLS	Automatic Under Frequency Load Shedding.
Feeder	A high voltage supply line averagely supplying 350 customers.
GXP	Transpower Grid Exit Point.
GEN	Grid Emergency Notice.
LSI	Lower South Island load management.
PROP	Participant Rolling Outage Plan (this plan).
Retailers	Electricity retail companies.
Rolling Outages	Planned electricity disconnections spread over different parts of the network at differing times to avoid prolonged outages at any one location.
SOROP	System Operator Rolling Outage Plan.
Supply Shortage Declaration	Declaration made by the System Operator under part 9 of the Code.
System Operator	Operator of the national electricity transmission grid.
USI	Upper South Island load management.

2.3 Related documents

The documents that relate to this PROP are included at Table 4 below.

Table 4: Related Documents

Standard
Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010
System Operator Rolling Outage Plan
AEL Emergency Preparedness Plan
AEL Public Safety Management System

3. Background

3.1 System Operator provisions

The role of the System Operator is to implement emergency measures only if it considers that industry participants will fail to implement emergency measures sufficient to avoid possible energy shortage that is, if planned outages are not implemented, larger unplanned outages are likely.

Transpower, as the System Operator, has operational responsibility for providing information on all aspects of security of supply and managing supply emergencies.

Implementation of emergency measures will likely be the result of either a Developing Event or Immediate Event, define as follows:

- **Developing Event**—an event that evolves over time, for example, a period of unseasonably low inflows to hydro catchments.
- **Immediate Event**—an event that occurs with little or no warning, usually as a result of a transmission or major power station failure.

PROPs to implement rolling outages must provide for both categories, including providing for a situation which has elements of both events at the same time.

3.2 Opuha Dam

Opuha Dam generates 7 MW of electricity which is periodically injected into Albury GXP. Trustpower operates this facility and we do not input into any scheduling and nor do we have any supply agreement with Trustpower.

Additionally the conditions imposed in Opuha's resource consents do not allow them to generate at will.

Therefore the assumption has been made that the 7 MW from Opuha Dam would be unavailable in an emergency situation.

3.3 Overlap with civil defence emergency

It is possible that a natural disaster could cause a major transmission or generation outage; and could also lead to the declaration of a state of national emergency or local emergency under the *Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002*.

We shall manage our response to a Civil Defence emergency declaration as per the Civil Defence Emergency section in our *Emergency Preparedness Plan*.

3.4 Overlap with grid emergency notice

If the System Operator has made a supply shortage declaration in response to a Developing Event; and directs rolling outages then we shall implement rolling outages in order to meet savings targets.

If a Grid Emergency is declared during the time the supply shortage declaration is in force, we will give priority to actions required to avert the grid emergency.

Should an Immediate Event occur, it is likely that the System Operator will activate the grid emergency provisions and require action from us (if affected).

Accordingly, it is likely that we will be acting under a grid emergency notice (GEN) and responding to requests from the System Operator. The GEN will persist for the period specified by the System Operator.

If a grid emergency is likely to persist for a sustained period, the System Operator, may make a supply shortage declaration.

The System Operator will take this action if it considers that there is a high probability that the incidence of a grid emergency for a sustained period would be more appropriately managed by rolling outages.

3.5 Overlap with automatic under frequency load shedding

As part of the grid emergency arrangements, Transpower, as the grid owner, is required to provide automatic under frequency load shedding (AUFLS) in response to a significant drop in frequency, which it undertakes at selected grid exit points (GXP's) in conjunction with the overall Upper South Island (USI) load management or Lower South Island (LSI) load management.

Our AUFLS obligation is for 2 x 16% blocks of load to be available at all times at selected GXP to cover for system events that are larger than those events covered by the Authority purchasing instantaneous reserves.

Timaru GXP has been selected for AUFLS with 5 feeders allocated (USI).

We currently have seven active GXP's (Albury, Bells Pond, Studholme, Temuka, Tekapo, Timaru, and Twizel) due to our unique geographic location these are split between Transpower's USI and LSI load management. Therefore to simplify an assumption has been made that both USI and LSI load management would be activated together rather than independently.

The need to keep available the 2 x 16% blocks of load free for AUFLS has been factored into our rolling outage savings calculations.

4. Implementation

4.1 Authorisation to activate participant outage plan

After Declaration from the System Operator, This PROP will be activated on the authorisation of the Chief Executive Officer, or the General Manager- Network in his absence.

Unless required for immediate safety reasons, all our planned outages for maintenance will be cancelled during the period of rolling outages.

4.2 Communication strategy

The following sections describe the different pathways that we utilise for the different communication needs. For example, operational and emergency services communication needs to be in real time, whereas communications to the public can be recurrent and regularly updated.

4.2.1 Operationally with the System Operator

Operational communications with the System Operator shall be undertaken by our Network Controllers from our Control Room, including any:

- advance notice of a possible declaration of a supply shortage or revocation of a supply shortage declaration
- declaration of a supply shortage
- direction to implement rolling outages, including savings targets
- advance notice of savings targets
- information provided by participants on demand forecasts, the nature and extent of outages, and the level of electricity savings being experienced
- process to restore load following rolling outages
- information about the possible overlap between Grid Emergencies, automatic under-frequency load shedding (AUFLS) and the implementation of rolling outages.
- revocation of a supply shortage declaration

Written communications shall be emailed to alpineenergy.controller@alpineenergy.co.nz or shall be faxed to Alpine Energy Control Room (03) 684 2770. Telephone communications shall be by landline (03) 687 4324

4.2.2 Other communication pathways

The communication pathways in an emergency event are set out in our *Emergency Preparedness Plan* and summarised as follows:

- Communication with the media, stakeholders, and other distribution and transmission networks shall be the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer.
- Public messages via the media shall be organised by the Chief Executive Officer; after discussion with the System operator to co-ordinate efforts and ensure consistency of the message, and shall be executed by the corporate services team.
- Liaison with NZ Police, Civil Defence Emergency Management, Timaru District Council, Mackenzie District Council, Waimate District Council, and other local authorities, utilities, and emergency services shall be the responsibility of the General Manager – Safety and Risk.
- Communication with the general public, major consumers and retailers shall be the responsibility of the corporate services team, overseen by the Group Manager - Corporate Services.

5. Rolling outages

5.1 Criteria for rolling outages

When determining the implementation of rolling outages we utilise fundamental risk management principles to ensure: minimum disruption to public health and safety infrastructure; and that costs to the economy are minimised.

Our priority considerations are list in [Table 5](#)~~Table 57~~ below.

Table 5: Our priority considerations

Participant Outage Plan Policy

Priority	Priority Concern	Maintain Supply to:
1 (High)	Public health and safety	Alpine Energy Control Room and Depot Timaru Hospital (SCDHB), Bidwill Trust Hospital. Timaru DC, Mackenzie DC, Waimate DC emergency operation centres. Police, Fire and Ambulance infrastructure
2 (High)	Important public services	Communication networks. Water and sewage pumping. Fuel delivery services and depots. Prime Port Timaru. Timaru Airport, Mt Cook Airport, Pukaki Airfield, Tekapo Airfield.
3 (High)	Public health and safety	Medical centres, rest homes and residential care facilities. Schools, churches and public halls acting as CD facilities. Street lighting and traffic signals.
4 (Medium)	Major food production and/or storage	Fonterra Clandeboye, Fonterra Studholme, Oceania Dairy Limited. Alliance Smithfield, Silver Fern Farms Pareora. Barkers Geraldine Cool store and blast freezer facilities in Timaru.
5 (Medium)	Animal health	Dairy farms and chicken sheds.
6 (Low)	Domestic production	Large commercial and industrial premises situated mainly in Smithfield, Washdyke and Redruth suburbs; and adjacent to PrimePort.
7 (Low)	Disruption to consumers	Commercial and industrial premises. Residential premises.
8 (Low)	Disruption to rural areas	Rural premises. Irrigation pumping.

As rolling outages are implemented on a feeder-by-feeder basis, it is not possible to discriminate between individual connections this has been taken into account in feeder allocation.

Please note that some consumers with critically important infrastructure have invested in backup generation; therefore those consumers may be allocated a lower priority than non-critical infrastructure which has none, for example:

- Mackenzie District Council has a 100 kVA diesel generator capable of carrying 75% of its load for 3 days.
- Timaru Fire station has an 85 kVA diesel generator capable of carrying 80% load for 24 hours.
- Timaru Hospital has a diesel generator capable of carrying 100% load for 7 days.

As it is not feasible for us to prevent rolling outages affecting individual vulnerable consumers, we will endeavour to give retailers as much advance notice as possible of pending rolling outages to enable them to notify medically dependant customers.

The time of year has been taken into consideration for the following reasons:

1. Within our network's footprint we have a high percentage of intensively irrigated farmland, especially for dairy farming.

This causes huge load shift on our rural feeders during the irrigation season (typically November to April) of approximately 15% of our total load.

During these months dairy milking activity occurs early in the morning and late afternoon—therefore where possible we can offload the full day irrigation component of this load but not the milking shed component (for animal health requirements).

2. Additionally we have three dairy factories within our network (Fonterra–Clandeboyne, Fonterra–Studholme, and Oceania Dairy), which not only consume 35% of our available load; but due to the environmental impact of dumping 15 million litres of milk per day are considered a high priority facility. Load to these factories should not be shed during this time period unless critical.
3. A large proportion of our geographic area backs onto the main divide of the Southern Alps with seasonal climate influences causing a large residential load increase for winter heating (typically June-September) of 10 to 15% of our available load.

The time of day has also been taken into consideration being that the selection process needs to reflect the loading differential between industrial and residential usage especially with respect to ripple control. Also the dairy milking activity on our rural feeders needs to be taken into consideration.

Outages will be programmed to fall between 0800 and 1800 on all days. Timing of outages will be approximate and could vary daily due to either internal network or System Operator constraints.

Night time is excluded from the outage period for safety reasons.

Note that Twizel substation feeders will off-load Mountain Power's embedded network.

5.2 Savings calculations

Savings calculations have been based on the daily average energy consumption at the time rolling outages would take place (08:00 to 18:00).

Feeders have been sorted into prioritised load groups of approximately 5% of total load.

5.3 Rolling outage selection

Outages shall be of maximum five hours duration (two per day), with each individual feeder load group only allocated once per day.

Over the entire network there are 40 low priority feeders, 16 medium priority feeders, and 18 high priority feeders. These would be shed on a half day cycle with the frequency based on the priority allocated to the feeder load group.

Indicative rolling outage selection table is available in Table 6.

Table 6: prioritised load groups

Saving Target	Number of feeders impacted per outage	Priority feeders allocated	Outages per day	Average MW saving per day
5%	Between 4-6	Low	2	5.5 MW
10%	8-12	Low	2	11 MW
15%	12-18	Low	2	16.5 MW
20%	16-24	Low/Medium	2	22 MW
25%	20-30	Low/Medium	2	27.5 MW

5.4 Monitoring of rolling outage targets

We will be required to regularly provide information on the level of electricity demand and savings relative to targets to the System Operator:

- A rolling week-ahead load forecast (beginning at a time specified by the system operator) that forecasts the distributor's reasonable expectation of the half-hourly load at each grid exit point. This forecast should take into account the impact of any rolling outages.
- Any expected variation of more than $\pm 20\%$ shall be advised to the System Operator.
- The level of consumption relative to the target levels.
- The nature and extent of rolling outages.

For load shedding to a weekly target, the Network Operations team will monitor energy savings against target and review future load shedding to increase or decrease the amount of rolling outages to enable the weekly target to be met.

The Network Operations team will be responsible for daily and weekly reporting of consumption relative to target levels, and for providing the predicted load for the next week on a seven day rolling basis.

Reports shall be forwarded daily to the System Operator.

6. Revocation

6.1 Authorisation to revoke participant outage plan

After consultation with the System Operator, The implementation of this PROP shall be revoked on the authorisation of the Chief Executive Officer—or the General Manager - Network in his absence.

6.2 Load restoration process

Load disconnected during rolling outages must be restored in conjunction with the System Operator. This is to prevent overloading the transmission network and creating further instability.

The System Operator has requested that restoration of load be limited to 25 MW per 5 minute period or less.

We will ensure that all feeders are returned to service in a controlled manner to maintain our system stability.

Approval

This PROP is hereby formally approved by:



Chief Executive Officer



General Manager – Safety and Risk

Alpine Policy—Document change request

Memo

To Reviewer's title
Alpine Energy Limited
31 Meadows Road
Washdyke
Timaru

Change details
(Attach separate sheets as necessary).

Paragraphs affected

Priority
(Double-click on box to check it).

Urgent
(Within 1 week)

Routine
(Within 12 months)

Low
(Next Review)

	28/11/2017
Submitted by (Print Name)	Date (Click date to update)

Document change request—acknowledgement

Dear _____

Thank you for your suggested changes to the above document.

Your request has been noted and added to our works programme. Should we require any additional information about your notification, we will contact you.

Thank you for your contribution to improving the quality of Alpine's documents.

Regards

Reviewer's title

Date

APPENDIX 1 – Rolling Outage Log

DATE:			CONTROLLER:			
GXP	FEEDER	LOAD	TIME ON	TIME OFF	DURATION	NOTES