



DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC2026-01-0003

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ADOPTING FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY SPOT MARKET (WESM) MARKET MANUAL ON DISPATCH PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE AND COVERAGE OF DISPATCH SCHEDULES BELOW MINIMUM STABLE LOAD (P_{MIN})

WHEREAS, Sections 30 and 37(f) of Republic Act (RA) No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) provide that the Department of Energy (DOE), jointly with the electric power industry participants, shall formulate the detailed rules for the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) and for governing its operations;

WHEREAS, on 28 June 2002, the DOE, with the endorsement of the electric power industry participants, promulgated the WESM Rules through Department Circular (DC) No. DC2002-06-003;

WHEREAS, any changes, amendments, and modifications to the WESM Rules, including its Manuals, shall be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8 thereof;

WHEREAS, on 02 October 2024, the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC) submitted to the Rules Change Committee (RCC) its proposed urgent amendment to the WESM Market Manual on Dispatch Protocol (DP) regarding the issuance and coverage of dispatch schedules below the minimum stable load (P_{min});

WHEREAS, the amendment aims to incorporate the guidelines for the generating units having energy dispatched schedules below P_{min}, as outlined in Section 4.7.8 of the DP Manual;

WHEREAS, the RCC approved the proposed urgent amendment through RCC Resolution No. 2024-07, entitled "Proposed Urgent Amendments on WESM Manual on Dispatch Protocol on Issuance and Coverage of Dispatch Schedules below Minimum Stable Load," and subsequently endorsed the same to the PEM Board;

WHEREAS, on 23 October 2024, the PEM Board approved the proposal, which became effective on 25 October 2024 until 25 April 2025;

WHEREAS, on 17 January 2025, during its 242nd RCC Meeting, the RCC deliberated the general amendment and adopted Section 11.4.4 of the DP Manual with further modifications on items (a)(i) and (b), with the rewording of the latter decided by plurality voting and in consideration of the clarification that the Trading Participants receive their real-time dispatch (RTD) schedules through the Market Participants Interface (MPI) two (2) minutes before the start of the dispatch interval;

WHEREAS, on 21 February 2025, during its 243rd RCC Meeting, the RCC finalized and approved the proposed general amendments for endorsement to the PEM Board;

WHEREAS, on 26 March 2025, after due evaluation and deliberation, the PEM Board approved for endorsement to the DOE the above stated RCC-approved proposal;

WHEREAS, on 24 April 2025, the PEM Board submitted for the final approval of the DOE the proposed amendments to the WESM Market Manual on DP;

WHEREAS, to ensure transparency and consistency with the objectives of the EPIRA and the WESM, the DOE conducted in-person public consultations on the proposed amendments on the following dates:

Luzon Leg	02 September 2025
Visayas Leg	24 September 2025
Mindanao Leg	06 October 2025

NOW, THEREFORE, after review and consideration of the proposed amendments and the comments and recommendations of stakeholders, the DOE, pursuant to its authority under the EPIRA and the WESM Rules, hereby adopts, issues, and promulgates the following amendments to the WESM Market Manual on DP:

Section 1. Amendments to the WESM Market Manual on Dispatch Protocol. The following provisions in the WESM Market Manual on Dispatch Protocol are hereby amended:

SECTION 2 DEFINITIONS, REFERENCES AND INTERPRETATION

2.1 Definitions

xxx xxx xxx

- o. **In service.** The in service refers to the state where a unit is electrically connected to the system and performing a generation function.

- p. **Islanding Operation.** x x x

- q. **Load shedding.** x x x

xxx xxx xxx

SECTION 11 DISPATCH IMPLEMENTATION

xxx xxx xxx

11.4 Issuance and Coverage of Dispatch Instruction

xxx xxx xxx

11.4.4. Generator Dispatch Compliance for Energy Real-Time Dispatch Schedules Below Minimum Stable Load or *P_{min}*

- a) For a *generating unit* with *real-time dispatch* schedule below its *minimum stable load* or *P_{min}* for the next *dispatch interval*, the following shall be observed:
 - (i) If the *generating unit* is currently *in service*, it should operate at its *P_{min}* for that next *dispatch interval*; and
 - (ii) If the *generating unit* is currently *offline*, it should remain *offline* for that next *dispatch interval*.

Provided, however, that if the *generating unit* is scheduled to start-up or shutdown in accordance with Section 13 of this Manual, it shall continue to operate in accordance with its start-up and shutdown profile and with the procedures set out in said Section 13.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the *generating unit* shall follow re-dispatch instructions issued by the *System Operator* in accordance with Section 11.6 of this Manual.

- b) Upon publication of the relevant *real-time dispatch* schedule in the *MPI*, the *Trading Participant* shall inform the *System Operator* of the action it will take, as authorized in the preceding provision, based on the resulting *real-time dispatch* schedule for the pertinent *dispatch interval*.
- c) Subject to the foregoing, the *Trading Participant* shall update its market offers appropriately for the following *dispatch intervals* so that such an incident may not recur.

11.4.5. Generator Dispatch Compliance Beyond Normal Grid Frequency Threshold.

- a) x x x
- b) Once the *grid frequency* goes up to 60 Hz after coming off from a state in Section 11.4.5 (a), then the *Trading Participants* shall resume to dispatch their *generating units* to meet their *dispatch schedules*.
- c) x x x

- d) Once the *grid frequency* comes down to 60 Hz after coming off from a state in Section 11.4.5 (c), then the *Trading Participants* shall resume to dispatch its *generating units* to meet its *dispatch schedule*.

xxx xxx xxx

Section 2. Repealing Clause. The provisions of other circulars, orders, issuances, rules, and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Circular, are hereby repealed, amended, modified, or superseded accordingly.

Section 3. Separability Clause. If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Circular is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 4. Effectivity. This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation. A copy of this Circular shall be filed with the University of the Philippines Law Center – Office of the National Administrative Register.

Issued this 28 JAN 2026 at DOE, Energy Center, Rizal Drive corner 34th Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila.


SHARON S. GARIN
Secretary

