Attachment 1

# AusNet Services’ Electricity Networks Fire Start Report for the Financial Year 2017/18

# **Background**

In accordance with clauses 6(1) & 6(2) of the F-Factor Scheme 2016 (the **Order**), the Australian Energy Regulator (**AER**) has requested the provision of the following fire start report. A fire start report is required to be provided to the AER by the 30 September of each year that contains a summary of network related fire incidents, as defined in the Order, for the previous regulatory year.

AusNet Services’ Electricity Safety Management Scheme (ESMS) and Bushfire Mitigation Plan include network design, operation and maintenance programs that are targeted toward the reduction of fire start incidents.

The revised ‘F-factor Scheme Order 2016’ (the **Order 2016**) was published in the Victorian Government Gazette on 22 December 2016. The Order 2016 introduced the transition to a financial year reporting requirement (June-July) with the new scheme commencing on 1 July 2016. The revised scheme assigns a risk weighting, expressed in Ignition Risk Units (IRU), to each fire incident. The IRU value is the product of risk weightings assigned to ‘time’ (Fire Danger Rating) and ‘geography’ (Hazard rating of a location). A value of $15,000 is assigned to each IRU.

# **Definitions**

AusNet Services fire start report relies upon the following definitions;

**Bushfire Risk Area** **(HBRA/LBRA)** – As determined by the Country Fire Authority in accordance with Section 80 of the Electricity Safety Act 1998 which require the assigning of a fire hazard rating for an area of ‘hazardous’ or ‘low’

**Electric Line Construction Area –** As defined in the *Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2013*.

**Feeder Classification** – AusNet Services has utilised the feeder classifications that have been defined for the service target performance incentive scheme (STPIS). Feeders are classified as central business district (CBD), Urban, Rural Short or Rural Long.

AusNet Services’ network contains only Urban, Rural Short and Rural Long feeders. The STPIS definitions are:

(a) Urban – not a CBD feeder, with actual maximum demand over the reporting

period per total feeder route length greater than 0.3 MVA/km;

(b) Rural short – not a CBD or Urban feeder with a total feeder route length less than 200km; *and*

(c) Rural long – not a CBD or Urban feeder with a total feeder route length greater than 200km.

**Fire Danger Rating** – Historical forecast of FDR as published on EM-COP website (<https://scc.em.vic.gov.au>). AusNet Services made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the relevant FDRs extracted from this website at the date/time of fire start. Any historical data changes initiated by EM-COP without AusNet Services knowledge may impact the accuracy of the information contained in the RIN template.

**Fire Location Area** - the location of the fire start in accordance with the categories specified in Clause 11(b) of the F-factor Order-In-Council.

**Fire Start by Asset** - In accordance with the categories defined in the Australian Energy Regulator’s Regulatory Information Notice (RIN) fire start reporting template

**Ignition Risk Unit** – The product of risk weightings assigned to ‘Time’ (Fire Danger Rating) and ‘Geography’ (Hazard rating of a location) as detailed in clause 11 of the Oder 2016.

**Kind of Fire Start** – As per Clause 5 of the F-factor Order-In-Council.

**Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiter (REFCL) area** – A geographical area in which the distribution supply network (up to 22kV) is connected to a zone substation that has been prescribed within the *Electricity Safety (Bushfire Mitigation) Regulations 2013* as requiring the installation of a REFCL.

# **Ignition Risk Units**

A total of 151 fire starts were recorded between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018 (inclusive) resulting in an unfavourable total IRU outcome of 226.62 against the target of 247.7 for FY17/18.

These fire starts are further profiled by the time of occurrence (i.e. Fire Danger Rating) and geographic locations (Table 1) and their corresponding IRUs (Table 2).

Table 1 – Number of fire starts by Time and Geography

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location Area****(Geography)** | **Fire Danger Rating (Time)** | **Total** |
| **No Forecast** | **Low-Moderate** | **High** | **Very High** | **Severe** | **Extreme** | **Code Red** |
| Electric line construction  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 3 |
| REFCL | 9 | 22 | 21 | 8 |  |  |  | 60 |
| HBRA only | 9 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 1 |  |  | 47 |
| LBRA only | 11 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 3 |  |  | 41 |
| **Total** | **30** | **45** | **41** | **30** | **4** | **1** |  | **151** |

Table 2 – Ignition Risk Units by Time and Geography

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location Area** | **Fire Danger Rating** | **Total** |
| **No Forecast** | **Low-Moderate** | **High** | **Very High** | **Severe** | **Extreme** | **Code Red** |
| Electric line construction  | 1.00 |  |  | 19.80 |  | 69.30 |  | 90.10 |
| REFCL | 4.14 | 20.24 | 48.30 | 36.80 |  |  |  | 109.48 |
| HBRA only | 0.90 | 3.00 | 5.50 | 11.00 | 2.00 |  |  | 22.40 |
| LBRA only | 0.22 | 0.32 | 0.90 | 2.00 | 1.20 |  |  | 4.64 |
| **Total** | **6.26** | **23.56** | **54.70** | **69.60** | **3.20** | **69.30** |  | **226.62** |