



28 March 2013

Mr Chris Pattas  
General Manager Network Operations & Development  
Australian Energy Regulator  
GPO Box 520  
**MELBOURNE VIC 3001**

By email: [Chris.Pattas@aer.gov.au](mailto:Chris.Pattas@aer.gov.au)  
Cc: [David.Chan@aer.gov.au](mailto:David.Chan@aer.gov.au)

Dear Mr Pattas,

**Request for Fire start reports under clause 5 of the F-Factor Scheme Order 2011**

CitiPower Pty and Powercor Australia Ltd (**Businesses**) refer to the Australian Energy Regulators' (**AER**) letter dated 27 August 2012, requesting the Businesses to submit fire start reports to the AER by 31 March for each year relating to the outcomes of the previous regulatory year.

The fire start reports for CitiPower and Powercor Australia for 2012 are set out in Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 respectively.

It should be noted that the information in these reports are currently under external audit as per the Fire Factor Regulatory Notice (**RIN**), due to the AER on 30 April 2013.

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Cotton on 9683 4288, or by email to [wcotton@powercor.com.au](mailto:wcotton@powercor.com.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brent Cleeve'.

**Brent Cleeve**  
**MANAGER REGULATION**

**REGISTERED OFFICE**

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## Attachment 1 – CitiPower 2012 Fire Start Report

### 1. An explanation of the definition of a fire start

The definition of a fire start used by CitiPower is in accordance with the ESV reporting guidelines. Please refer to the “ESV Distribution Electricity Safety Performance Guideline, April 2011”.

### 2. Summary (aggregate) tables showing the percentage and actual number of the fire starts in the following categories:

- a. Fire Hazard Rating assigned by the Country Fire Authority or Melbourne Fire Brigade under section 80 of the Electricity Safety Act 1998 (Vic);
- b. Element of the network that caused the fire, such as equipment type, feeder classification, voltage level

Note: A description/explanation of the equipment type, feeder classification etc should be also provided

CitiPower has summarised the data into tables showing the percentage and actual number of fire starts in the following categories:

- Table 1: CFA Fire Hazard Rating
- Table 2: Bushfire Risk Area<sup>1</sup>
- Table 3: Feeder Classification<sup>2</sup>
- Table 4: Fire Start by ESCV Category
- Table 5: Fire Start by Asset
- Table 6: Kind of Fire Start

<b>Table 1: Number of fire starts by CFA Fire Hazard Rating (i.e. the weather condition on the day)</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
Very high	1	3.3%
High	6	20%
Low Moderate	13	43.3%
Not available	10	33.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Table 2: Number of fire starts by Bushfire Risk Area</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
Low Bushfire Risk Area (LBRA)	30	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> CitiPower has defined this to be the “Hazardous Bushfire Risk Area” as per the definition in the Electricity Safety Act 1998

<sup>2</sup> Feeders classifications that were defined in the service target performance incentive scheme (STPIS) have been used by CitiPower and are as follows:

*CBD*: A feeder supplying predominantly commercial, high-rise buildings, supplied by a predominantly underground distribution network containing significant interconnection and redundancy when compared to urban areas

*Urban*: A feeder, which is not a CBD feeder, with actual maximum demand over the reporting period per total feeder route length greater than 0.3MVA/km

<b>Table 3: Number of fire starts by Feeder Classification</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
CBD	5	16.7%
Urban	25	83.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Table 4: Number of fire starts by ESV Category</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
Asset failures resulting in grass/vegetation fire	3	10%
Grass/vegetation fires from assets (non-asset failures)	3	10%
Asset failures resulting in asset fire (no grass/vegetation fire)	24	80%
Any other Fire Start	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Table 5: Number of fire starts by Asset</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
Pole and cross arm fire	2	6.7%
Oil-filled plant	0	0%
HV Fuse	0	0%
Any fire triggered by any asset failure caused by lightning	0	0%
Fire starts in grass/vegetation resulting from animal contact with network assets	1	3.3%
Fire starts in grass/vegetation resulting from trees contacting network assets	2	6.7%
Fire starts in grass/vegetation resulting from other causes (vehicle strikes, vandalism etc)	0	0%
Other Assets	25	83.3%
Any additional fires, caused by any asset failure, not reported to the ESV and required to be reported by the f-factor Order	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Table 6: Number of fire starts by Kind of Fire Start</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
Started by any tree, or part of a tree, falling upon or coming into contact with a distribution system	2	6.7%
Started by any person, bird, reptile or other animal coming into contact with a distribution system	1	3.3%
Started by lightning striking a distribution system or a part of a distribution system	0	0%
Started by any other thing forming part of or coming into contact with a distribution system	0	0%
Otherwise started by a distribution system	27	90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>

3. *A table of all fire starts – showing, in each case, the kind of fire start (as per the AER’s f-factor scheme determination), date, time, geographic location of the fire, and whether the fire was reported to the relevant authority.*

Please find attached Appendix 1 showing all CitiPower fire starts in 2012. The table shows the kind of fire start (as per the AER’s f-factor scheme determination), date, time, geographic location of the fire, and whether the fire was reported to the relevant authority.

## Attachment 2 – Powercor Australia 2012 Fire Start Report

### 1. An explanation of the definition of a fire start

The definition of a fire start used by Powercor Australia is in accordance with the ESV reporting guidelines. Please refer to the “ESV Distribution Electricity Safety Performance Guideline, April 2011”.

### 2. Summary (aggregate) tables showing the percentage and actual number of the fire starts in the following categories:

- a. Fire Hazard Rating assigned by the Country Fire Authority or Melbourne Fire Brigade under section 80 of the Electricity Safety Act 1998 (Vic);
- b. Element of the network that caused the fire, such as equipment type, feeder classification, voltage level

Note: A description/explanation of the equipment type, feeder classification etc should be also provided

Powercor Australia has summarised the data into tables showing the percentage and actual number of fire starts in the following categories:

- Table 1: CFA Fire Hazard Rating
- Table 2: Bushfire Risk Area<sup>3</sup>
- Table 3: Feeder Classification<sup>4</sup>
- Table 4: Fire Start by ESCV Category
- Table 5: Fire Start by Asset
- Table 6: Kind of Fire Start

<b>Table 1: Number of fire starts by CFA Fire Hazard Rating (i.e. the weather condition on the day)</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
Extreme	2	0.7%
Severe	3	1.0%
Very high	47	15.5%
High	94	31%
Low Moderate	81	26.7%
Not available	76	25.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>3</sup> Powercor Australia has defined this to be the “Hazardous Bushfire Risk Area” as per the definition in the Electricity Safety Act 1998

<sup>4</sup> Feeders classifications that were defined in the service target performance incentive scheme (STPIS) have been used by Powercor Australia and are as follows:

*Urban:* A feeder, which is not a CBD feeder, with actual maximum demand over the reporting period per total feeder route length greater than 0.3MVA/km

*Rural short:* A feeder which is not a CBD feeder or urban feeder with a total feeder route length less than 200km

*Rural long:* a feeder which is not a CBD or urban feeder with a total feeder route length greater than 200km

<b>Table 2: Number of fire starts by Bushfire Risk Area</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
High Bushfire Risk Area (HBRA)	185	61%
Low Bushfire Risk Area (LBRA)	118	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Table 3: Number of fire starts by Feeder Classification</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
Urban	52	17.2%
Rural short	60	19.8%
Rural long	176	58.1%
Sub transmission	14	4.6%
Unknown	1	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Table 4: Number of fire starts by ESV Category</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
Asset failures resulting in grass/vegetation fire	78	25.7%
Grass/vegetation fires from assets (non-asset failures)	49	16.2%
Asset failures resulting in asset fire (no grass/vegetation fire)	173	57.1%
Any other Fire Start	3	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Table 5: Number of fire starts by Asset</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
Pole and cross arm fire	131	43.2%
Oil-filled plant	0	0%
HV Fuse	38	12.5%
Any fire triggered by any asset failure caused by lightning	9	3%
Fire starts in grass/vegetation resulting from animal contact with network assets	15	5%
Fire starts in grass/vegetation resulting from trees contacting network assets	19	6.3%
Fire starts in grass/vegetation resulting from other causes (vehicle strikes, vandalism etc)	15	5%
Other Assets	73	24.1%
Any additional fires, caused by any asset failure, not reported to the ESV and required to be reported by the f-factor Order	3	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Table 6: Number of fire starts by Kind of Fire Start</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>% of Fires</b>
Started by any tree, or part of a tree, falling upon or coming into contact with a distribution system	20	6.6%
Started by any person, bird, reptile or other animal coming into contact with a distribution system	18	5.9%
Started by lightning striking a distribution system or a part of a distribution system	9	3%
Started by any other thing forming part of or coming into contact with a distribution system	11	3.6%
Otherwise started by a distribution system	245	80.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>100%</b>

3. *A table of all fire starts – showing, in each case, the kind of fire start (as per the AER’s f-factor scheme determination), date, time, geographic location of the fire, and whether the fire was reported to the relevant authority.*

Please find attached Appendix 2 showing all Powercor Australia fire starts in 2012. The table shows the kind of fire start (as per the AER’s f-factor scheme determination), date, time, geographic location of the fire, and whether the fire was reported to the relevant authority.