

Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Ltd

2016-20 Electricity Distribution Price Review Regulatory Proposal

Revocation and substitution submission

Attachment 8-8 Letter from ESV to JEN (30
November 2015)

Public

6 January 2016



ESV ref: CM-2484
Your Ref:



Creating a
safer state with
electricity and gas

30 November 2015

Mr Robert McMillan
General Manager Regulation
Jemena
Locked Bag 7000
MOUNT WAVERLEY VIC 3149

Dear Mr McMillan

ELECTRICITY SAFETY (ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE) REGULATIONS 2015

Thank you for your letter of 23 November 2015 seeking guidance on the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2015.

Please find attached a letter sent 27 November 2015 to your General Manager Asset Strategy Electrical, Mr Johan Esterhuizen, which addresses most of your queries.

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) can generally only respond to items within its scope as the independent technical regulator responsible for electricity, gas and pipeline safety in Victoria. Financial matters should be directed to others. This letter therefore addresses the items within ESV's scope and not covered in the letter to Mr Esterhuizen.

We note the following extract from correspondence from the Australian Energy Regulator referenced in your 23 November letter:

"The ESV also noted that it made amendments to reintroduce exceptions for structural branches in relation to both insulated and uninsulated electric lines which returns the flexibility of ELC 2005 where practicable... The ESV noted that the removal of these exceptions in ELC 2010 increased costs over time and expects that the reintroduction of these exceptions in ELC 2015 should decrease pruning costs over time."

In a meeting between ESV, Jemena and United Energy held 13 November 2015 the discussions were informative. In relation to the re-introduction of the exceptions, ESV does not see a significant reduction in effort from existing practices by the distribution businesses when carrying out electric line clearance activities in accordance with the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2015 and its Code.

Should you have any further queries in regard to this matter please contact Noel Murray on 03 9203 9700 or email nmurray@esv.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Last".

Andrew Last
EXECUTIVE MANAGER ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY