

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO.	

ADOPTING FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY SPOT MARKET (WESM) RULES AND WESM MANUALS ON DISPATCH PROTOCOL AND MARKET SURVEILLANCE REGARDING REFINEMENTS TO PROCEDURES DURING MARKET INTERVENTION/MARKET SUSPENSION

WHEREAS, Sections 30 and 37(f) of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) provide that the DOE, jointly with the electric power industry participants, shall establish the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) and formulate the detailed rules governing the operations thereof;

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 Market Manuals shall be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8 thereof;

WHEREAS, Clause 6.9.4 of the WESM Rules and Clause 16.3.3 of the WESM Manual on Dispatch Protocol mandate the Market Surveillance Committee to perform an assessment of the Market Intervention (MI)/Market Suspension (MS) and submit a report;

WHEREAS, the WESM Rules and WESM Manuals on Dispatch Protocol and Market Surveillance provide, among others, the responsibilities of and procedures to be followed by relevant entities during the declaration of MI and MS;

WHEREAS, on 17 March 2023, the Market Surveillance Committee (MSC) submitted proposed amendments to said WESM documents to:

- (i) Enhance the procedures for the declaration of MI/MS and the processes thereafter to streamline the assessment undertaken by the MSC on these implementations and activities undertaken by the System Operator (SO) and Market Operator (MO); and
- (ii) Clarify the categorization of the events as Transmission System-related events or Market System-related events.

WHEREAS, on 14 February 2024, the PEM Board-approved amendments to the WESM Rules and WESM Manuals on Dispatch Protocol and Market Surveillance were submitted to the DOE for final approval, in compliance with Chapter 8 of the WESM Rules;

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

WHEREAS, the DOE reviewed and finalized the said PEM Board-approved proposals and made revisions thereto, taking into consideration the comments and recommendations received from the stakeholders;

NOW THEREFORE, after careful review of the PEM Board-approved proposal and the comments and recommendations received on the same, the DOE, pursuant to its authority under the EPIRA and the WESM Rules, hereby adopts, issues, and promulgates the following amendments to the WESM Rules and WESM Manual on Dispatch Protocol:

Section 1. Amendments to the WESM Rules. The following provisions of the WESM Rules are hereby amended to read as:

- 6.2.1 Preparation and Responses
- 6.2.1.2 Grid Security-related Intervention by the *System Operator* is warranted when the grid or a portion of the grid is in the alert or *emergency state* condition as established in the *Grid Code* arising from:
- (a) an emergency condition or a threat to system security as adverted to in Clause 6.5.2; or
- (b) an event of force majeure.
- 6.2.1.3 Market System-related intervention by the *Market Operator* may also be warranted if there is an interruption in the operations of the Market:
- (a) due to the failure of the market software to produce an implementable Real-time-Dispatch (RTD) schedule;
- (b) during the simulation of the business continuity plan and disaster recovery procedures of the Market Operator developed under Clause 6.8.1.1; or
- (c) due to an event of force majeure.

If arising from *force majeure events*, as contemplated above that also affect the security of the grid, the *Market Operator* may likewise declare a *market intervention*, in coordination with the *System Operator*.

- 6.2.2 Exemption from Liability Due to Market Suspension and Market Intervention
- 6.2.2.1 In the event of a market suspension or market intervention, any action of the ERC, Market Operator, System Operator, or a WESM Participant in compliance with the emergency procedures provided in this Chapter shall not constitute a breach of the WESM Rules, except in the case of an act committed in bad faith or gross negligence, and said parties shall not be liable for any loss incurred by a

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WESM Participant as a result of any action taken by the System Operator, the Market Operator, or the ERC under this Chapter 6.

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6.2.3 Administered Price

During market suspension and market intervention, the Market Operator shall impose the computed administered price as provided in the Market Manual on Price Determination Methodology, to be used as the basis for settlements.

6.3.1 Emergency

6.3.1.1 The *System Operator* shall give *emergency instructions* when it determines the existence of a situation that has an adverse material effect on the electricity supply or which poses a significant threat to *system security*.

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6.3.1.7 When the *System Operator* has determined that an emergency or the effect thereof has ended, the *System Operator* shall notify the *Market Operator* who in turn shall notify all *WESM Participants*, the *DOE*, the *ERC*, the *PEM Board* through the *Market Surveillance Committee*, and *Grid Management Committee* that the *emergency* or the effect of such emergency has ended.

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6.3.2 Emergency Procedures

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- 6.3.2.2 *Emergency* procedures are the processes or steps to be taken by or at the direction of the *System Operator* to:
- (a) Maintain system security;
- (b) Avert or reduce the effect of an emergency;
- (c) Issue notifications and warnings to the *Market Operator*, the *PEM Board*, the *DOE*, and the *ERC* where appropriate; and
- (d) Restore the *power system* to a satisfactory operating state immediately after an *emergency*.

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6.5.1 Instructions during Emergency Condition

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6.5.1.2 When an *emergency* condition arises, the *System Operator* shall immediately notify the *ERC*, the *DOE*, the *PEM Board* through the *Market Surveillance Committee*, the *Market Operator*, and the *Grid Management Committee* as soon as reasonably practicable, of the commencement and nature

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of the *emergency*. The *Market Operator*, on the other hand, shall notify *WESM Participants*, as soon as reasonably practicable, of the commencement and nature of the *emergency*.

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- 6.5.2 Market Intervention due to Emergency Condition or Threat to System Security
- 6.5.2.1 If the *System Operator* determines that, insufficient time exists for the *spot market* to address an *emergency* condition or eliminate a threat to *system security*, the *System Operator* shall take any or all measures it considers to be reasonable and necessary to overcome the emergency, including but not limited to the following:
- (a) Increase or decrease the generation or supply capability such as issuance of *emergency instructions* to all available but not committed *generating units* to start-up, shutdown, cancel generating units on testing or recall transmission equipment outages;
- (b) Disconnect one or more connection points as considered by the *System Operator* to be necessary;
- (c) Direct, in accordance with clause 6.5.1, a *Customer* to take such steps as are reasonable to immediately reduce its load;
- (d) Constrain-on or constrain-off a Generation Company; and
- (e) Require WESM Participants to do any reasonable act or thing, which the System Operator believes necessary in the circumstances.

Thereafter, the *System Operator* shall provide a report in detail in accordance with clauses 6.6.2.2 and 6.6.5.2.

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- 6.6.1 System Security and Reliability Guidelines
- 6.6.1.1 In consultation with WESM Participants and the Market Operator, the System Operator shall develop and periodically update the system security and reliability guidelines, subject to the approval of the PEM Board and the subsequent promulgation of the DOE.

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- 6.6.2 Notice of Declaration of Market Intervention
- 6.6.2.1 Upon determination of the existence of an alert or *emergency* state, the *System Operator*, in coordination with the *Market Operator*, may *declare market intervention*.

The *Market Operator* shall inform the *WESM Participants* of an alert warning notice from the *System Operator* and/or declaration of *market intervention*.

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If arising from a *force majeure* event, as contemplated above, that also affects the *security of the grid*, the *Market Operator* may likewise declare a Market System related-intervention, in coordination with the *System Operator*.

6.6.2.2 The System Operator (for grid security-related events) and Market Operator (for market system-related events) shall submit a market intervention report, within five (5) working days as soon as practicable, to the Market Surveillance Committee, Market Operator, DOE, and ERC, after the resumption of the spot market. Said report shall include the details relative to the market intervention, as follows:

- (a) the reason for the declaration of *market intervention*:
- (b) the number of trading intervals affected by the *intervention*;
- (c) the actions done to address the threat to system security; and
- (d) the actual dispatch of all generating units per interval affected.; and
- (e) recommendation(s) to avoid the recurrence of the event,

In the event the *System Operator* or *Market Operator*, as the case may be, cannot submit a final and complete report within the above prescribed five (5)-day period, an initial report must still be submitted while the final and complete report shall be submitted within fifteen (15) working days from market resumption.

Upon request from the *Market Surveillance Committee*, the *System Operator* or the *Market Operator*, as the case may be, shall submit within a reasonable period, all available data or information necessary to determine the estimated cost impact that was incurred or may be incurred by *WESM Members* as a consequence of the *market intervention*, including, but not limited to, the estimated costs of enhancements to the Market Management System or other related market systems or processes that may be implemented to address issues that were identified as the principal cause of the market intervention or that have contributed thereto.

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6.6.2.5 The *System Operator*, in coordination with the *Market Operator*, shall initiate market resumption if the *emergency* condition or threat to *system security* has ended. The *Market Operator* shall inform the *WESM Participants* of the market resumption.

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6.6.5 Market Intervention Due to System Security Threat

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6.6.5.2 Within five (5) working days after market resumption, as specified in Clause 6.6.2, the *System Operator* shall prepare a *market intervention* report to be submitted to the *Market Surveillance Committee*, *DOE*, and *ERC* regarding the actions and circumstances under which the *market intervention* was made.

In the event the System Operator cannot submit a final and complete report within the above prescribed five (5)-day period, an initial report must still be submitted

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while the final and complete report shall be submitted within fifteen (15) working days from market resumption.

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6.7.1 Force Majeure Event

A force majeure is the occurrence of an event or events in the grid and in a dispatch interval that is/are not within the reasonable control, directly or indirectly, of the System Operator, Market Operator, and WESM Member, to the extent that such event, despite the exercise of the reasonable diligence, cannot be or be caused to be prevented, or removed and has resulted in a reduction in the normal capacity of part or all of the power system during that dispatch interval and such reduction is likely to materially affect the operation of the spot market or materially threaten system security.

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6.7.3.3 Notification

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6.7.3.3 In cases of *Market Intervention* declarations under an event of *force majeure*, the recurrence of similar *force majeure* event/s shall be subject to further assessment and evaluation of the Market Surveillance on its validity depending on the impact that the intervention has caused in the *spot market*.

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6.8.2 Simulations

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6.8.2.2 The *Market Operator* shall coordinate with the *System Operator* and inform the Trading Participants, the *DOE*, the *ERC*, and the *PEM Board* through the *Market Surveillance Committee*, of the simulations at least thirty (30) days prior to the conduct of the same.

6.8.2.3 The Market Operator shall also notify all Trading Participants, the DOE, the ERC, and the PEM Board through the Market Surveillance Committee, and the System Operator as soon as reasonably possible if the simulation or implementation of its Business Continuity Plan and Disaster Recovery Procedures may interrupt the operations of market software used by the Market Operator to support various processes in the WESM. The Market Operator shall use all efforts to minimize any possible market interruption in the conduct of the simulation or implementation of the Business Continuity Plan and Disaster Recovery Procedures.

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6.9.2 Declaration and Lifting of Market Suspension

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6.9.2.6 The *System Operator* (for grid security-related information) and *Market Operator* (for market system-related information) shall submit a *market suspension* report, within five (5) working days to the *Market Surveillance Committee*, *Market Operator*, *DOE*, and *ERC*, after the resumption of the *spot market*. Said report shall include the details relative to the *market suspension*, as follows:

- (a) the reason for the declaration of *market suspension*;
- (b) the number of trading intervals affected by the *suspension*;
- (c) the actions done to address the threat to system security; and
- (d) the actual dispatch of all *generating units* per interval affected.

In the event the *System Operator* or *Market Operator*, as the case may be, cannot submit a final and complete report within the above prescribed five (5)-day period above, an initial report must still be submitted while the final and complete report shall be submitted within fifteen (15) working days from market resumption.

Upon request from the *Market Surveillance Committee*, the *System Operator* or the *Market Operator*, as the case may be, shall submit within a reasonable period, all available data or information necessary to determine the estimated cost impact that was incurred or may be incurred by *WESM Members* as a consequence of the *market suspension*, including, but not limited to, the estimated costs of enhancements to the Market Management System or other related market systems or processes that may be implemented to address issues that were identified as the principal cause of the *market intervention* or that have contributed thereto.

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- 6.10 Market Intervention and Market Suspension Reportorial Requirements by the Market Surveillance Committee
- 6.10.1 Market Intervention Report by the Market Surveillance Committee
- 6.10.1.1 Upon the concurrence of one or more of the following events:
- (a) An event which, in the *System Operator's* reasonable opinion, is or may be a threat to *system security*;
- (b) A force majeure event; or
- (c) An emergency.

The Market Surveillance Committee, upon receipt of the System Operator (for grid security-related events) or Market Operator (for market system-related events) reports, shall investigate the circumstances of that event and prepare a report Market Intervention Report to assess:

- (a) The adequacy of the relevant provisions of the WESM Rules relevant to the event and its proposed amendments, if any;
- (b) The appropriateness of actions taken by the *System Operator* and/or the *Market Operator* in relation to the event;

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- (c) The impact and possible costs incurred by WESM Members as a consequence of the event; and
- (d) Any finding of potential fault of any WESM Participant including a preliminary recommendation for further evaluation by the PEM Audit Committee.
- 6.10.1.2 A copy of the report prepared under clause 6.10.1.1 shall be provided to:
- (a) the PEM Board;
- (b) the Market Operator,
- (c) the System Operator,
- (d) the ERC and the DOE; and
- (e) WESM Participants and interested persons upon request and in accordance with the Market Manual on Information Disclosure and Confidentiality.
- 6.10.2.1 Upon receipt of the *market suspension* report from the *Market Operator* and the *System Operator* following a declaration by the *ERC* under Clause 6.9.1.1, the *Market Surveillance Committee* shall review the circumstances of that event and prepare a *Market Suspension* Report to assess:
- (a) The adequacy of the relevant provisions of the WESM Rules relevant to the event and its proposed amendments, if any;
- (b) The appropriateness of actions taken by the *System Operator* and/or the *Market Operator* in relation to the event;
- (c) The impact and possible costs incurred by WESM Members as a consequence of the event; and
- (d) Any finding of potential fault of any WESM Participant including a preliminary recommendation for further evaluation by the PEM Audit Committee.
- 6.10.2.2 A copy of the report prepared under clause 6.10.2.1 shall be provided to:
- (a) The *PEM Board*:
- (b) The ERC and the DOE on completion of the report; and
- (c) WESM Participants and interested persons on request and in accordance with the Market Manual on Information Disclosure and Confidentiality.

Chapter 11. Glossary

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Section 2. Amendments to the WESM Manual on Dispatch Protocol. The following provisions of the WESM Manual on Dispatch Protocol are hereby amended to read as:

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16.3 Responsibilities

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- 16.3.3 The *Market Surveillance Committee* shall perform an assessment and submit a report to the *PEM Board*, the *DOE*, and the *ERC* containing the following:
- a. Adequacy of the provisions of the WESM Rules relevant to the event/s which occurred;
- b. Appropriateness of actions taken by the *System Operator* and/or the *Market Operator* in relation to the event/s that occurred; and
- c. Impact and possible costs incurred by the WESM Members as a result of responding to the event/s; and
- d. Potential breaches by *WESM Members* including a preliminary recommendation for further evaluation by the *PEM Audit Committee*.

A copy of the report shall be furnished to the *Market Operator* and the *System Operator* for their information and reference.

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16.4.2 Grounds for Market Intervention. Grid Security-related market intervention is permitted in WESM Rules Clause 6.2.1.2 when the grid or a portion of the grid is in an Alert or *Emergency* state arising from (a) an *emergency* or a threat to *system security*, or (b) an event of *force majeure*.

Market System-related intervention may also be warranted if there are interruptions in the operations of the Market:

- (a) Due to the failure of the market software to produce an implementable Real-time Dispatch (RTD) schedule;
- (b) Due to an event of force majeure; or
- (c) During the business continuity plan and disaster recovery procedures of the Market Operator developed under WESM Rules Clause 6.8.1.1.

If arising from *force majeure* events, as contemplated above that also affect the *security of the grid*, the *Market Operator* may likewise declare a *market intervention*, in coordination with the *System Operator*.

- 16.5.2 Declaration of Market Intervention. *Market intervention* may be declared by the *System Operator* or the *Market Operator*, in accordance with the relevant Clauses of Chapter 6 of the WESM Rules.
- a. Where the event that may result in intervention originates from market operations or is due to market failure, the *Market Operator* shall assess the situation and immediately advise the *System Operator* of the need to intervene in the WESM.

- b. Where the event that may result in *market intervention* originates from the operation of the *System Operator* or pertains to the *grid*, the *System Operator* shall assess the situation and immediately advise the *Market Operator* of the need for *market intervention*.
- c. The *Market Operator* or the *System Operator* shall notify each other, the *PEM Board* through the *Market Surveillance Committee*, the *ERC*, and the *DOE* that an *emergency* or *force majeure* event has occurred that may lead to *market intervention*, and if possible, the notice shall indicate the expected duration of the same. The responsibility for giving such notice shall depend on the source or origin of the event.
- 16.5.3 Regional Declaration of Market Intervention and Market Suspension. Where the event that gives rise to the declaration of *market intervention* occurs in one *grid* and does not affect the other grid/s, the *System Operator* or the *Market Operator* shall declare *market intervention* in the affected *grid* only (i.e., regional declaration). Similarly, the *System Operator* or the *Market Operator* may recommend to *ERC* the regional declaration of *market suspension*.

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- 16.8.2 Market Resumption after Market Intervention. Once the conditions that triggered the *market intervention* have been resolved, the *market intervention* shall be lifted by the *System Operator* or the *Market Operator*.
- a. If the event that gave rise to the market intervention pertains to market failure or market operations, the Market Operator shall immediately notify the System Operator that the condition has already been resolved and initiate the lifting of the intervention.
- b. If the event that gave rise to the *market intervention* pertains to the *grid* or the operations of the *System Operator*, the *System Operator* shall immediately notify the *Market Operator* that the condition has already been resolved and that it is lifting the declaration of *market intervention*.

- 16.10 Report on Market Intervention or Market Suspension
- 16.10.1 Within five (5) working days from the market resumption, the *System Operator* and/or the *Market Operator* shall prepare and submit to the *Market Surveillance Committee*, the *ERC*, and the *DOE* a detailed report containing, as a minimum, the following information:
- a. Description of the circumstances that gave rise to the *market intervention* or *market suspension*;
- b. Steps taken to maintain operations, and, in case of *intervention*, the steps taken to correct the situation; and
- c. Conclusions and recommendations for avoiding similar *market intervention* in the future.

In the event the *System Operator* or *Market Operator*, as the case may be, cannot submit a final and complete report within the above prescribed five (5)-day period, an initial report must still be submitted while the final and complete report shall be submitted within fifteen (15) working days from market resumption.

Upon request from the *Market Surveillance Committee*, the *System Operator* or the *Market Operator*, as the case may be, shall submit within a reasonable period, all available data or information necessary to determine the estimated cost impact that was incurred or may be incurred by *WESM Members* as a consequence of the *market intervention* or *market suspension*, including, but not limited to, the estimated costs of enhancements to the Market Management System or other related market systems or processes that may be implemented to address issues that were identified as the principal cause of the *market intervention* or that have contributed thereto.

16.10.2 In accordance with WESM Rules Clauses 6.10, the *Market Surveillance Committee* shall render to the *PEM Board*, *DOE*, and the *ERC* a report on the *market intervention* or *market suspension* containing its assessment of the following:

- a. The adequacy of the relevant provisions of the WESM Rules in relation to the event or events that occurred;
- b. The appropriateness of the actions taken by the *System Operator* and/or the *Market Operator* in relation to the event or events that occurred; and
- c. The impact and possible costs incurred by the WESM Members as a consequence of responding to the event or events.; and
- d. Potential breaches by *WESM Members* including a preliminary recommendation for further evaluation by the *PEM Audit Committee*.

A copy of the report shall be furnished to the *Market Operator* and the *System Operator* for their information and reference.

The *Market Operator* and the *System Operator* shall use Appendix H. *Market Intervention/Suspension* Report Template for the submission of their respective complete report(s) to the *Market Surveillance Committee*.

Section 3. Amendments to the WESM Manual on Market Surveillance. The following provisions of the WESM Manual on Market Surveillance are hereby amended to read as:

- 5.3 Review of Market Intervention
- 5.3.1 The *Market Surveillance Committee* shall conduct a review upon the occurrence of any of the following events:
- a) An Intervention declared by the *System Operator* as established in the Grid Code, due to:
- (i) An emergency;

- (ii) A threat to system security; or
- (iii) An event of force majeure;
- b) An intervention declared by the *Market Operator* due to *force majeure*, which includes:
- (i) Market system hardware or software failure that makes it impossible to receive or process market offer/bid information or produce market schedules due to erroneous real-time status input data or dispatch the system in accordance with the WESM Rules: and
- (ii) (Interruption in the operations of market software used by the *Market Operator* to support various processes in the WESM during the simulation of the business continuity plan and disaster recovery procedures, or any other event, circumstance, or occurrence in nature of, or similar in effect to any of the foregoing.

In cases of *Market Intervention* declarations under an event of *force majeure*, the recurrence of similar *force majeure* event/s shall be subject to further assessment and evaluation of the *Market Surveillance Committee* on its validity depending on the impact that the intervention has caused in the *spot market*.

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- 5.3.3 Upon receipt of the final report from the *Market Operator* and/or the *System Operator*, the *Market Surveillance Committee* shall conduct a review and shall prepare a *Market Intervention* Report, which shall include:
- a) All data and information regarding the event, including those provided by the *System Operator* or the *Market Operator*;
- b) Assessment and recommendations, as applicable, on:
- (i) The adequacy of the provisions of the WESM Rules relevant to the event, and its proposed amendments, if any;
- (ii) The appropriateness of actions taken by the *System Operator* and/or *Market Operator* in relation to the event;
- (iii) The impact and possible costs incurred by WESM Members as a consequence of the event; and
- (iv) Potential breaches by WESM Members including a preliminary recommendation for further evaluation by the PEM Audit Committee.

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5.3.6 The *Market Surveillance Committee's Market Intervention* Report shall be submitted to the *PEM Board* for review and approval, provided that the initial report shall be submitted within thirty (30) working days after the *MSC* has received the final report from the *Market Operator* and/or the *System Operator*.

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5.4 Review of Market Suspension

- 5.4.1 Upon receipt of the final report from the Market Operator and/or System Operator following a declaration of Market Suspension by the ERC under Clause 6.9.1.1 of the WESM Rules, the Market Surveillance Committee shall review such declaration and prepare a Market Suspension Report to assess:
- a. The adequacy of the relevant provisions of the WESM Rules in relation to the event or events that occurred;
- b. The appropriateness of actions taken by the *System Operator* and/or the *Market Operator* in relation to the event or events that occurred;
- c. The impact and possible costs incurred by WESM Members as a consequence of responding to the event or events; and

Potential breaches by *WESM Members* including a preliminary recommendation for further evaluation by the *PEM Audit Committee*.

Section 4. 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 5. Repealing Clause. Except insofar as may be manifestly inconsistent herewith, nothing in this Circular shall be construed as to repeal any mechanisms already existing or responsibilities already provided for under existing rules.

Section 6. Effectivity. This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation and shall remain in effect until otherwise revoked.

Issued this	2024 at	t the DOE,	Energy	Center,	Rizal	Drive,	Bonifacio
Global City, Taguig	g City, Metro Mai	nila.					

RAPHAEL P. M. LOTILLA Secretary