

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 289  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** Clean Energy Regulator  
**Topic:** Accreditation of power stations  
**Hansard Page:**  
**Question Date:** 14 March 2017  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Back asked:**

What processes have been implemented to ensure that only eligible accredited power stations are participating in the scheme?

**Answer:**

Under the sub-section 14(2) of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* (REE Act), a power station is eligible for accreditation if:

- (a) some or all of the power generated by the power station is generated from an eligible energy source; and
- (b) the power station satisfies any prescribed requirements.

The prescribed requirements are currently set out in sub-regulation 4(1) of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001, as follows:

- (a) a power station that is in the national electricity market must use NEM [National Electricity Market] standard metering; and
- (b) a power station that is not in the national electricity market must use metering that enables the Regulator to determine the amount of electricity generated by the power station; and
- (c) the power station must be operated in accordance with any relevant Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government planning and approval requirements.

When a registered person considers that their power station meets the above requirements, they may lodge an application for accreditation of the power station with the Clean Energy Regulator that details how they meet the requirements. Both the owner and operator of the power station must declare that all of the details set out in the completed application are correct and acknowledge that there may be penalties applied for providing false or misleading information in the application.

The Clean Energy Regulator undertakes an assessment of the application to determine eligibility of the power station for accreditation. These assessments follow a well-documented procedure to ensure consistent assessments occur. The assessment undertaken by the Clean Energy may consider information from sources beyond the submitted application, including information from other regulatory agencies and from within the Clean Energy Regulator. Following assessment of the application for accreditation, the Clean Energy Regulator will either approve or refuse the application under section 15 of the REE Act.

If the Clean Energy Regulator determines that a power station is eligible for accreditation, the application must be approved. On the contrary, the application for accreditation must be refused if the Clean Energy Regulator is not satisfied that the power station is eligible for accreditation at the time of application

Ongoing compliance by accredited power stations with the REE Act is monitored by the Clean Energy Regulator and supplemented by reporting requirements, including:

- standing notices, which are completed by the nominated person at the time that Large-scale Generation Certificates are created include questions regarding compliance with permits and laws. Standing notices include warnings that it is a crime to provide false or misleading information,
- inspections of power stations conducted by the Clean Energy Regulator, and
- annual compliance statements, called electricity generation returns.

If the Clean Energy Regulator receives allegations that a power station is being operated in contravention of a State, Territory or Commonwealth law, then it is investigated by seeking information from the nominated person and by speaking to the responsible regulatory authority.