



Press release

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Bundesnetzagentur identifies failures to meet balancing group commitments

The Bundesnetzagentur has found that the companies Energie Vertrieb Deutschland (EVD) and Optimax Energy have failed to uphold the commitments made in their electricity balancing group contracts. The two companies, which are both balance responsible parties, did not fulfil their obligation to properly balance the volumes of electricity traded in their balancing groups.

Impermissible behaviour by balance responsible parties

The Bundesnetzagentur has judged the forecasting of the generation of energy volumes that were not, in fact, available to the balance responsible parties to be impermissible, in particular. Adjusting forecast schedules to trading activity also contravenes the legal requirement to ensure a balance between feed-in and offtake.

The determination is the equivalent of a warning by the Bundesnetzagentur. It does not constitute a termination of the balancing group contract. Legal remedies against the Bundesnetzagentur's determination are possible. Only transmission system operators (TSOs) can cancel balancing group contracts.

In connection with the considerable imbalances in the electricity system in June 2019, the Bundesnetzagentur had opened supervisory proceedings against six balance responsible parties, following initial investigations by the TSOs. One of these, against the company Trailstone, was discontinued as the initial suspicions could not be substantiated. Three further proceedings are still ongoing.

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Shortfall in the German control area in June 2019

The German electricity system experienced severe imbalances on three days in June 2019. Only the responsible cooperation between the German TSOs and strong support from their European partners made it possible to maintain the stability of the system.

In December 2019, the Bundesnetzagentur determined a package of measures designed to improve the upholding of balancing group commitments by requiring balance responsible parties to manage their balancing groups more carefully and enabling imbalances to be cleared up more quickly.

Background on balancing groups

The purpose of balancing groups is the economic settlement of contracts for the supply of electrical energy. A balancing group contract between the balance responsible party and the TSO makes the former responsible for ensuring that the balancing group is balanced in each 15-minute period, ie that the offtake and feed-in of electrical energy is the same.

Upholding balancing group commitments during the Covid-19 pandemic

To maintain system security, it is still essential for balance responsible parties to meet their obligations during the period of crisis caused by the coronavirus. Despite the current restrictions, they must provide the best possible forecast and manage their balancing groups so that they are balanced in each 15-minute period.



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The Bundesnetzagentur is an authority under the responsibility of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. Its core tasks include supervising the energy, telecommunications, postal and railway markets.

As part of its mandate, the Bundesnetzagentur ensures that as many undertakings as possible can use the infrastructure in these sectors so that consumers benefit from competition and favourable prices.

The authority employs over 2,900 people at its headquarters in Bonn and Mainz and its 46 regional offices.