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SP AusNet helping businesses reduce peak demand electricity use

SP AusNet's critical peak demand tariff is successfully incentivising its large businesses to reduce their peak demand during Victoria's peak demand days, leading to reduced network investment paid by consumers.

Available in the last two years, the unique tariff has reduced the total annual peak demand across SP AusNet's electricity distribution network by three to four per cent, equivalent to the total annual demand of 22,800 houses.

Nino Ficca, SP AusNet's Managing Director, said that this demand-side management tariff helps network businesses manage rising peak demand and consumers to manage their electricity bills.

"SP AusNet is committed to the safe and reliable supply of electricity to customers, with an emphasis on efficient investment, in particular, investment to meet reliability targets and supply during peak demand days," Mr Ficca said.

"Our unique critical peak demand tariff is an example of this, as it incentivises business customers, our largest users, to better manage electricity use at times of high network demand, typically between 2pm and 6pm on the hottest summer days.

"As a result, businesses reduce their network tariff for the next 12 months. This helps SP AusNet to better manage supply reliability and it reduces peak demand infrastructure investment and costs to consumers," he said.

Under the tariff structure, SP AusNet notifies customers via email/SMS in advance of the five peak demand days so that they can reduce consumption or seek alternative supply, such as generators, as well as adapt their operations on days when the tariff applies.

SP AusNet is currently preparing to contact its eligible business customers that consume more than 160MWhs (megawatt hours) per annum to confirm existing or update contact details to notify them of peak demand days during the forthcoming summer period from December 2012 to March 2013.

Ends...

About SP AusNet

SP AusNet is a major energy network business that owns and operates key regulated electricity transmission and electricity and gas distribution assets located in Victoria, Australia. These assets include:

- Victoria's high voltage transmission network;
- An electricity distribution network delivering electricity to approximately 650,000 resident and business consumers across 80,000 square kilometres of eastern Victoria; and
- A gas distribution network delivering gas to approximately 608,000 customers across 60,000 square kilometres in central and western Victoria.

Headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, SP AusNet employs more than 1800 people and is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: SPN) and the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX-ST: SP AUSNET).