APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR A GENERATION AUTHORITY
[refer to sections 25 to 28 and 178 to 185 of Electricity Act 1994 (Qld)]

A Generation Authority issued by the Regulator under the Electricity Act 1994 (‘the Act’) authorises its holder to:

(a) connect the generating plant specified in the Authority to a transmission grid or supply network specified in the Authority.

Under the Act, ‘the Regulator’ is the Director-General, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. The Regulation section within the Department administers the electricity licensing functions on behalf of the Regulator.

The Act specifies a number of things the Regulator is required to do or consider before issuing a Generation Authority, including:

- publishing in a newspaper circulating in the State, a notice of the application and inviting submissions within the time and manner stated in the notice;
- considering any submissions received;
- being satisfied the applicant will operate the generating plant stated in the application;
- being satisfied the generating plant will be able to provide electricity of a quality suitable for the transmission grid or supply network to which it is to be connected;
- being satisfied the applicant is a suitable person to be a generation entity, which includes the applicant’s competence to be the operator of the generating plant;
- being satisfied the owner of the generating plant (whether or not the applicant) is a suitable person to be the owner;
- considering relevant government policies about environmental and energy issues; and
- considering the likely environmental effects of building and operating the generating plant.
An application for a Generation Authority must be in writing (no prescribed form) to:

The Regulator
c/- Energy Regulation
Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
PO Box 15456
City East QLD 4002

and be accompanied by the prescribed application fee (GST does not apply). For a consolidated list of the fees and charges read the Electricity licence fees guide.

Cheques should be made payable to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, ABN 59 020 847 551 and be accompanied by a remittance advice clearly showing the company name and details, and stating that the payment is an application fee for a Generation Authority. Alternatively, payment may be made by electronic transfer after the Department issues an invoice. The application must state:

• the generating plant to which the application relates;

• the transmission grid or supply network to which it is proposed to connect the generating plant.

In order to provide sufficient information to enable the Regulator to properly consider the matters mentioned above, please fill out the Generation Authority Guidance Check List. In some instances, additional information may be requested during the course of considering the application.

Please note that private personal and commercial in confidence information may be provided to a third party for the purpose of processing applications. The State of Queensland through the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy takes steps to ensure the appropriate treatment of such information by departmental staff and contractors.

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy is collecting your personal and commercial information in relation to your application. By submitting your application you agree that your personal information may be used by the Department for the purpose of processing your application. Your personal and commercial in confidence information may also be provided to the following entities as part of the application process:

(a) other Federal and State agencies for verification and due diligence purposes and obtaining additional information in relation to your application; and

(b) contractors engaged by the Department to undertake the application assessment process on the Department’s behalf.

All personal information will be stored at the office of the Department and in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. You can read the Department’s privacy statement and email the Department’s privacy unit at privacy@dnrme.qld.gov.au with any queries.
Applicants are encouraged to consult with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on 13 43 87 before submitting an application in its final form.

As a guide, in view of the requirement to undertake a public consultation process, generally applicants should allow a period of at least four (4) months for consideration of an application. In some instances the period may be considerably longer, depending upon the issues raised during the consultation process and environmental and other considerations.

A proforma Generation Authority can be downloaded from the Queensland Government’s Business and industry portal. The document needs to be read in conjunction with the Act and the Electricity Regulation 2006, which contain conditions applicable to Generation Authorities.

While it is expected most Generation Authorities will be issued in the form of the proforma, it may be that individual Authorities may have additional or other conditions.

**Special Approval for person operating generating plant of 30 megawatts (MW) or less**

Under Section 130 of the Electricity Regulation 2006, a person who operates generating plant with a capacity of 30 MW or less is deemed to have a Special Approval to connect the generating plant to a transmission grid or supply network.

In such a circumstance, the person operating the generating plant does not need a Generation Authority and may rely on the ‘deemed’ Special Approval.

[June 2018]