
DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Tuesday 13 December 2016

NIE Networks, Fortwilliam House, Belfast

MINUTES OF MEETING

a. Attendees

<u>Members</u>	<u>Non members</u>
Rodney Ballentine (RB), NIE Networks (Chair)	Carl Hashim (CH), NIE Networks (Secretary)
David McDonald (DMcD), NIE Networks	Stephen Hammond (SH), NIE Networks
David Hill (DH), NIE Networks	Jonathan Pollock (JP), NIE Networks
Ian Bailie (IB), NIE Networks	Neil MacDougall (NMcD), NIE Networks
Denis Kelly (DK), NIE Networks	Raymond Skillen (RS), SONI
Joe Duddy (JD), RES (<i>via conf call</i>)	
William Steele, Power NI	
Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Utility Regulator	
Sam Alexander (SA), Powerhouse Generation	

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:

- Fiona Hannon, SSE Airtricity.
- Kevin Hannafin, Energia.

Attendance unconfirmed from:

- Mervyn Adams, ESBI.

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for non attendance were noted.

The Chair noted that attendance constituted a quorum.

2. Update on Panel membership

The Secretary noted the following changes to the make-up of the Panel since the last meeting –

- NIRIG has nominated Mervyn Adams to replace Billy Graham to represent small scale generators; and
- the CBI is yet to advise of a replacement for Gavin Thompson, to represent large demand customers.

Following discussion at the meeting of 13 September on the merits of having a legal adviser in attendance, Neil MacDougall, NIE Networks' in-house solicitor, will attend future Panel meetings as a non member participant.

Action:

- i. **CBI to advise / nominate new large demand customer member. (Secretary to follow up with CBI)**

3. Review of minutes of 13 September 2016, including actions

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, and an update provided on open actions –

- action (iii) regarding a consultation on G98 and G99, DH noted these would be consulted on in Q3 2017;
- action (iv) regarding SONI's consultation on over installations, RS noted this would be consulted on in Q1 2017;
- action (vi) regarding the Setting Schedule for < 5MW generators, SONI advised it would provide comments to SH by 16 Dec. The consultation will be made public in Q1 2017; and
- action (vii) regarding names of Setting Schedules. Proposed name change for "Setting Schedule for Power Stations less than 5MW Exporting onto the NIE System" to "SSG Setting Schedule" as part of consultation. This Setting Schedule is genset technology agnostic.

The Panel agreed the minutes, subject to one minor amendment being made as requested by RS.

4. Update on RoCoF workstream

JP gave a presentation on the subject. (Slides circulated to Panel with draft minutes.)

JP confirmed that the illustrated RoCoF of up to 2Hz/s is a risk until the commissioning of the North-South inter-tie which is now anticipated in 2021.

During the presentation, JP stated the estimated cost to generators to meet the new RoCoF requirement is c£500k. JD asked whether the stated benefits are to Northern Ireland or all-island. JP confirmed that they are all-island. Some members of the Panel asked for more detail on these costs. JP agreed to provide a breakdown of the costs.

JOB asked if the HSENI is satisfied with the proposal. JP confirmed it is satisfied that NIE Networks is following industry best practice.

JD asked who is following the equivalent work streams in GB. JP confirmed that he participates in the relevant GB working group.

Action:

- ii. **To circulate a breakdown of the estimated costs of meeting the new RoCoF requirement. (JP)**

5. De-energising in the event of non compliance with the D Code

SH gave a presentation on the issue of non compliance regarding installation of SCADA equipment at a large number of SSG sites. (Slides circulated to Panel with draft minutes.)

JD expressed surprise at NIE Networks' admission that out of approximately 300 existing SSGs had been permitted by NIE Networks to connect, only 20 had functioning SCADA.

Some members of the Panel asked if the requirement for SCADA was for controllability. DH advised it was mostly for visibility; controllability was only applicable for reactive power.

A debate followed about the need for NIE Networks to consult with industry on options to address the SCADA non compliance; or if it was within its rights to simply notify industry of how it was going to address the non compliance.

It was agreed that NIE Networks did not need to consult. Instead it would decide on the best approach for dealing with the non compliance; then it would notify the Panel of the approach; and then it would notify industry, both on the specific matter of the SCADA non compliance and on the need to comply with the Distribution Code in general.

The notice to industry will also set out the enforcement procedures in the event of non compliance. NIE Networks will confirm these procedures with UR before issuing the notice.

JD asked if NIE Networks has assessed whether there are sufficient resources (in the form of SCADA suppliers and installers in NI) available to the large number of non-compliant SSGs (and the approximately 300 SSGs NIE Networks said are in the connection queue) to enable them all to meet NIE Networks' proposed remedial programme. NIE Networks has not carried out this assessment.

Action:

- iii. **NIE Networks to liaise with UR to confirm enforcement procedures. (NIE Networks)**

6. Update on over install connections

DMcD gave a verbal update on over install applications which will allow generators to install at 120% of MEC. DMcD outlined some of the additional clauses required to enable an offer to be processed at this stage. The Panel had no concerns with this approach.

This work stream will culminate with a number of proposed changes to the Distribution Code. DMcD advised that NIE Networks would consult on these changes, plus a number of other unrelated changes, in Q1 2017.

Action:

- iv. **To circulate draft consultation on changes to the Distribution Code, to the Panel for comment prior to publication. (DMcD)**

7. AOB

JOB noted the UR's consultation (resulting from the European connection codes) on the process to apply for / receive derogations to the Distribution Code.

DH raised the issue of who should provide the documentation in respect of Operation Condition 6 (OC6 Safety Co-ordination) citing concern that documents provided by third parties could deviate from those in the OC6 appendices and may not have unique document numbers. The Panel concluded that NIE Networks should be responsible for issuing the documentation.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 14 February was proposed for the next meeting.

Action:

- v. **Secretary to send invite for next meeting. (Secretary)**

Summary of actions

- i. **CBI to advise / nominate new large demand customer member. (Secretary to follow up with CBI)**
- ii. **To circulate a breakdown of the estimated costs of meeting the new RoCoF requirement. (JP)**
- iii. **NIE Networks to liaise with UR to confirm enforcement procedures. (NIE Networks)**
- iv. **To circulate draft consultation on changes to the Distribution Code, to the Panel for comment prior to publication. (DMcD)**
- v. **Secretary to send invite for next meeting. (Secretary)**