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## DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Tuesday 14 February 2017

NIE Networks, Fortwilliam House, Belfast

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### MINUTES OF MEETING

a. Attendees

<u>Members</u>	<u>Non members</u>
Rodney Ballentine (RB), NIE Networks (Chair)	Carl Hashim (CH), NIE Networks (Secretary)
Andrew Cupples (AC), alternate for David McDonald, NIE Networks	Stephen Hammond (SH), NIE Networks
David Hill (DH), NIE Networks	Neil MacDougall (NMCD), NIE Networks
Ian Bailie (IB), NIE Networks	Raymond Skillen (RS), SONI
Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Utility Regulator	
Joe Duddy (JD), RES ( <i>via conf call</i> )	
Mervyn Adams (MA), ESBI	

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:

- David McDonald, NIE Networks
- Denis Kelly, NIE Networks
- Sam Alexander, Powerhouse Generation
- William Steele, Power NI

Attendance unconfirmed from:

- Fiona Hannon, SSE Airtricity
- Kevin Hannafin, Energia

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

It was noted that the CBI is yet to advise of a replacement for Gavin Thompson, to represent large demand customers.

**Action:**

- 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 actions from the meeting. One action remains outstanding as follows –

- action (iv) regarding an action on NIE Networks to circulate to the Panel a draft consultation on changes to the D Code. This remains works in progress.

The Panel agreed the minutes.

### 4. Consultations

#### a. RoCoF 'who pays' consultation

The consultation closed on 3 February. NIE Networks received six responses in total. NIE Networks is considering the responses, and will provide the UR in early March with a paper setting out the comments received and NIE Networks' view on same.

RS reiterated to the Panel the importance of progressing the RoCoF work programme. JD seconded this view.

A brief discussion followed regarding the research regarding safety and associated application of new RoCoF settings, being carried out by Strathclyde University. Results from the research are expected in early March, after which NIE Networks will be in a better position to progress the work programme.

#### Action:

#### ii. **To send paper to UR on consultation responses. (JP)**

#### b. Setting schedule consultation

SH gave a brief update on response received to date. SH noted that one response discusses the requirement for Low Voltage fault Ride Through (LVRT) on Type A generating units. The consultee suggests that Type A machines are not capable of providing LVRT without adding inverter drives which would convert them to a Type B. JD suggested that STATCOMS have been used in Australia for LVRT on induction wind turbines. NIE Networks advised that a requirement for LVRT is already set in D Code 2015, at CC 7.10.1.

It was noted that this issue needs to be raised outside of this particular consultation. SH to action and report back with number of sites potentially affected.

It was noted that the Ulster Farmers Union had not yet responded to the consultation. MA agreed to ask NIRIG to contact the UFU and ask that it consider the consultation.

RS stated that SONI had provided comments to NIE Networks in advance of the publication of the consultation paper. SONI had a concern that a SONI requirement for control of active power down to 1MW, in alignment with the RFG network code, was not addressed and may lead to increased costs for customers. DH addressed this issue stating that customers connected to the 33kV network with a NIE Networks RTU should not incur additional costs, but this may not be the case for customers connected to the 11kV network with their own customer RTU installed. RS stated that it was SONI's intention to set up a joint TSO/DNO WG under the Grid code to address such issues.

The consultation closes on 28 February.

**Action:**

- iii. **To consider number of sites affected by LVRT issue. (SH)**
- iv. **NIRIG to contact the UFU and ask it to consider the consultation. (MA)**

c. UR Call for Evidence on Connections Policy

JOB gave a brief update. UR received 20 responses, with the range of views varying quite markedly. UR is considering the responses, and its next steps, and is aiming to publish a consultation paper in late March.

JOB also advised that UR will publish a consultation on the process for requesting extensions beyond the mandatory time required to make a connection offer. UR is aiming to publish this in early March.

5. Update on EU network codes

DH gave a presentation on the issue. Two requirements in particular were considered, being Article 54.2 and 54.3 of TSOG.

The Panel was asked to consider the following –

- Article 54.2. Members of the Panel were asked if they agree with the new definition presented on slide 6.
- Article 54.3. Members of the Panel were asked if they agree that the existing test in OC10.1.1 (b) fulfils the requirements of Article 54.3.
- Process for implementation of D Code changes. The Panel discussed the need to consult on D Code changes to implement EU network code requirements. It was noted that –
  - where a requirement is (1) mandatory, and (2) there is limited or no discretion/optionality in how to meet the requirement, then there is no need to consult with industry;
  - where a requirement is (1) optional, and/or (2) there is discretion/optionality in how to meet the requirement, then the Panel should consider if it is appropriate to consult.

Members of the Panel were asked if they agree with the above statements.

Responses were requested on the above by 24 February.

**Action:**

- v. **Panel members to respond by 24 Feb. (All)**

6. Guidance on telemetry requirements for zero export connections

A draft guidance note on the above was considered by the Panel.

It was agreed that when applicable, this guidance note should accompany Connection Offers. This will ensure the applicant understands the technical requirements they are

expected to meet. These requirements should then feature in their Connection Agreement.

It was further noted that papers for consideration by the Panel should be circulated in good time prior to future Panel meetings, so that members have adequate time to consider issues therein.

7. AOB

JOB raised the issue of the Winter Package. NIE Networks agreed that it would consider what, if any, matters are likely to arise from this for the Panel, and to give an update at the next meeting.

RB raised the matter of presentations from the meeting of 13 December 2016 having not been circulated to the full Panel.

Action:

- vi. **To consider the Winter Package. (NIE Networks)**
- vii. **To circulate presentations from the meeting of 13 December 2016. (Secretary)**

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 30 May was proposed for the next meeting.

Action:

- viii. **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 send paper to UR on RoCoF 'who pays' consultation responses. (JP)**
- iii. **To consider number of sites affected by LVRT issue. (SH)**
- iv. **NIRIG to contact the UFU and ask it to consider the consultation. (MA)**
- v. **Panel members to respond to network code queries by 24 Feb. (All)**
- vi. **To consider the Winter Package. (NIE Networks)**
- vii. **To circulate presentations from the meeting of 13 December 2016. (Secretary)**
- viii. **Secretary to send invite for next meeting. (Secretary)**