

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2014

NIE OFFICE, FORTWILLIAM HOUSE

Members/Alternates¹	Non-members
In attendance: -	
Gerard Magee (GM) NIE (Chair)	Chris Huntley (CH) NIE (Sec)
Michael Atkinson (MA) NIE	Lisa O'Neill (LO) NIE
Ian Bailie (IB) NIE	Stephen Thompson (ST) NIE
Denis Kelly (DK) NIE	Norman Watson (NW) SONI
Gorman Hagan (GH) NIE (Alt)	Conor O'Doherty (CO'D) SONI
Joe Duddy (JD) RES	Sam Matthews (SM) SONI
Billy Graham (BG) SPower (Alt)	

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The meeting was informed that an apology for absence was received from, William Steele, Robert Breadon, Philip Rainey (Billy Graham in attendance as alternate), Sam Alexander (Gorman Hagan in attendance as alternate), Fiona Hannon, Alan Kennedy, Peter McPolin. The absence of a representative from the Utility Regulator was also noted.

2. Review of minutes from meeting of 18 September 2013

The Panel confirmed that the minutes of the meeting of 18 September 2013 were an accurate reflection of the meeting.

In respect of the current status of actions arising from the September meeting, the Secretary advised the Panel that:

- Action 1 (to confirm Supplier membership of the Panel) remains outstanding and that further clarification has been sought from Fiona Hannon; and
- The remaining actions were complete and the outcomes of some were on the agenda for further discussion at this meeting.

¹ Full panel membership is outlined in the Appendix to these minutes.

3. D-Code Consultation held during October/November 2013

Gorman Hagan (GH) advised the Panel that the consultation paper seeking views from stakeholders on proposed changes to the Distribution Code was issued on 10 October 2013. As discussed by the Panel at its meeting on 18 September, this consultation proposed the inclusion of the term Setting Schedule within the Code and updated technical requirements for the connection of generators to the NI distribution system. The six-week consultation period was subsequently extended by a further week to 29 November to facilitate stakeholders.

Update on Consultation Response

GH confirmed that five replies were received from stakeholders, which has led him to consider a number of modifications to the initial proposals.

The two main themes emerging from the responses related to:

- (i) What arrangements will apply for governance of the associated document 'Setting Schedule for Power Stations less than 5 MW exporting on to the NIE System'; and
- (ii) Clarification on how changes to the Code will apply retrospectively.

Both of these issues were included on the agenda of this meeting for discussion by the Panel (see items 5 and 6 below).

GH further advised the Panel that respondents had suggested a number of editorial amendments, many of which he would propose to adopt on the basis that they helpfully add further lucidity to Code without changing any of its technical requirements. These included:-

- Use of defined terms
- Clarity on reactive capability and capability charts
- Clarity on control modes
- Revision of the 'fault ride-through' diagram

GH also advised the Panel that a number of other issues had been raised by respondents that did not directly relate to the consultation proposals, and many of these will be considered by NIE separately in due course. These are outlined as follows:

- Providing a 'Setting Schedule' for load/synchronous machines >5MW;
- Providing better coordination between changes to the G-Code, D-Code and associated Setting Schedules;
- Reviewing the minimum size of generator to which D-Code requirements should apply;
- Reviewing the planning requirements within the D-Code to include some of the requirements within NIE's standard Connection Agreement; and
- Updating the documents referenced in the Code e.g. G59/1 and G75/1.

GH confirmed his intention to reply to each respondent to confirm how their comments have been considered and whether these will be reflected in the final proposals for changes to the Code.

Seeking Regulatory Approval for Code Changes

Gerard Magee (GM) referred the Panel to the latest draft of the proposed Code changes which now reflects the outcome of NIE's consideration of the consultation responses, and had been circulated to the Panel on 6 February 2014. Referring to extensive consultation with stakeholders, including the Panel, GM proposed proceeding to seek approval from the Utility Regulator for these amendments to the Code.

Joe Duddy (JD) and Billy Graham (BG) asked for further time to consider the changes. In particular, BG highlighted the need for small scale generators to formulate a suitable and coordinated response to the specific Code changes proposed.

After further discussion, NIE agreed to delay writing to the Utility Regulator until the end of March 2014 in order to facilitate further feedback from industry stakeholders.

BG advised the Panel that he intends to bring together a number of small scale generator developers in order to get their collective views on the proposed Code changes. In particular there was discussion around the impact of the 150ms fault ride through requirement on small scale generators for transmission faults.

GH agreed to consider any further comments received up to the end of March 2014, prior to seeking approval from the Utility Regulator for the proposed Code changes shortly thereafter.

4. Setting Schedule for Small Scale Generators < 5MW exporting on to the NIE system

Gorman Hagan (GH) referred the Panel to Issue 5 of the Setting Schedule which had been circulated to the Panel on 6 February 2014. This reflected NIE's consideration of comments received from stakeholders during the consultation held in 24th January 2013.

At the meeting, GH advised the Panel that while only one response was received from the stakeholder consultation, this had resulted in NIE making significant modifications to the Setting Schedule document. GH presented to the Panel a summary of the latest position with the document.

In consideration of the significant modifications to this document following previous consultation, GH proposed that the revised document be subject to a further period of consultation, and to make specific arrangements for direct engagement with stakeholders during the consultation process. This proposal was agreed by the Panel.

5. Governance of Setting Schedule document

Gorman Hagan (GH) advised the Panel that NIE's intention would ultimately be to move the technical aspects of the Setting Schedule (for generators < 5MW) into the D-Code itself. Under this arrangement, all prescriptive requirements would be set out in the D-Code, and the Setting Schedule should be aimed more at providing interpretation, description of process, detailing settings and testing procedures.

Furthermore, GH explained that while in the interim, there would be a degree of duplication between the Setting Schedule and the D-Code, NIE's intention would be that future updates would remove such duplication, leaving the prescriptive requirements in the D-Code only.

GH suggested that, as it is proposed that the Setting Schedule should have a standing of at least equality with the D-Code, the initial governance of the document should be similar. GH suggested therefore that the best place presently for this would be under the constitution of the present D-Code Panel.

The following governance process was proposed by GH for consideration by the Panel.

- There would be three levels of change for the Setting Schedule:-
 - **Minor Change** - where the impact on the document and the effect of the change has little or no impact on Users – i.e. a process change due to rearrangements within the DNO or removal of a mandatory requirement already within the D-Code. This change would only require ratification by the D-Code Panel and not require a full consultation process or ratification by the Utility Regulator.
 - **Equitable Change** - where the impact is limited to one group type connecting to the distribution system and there is undisputed agreement within this group. This change would require ratification by the D-Code Panel and ratification by the Utility Regulator, without the full consultation process used for D-Code changes.
 - **Major Change** - where the change impacts multiple users or disagreement exists within the D-Code Panel on the definition of the change level. A full consultation process, similar to the requirements for D-Code changes would then apply.
- All changes would be referred to the D-Code Panel for agreement on the change level to be applied.
- Voting rights would be the same as for D-Code Panel.

Following discussion, no major objections were put forward in respect of the principles outlined, although it was suggested that NIE seeks legal advice on these proposals in the context of compliance with the D-Code constitution and NIE's licence requirements.

The Panel agreed that the most appropriate way to proceed is to consult on the proposed Governance proposal in parallel with the consultation on the content of the Setting Schedule. NIE confirmed that these proposals would be subject to legal review in advance of consultation.

It was further suggested that NIE and SONI seek to coordinate their respective approaches to the governance arrangements for their respective Setting Schedule documents. NIE agreed to consider this in conjunction with SONI.

6. Retrospective application of D-Code changes

Gorman Hagan presented for discussion, a summary of the proposed changes to the D-Code (as discussed under item 3), together with any stated dates from which the proposed changes would apply.

Following discussion, NIE agreed to clarify within its report to the Utility Regulator whether any of the proposed changes will be applied retrospectively.

7. AOB

European Network Codes

Joe Duddy pointed out that in the future the D-Code would need to be aligned to European Network Codes, and that in GB, the G-Code and D-Code Panels have commenced a joint working group to consider implementation.

Gerard Magee highlighted that the Joint Grid Code Review Panel (JGCRP) has formed a working group to consider European Codes on an all-island basis, which includes representation from the NI D-Code Review Panel (Sam Alexander),

Conor O'Doherty (SONI) provided the Panel with a presentation on European Network Codes and the work of the JGCRP working group.

It was agreed that for the next DCRP meeting:

- SONI would provide a further update on the work of the JGCRP working group; and
- NIE would set out priority areas for consideration of future D-Code changes resulting from imminent European Code changes and other developments.

8. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be arranged for June 2014, date to be confirmed.

Summary of Actions

	Action	Responsibility	Date to be completed
1	Confirm Supplier membership (Outstanding action)	SSE Airtricity (FH)	ASAP
2	Reply formally to each respondent to the recent D-code changes consultation.	NIE (GH)	April 2014
3	Advise NIE on the collective views of small scale generators to the proposed changes to the D-Code.	Simple Power (BG)	March 2014
4	Report to be submitted to the UR on the D-Code consultation and to seek regulatory approval for the proposed changes to the D-code. This report to clarify any 'retrospective application' of D-Code changes	NIE (GH)	April 2014
5	Proceed with the second consultation on the proposed Setting Schedule for Power Stations <5MW.	NIE (CH)	April 2014
6	Consult on the proposed Governance arrangements for the proposed Setting Schedule for Power Stations <5MW following legal review..	NIE (CH)	April 2014
7	Seek to agree with SONI a coordinated approach to governance of their respective WF Setting Schedules	NIE (GH)	Through Consultation Process
8	Provide further update on the progress of the European Codes WG.	SONI (CO'D)	For next meeting
9	Set out priority areas for consideration of future D-Code changes resulting from the imminent European Code changes and other developments.	NIE (GH)	For next meeting

Appendix

D-Code Panel Members - February 2014

As referred to in General Conditions 6.3.

Panel Member	Name	Organisation
Chairman (DNO)	Gerard Magee	NIE
DNO (4 members)	Sam Alexander	NIE (Operations)
	Michael Atkinson	NIE (Generation Connections)
	Ian Bailie	NIE (Network Planning)
	Denis Kelly	NIE (Metering)
Generators (3 members)	Robert Breadon	Non-renewable generators (FG Wilson)
	Philip Rainey	Small generators (Simple Power)
	Joe Duddy	Large generators (NIRIG)
Demand Customer with large energy use	Angus Biggerstaff	Demand customers with large energy use (WYG)
Electricity Suppliers (3 members)	Kevin Hannafin	Energia
	William Steele	PowerNI
	Vacant	(to be confirmed)
Authority	Albert Shaw	Utility Regulator