

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2015

NIE NETWORKS OFFICE, FORTWILLIAM HOUSE

<i>Members/Alternates¹</i>	<i>Non-members</i>
In attendance: -	
Denis Kelly (DK) NIE (Chair)	Lisa O'Neill (LO) NIE (Alt)
David McDonald(DMD) NIE	Norman Watson (NW) SONI
Gerard Magee (GM) NIE	Jonathan Pollock (JP) NIE
Ian Bailie (IB) NIE	David Hill (DH) NIE
Joe Duddy (JD) RES	Billy Walker (BW) NIAUR
Billy Graham (BG) SPower	Paul Bell (PB) NIAUR
Sam Alexander (SA) Powerhouse	
Gavin Thompson (GT) Michelin	
Fiona Hannon (FH) SSE Airtricity	
Ronan McKeown (RMK) NIAUR	

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The meeting was informed that an apology for absence had been received from Carl Hashim (Lisa O'Neill in attendance as alternate Secretary), Chris Huntley (Lisa O'Neill in attendance as alternate) and William Steele.

2. Updated panel Membership

The Panel was informed that Ronan McKeown will be the NIAUR member representative.

3. Review of minutes from meeting of 1st July 2014

The Panel confirmed that the minutes of the meeting of 1st July 2014 were an accurate reflection of the meeting.

In respect of the current status of actions arising from previous meetings, the Secretary advised the Panel that:

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

- Action 1 from meeting 18 February 2014 - Supplier membership of the Panel is complete.
- The remaining actions had been completed and the outcomes of the others were on the agenda for further discussion at this meeting.
- It was agreed that any observers wishing to attend must be notified to the Secretary in advance.
- The DCRP should not get into significant technical debate. These should be taken off-line and presented at high level in subsequent DCRPs.

4. Changes to frequency ranges to align with proposed Grid Code ranges

Jonathan Pollock gave a presentation on proposed Frequency changes.

Due to the proposed frequency changes in the Grid Code there is a need for frequency ranges in the D-Code to be changed in order to align with the Grid Code.

Joe Duddy has concerns that new proposed settings do not align with the EU Network Codes which will come into play in 2/3 years. DSO to determine if they wish to align with EU Network Codes right away or else take the changes presented in the short term.

Consultation is due to commence in September and it is expected to last for three months. It would be hoped that the changes above would be effective in May/June 2016. It is planned for this to be a retrospective change. NIE Networks is aware however that retrospective changes will only be justified if the need is greater than the cost benefit analysis. Consultation will need to take in to account the cost benefit.

5. Change to RoCoF Capability to Meet DS3 Requirements

A presentation on the change of RoCoF was provided by Jonathan Pollock.

The main difference being the requirement for generators to withstand a RoCoF of 2HZ for 500ms.

A discussion was held regarding the capability of conventional and small scale generators being able to achieve this new requirement.

It was commented that the consultation provided an opportunity for people to reply on their capability to meet this requirement. BG asked how we will reach SSG developers. NIE Networks stated that it will use bodies such as UFU, NISTA, NIREG and UR to make SSG developers aware of the consultation and its implications.

It is planned that this would be a retrospective change. The consultation will need to show how the need is justified by the cost benefit analysis.

6. EU Code Changes

Presentation from EU Code Changes by Ian Bailie

An introduction was provided as to why the EU codes changes were required and the subsequent development of codes. It was also explained that SONI is assessing the impacts of EU code changes and NIE are feeding into this process.

Although there are 9 codes these are split into 3 pillars. One of the pillars which relates to HV direct current connections is not applicable to NIE and the D-code however the Demand (DCC) and Generation Connection (RfG) codes will have a major impact on the D-code.

Requirement for generation (RfG) will probably become law in Q1 2016 and will potentially have a 3 year grace period. In GB, however, it is believed that this code should be implemented in a shorter timeline (in order to reduce uncertainty for new connectees).

The demand connection code will probably become law in the 1st half 2016 and will also have a 3 year grace period.

NIE Networks has some concerns with the impact of the EU Code Changes, especially regarding the DCC requirement to keep Bulk Supply Points within a specific power factor range. If NIE Networks was obligated to do this there would be significant cost to the NI customer. SONI is currently looking at an alternative solution which would involve STATCOMs at certain parts of the network. A cost benefit analysis of meeting this code will be required and if the need is not greater than the benefit then NIE Networks can go to UR for derogation on this.

It was also asked if NIE Networks was keeping an eye on GB changes relating to G59 and G83. NIE Networks explained that it is currently exploring aligning with GB on the G59 and G83. This will however require D code Changes.

7. WFPS Setting Schedule Section 6.6 – guidance and transparency on DNO discretion regarding figure 6 and 7.

The responses to the consultation have been taken account of and further clarification regarding SCADA requirements has been included. This is to be sent to the UR for approval.

A discussion took place as to whether NIE Networks would need to consult again due to the low level of responses. NIE Networks believes that it did inform a large number of bodies about the consultation and they would be informing the UR of all the bodies that had been invited to consult but did not do so.

Concerns were raised about the WFPS requirements going beyond the requirements of the D-Code. The D-Code should always take precedence. It was agreed that the governance of WFPS and D-code requires consideration and the Setting Schedule reviewed to ensure that it does not go beyond its scope.

It was also suggested that NIE Networks should look at the Governance of >5MW WFPS Settings Schedule when there are changes in the Grid Code.

Joe Duddy expressed concerns around the ambiguity of requirements of figure 6 and 7 within the WFPS and how neither of these related to the D-code. David Hill provided clarity around the figures and stated that the Revision to the WFPS >5MW Settings Schedule included this clarity. It is hoped that it will be approved Q1 2016.

8. Frequency Control Testing

In event of a frequency incident there is a requirement in the WFPS >5MW Settings Schedule to start to react within 0.2 seconds. In the past Suppliers had stated that they could not meet this requirement and therefore SONI consented on and changed this through the Grid Code Review panel. It was suggested that this consent should also have been given at the D-code panel. Frequency is not specifically covered in the D-code, but as it is a joint document between NIE Governance and SONI, the DCRP should also sign off on any SONI changes.

Following discussion it was concluded that the above change is accepted by the DCRP as having no effect on the D-code and the WFPS needs a DCRP consultation only if the frequency ranges are to be changed.

9. Forward Work Plan

The Forward Work Plan regarding EU Codes and G59 were presented in the two presentations provided for items 4 & 5.

10. AOB

An update was provided on Project 40. In particular the consultation on managed connections is due to be issued in September. NIE Networks asked for parties to respond to the consultation.

11. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

Summary of Actions

	Action	Responsibility	Date to be completed
1	DSO to consider if the proposed frequency changes should align with the EU Codes immediately or at a later date.	NIE (DMD)	August 2015
2	Consultation on frequency changes to the D-Code to be issued.	NIE (DMD)	September 2015
3	Provide further update on the progress of the European Codes WG.	SONI (IB)	For next meeting
4	WFPS<5MW to be sent to the NIAUR for approval	NIE (DMD)	For next meeting
5	Consult on the proposed Governance arrangements for the proposed Setting Schedule for Power Stations <5MW and D-code to ensure that D-Code always takes precedence.	NIE (DK)	For next meeting
6	Seek to agree with SONI a coordinated approach to governance of their respective WF Setting Schedules	NIE (DK)	For next meeting