DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Tuesday 10 September 2019

NIE Networks, Fortwilliam House, Belfast

MINUTES OF MEETING

a. Attendees

Members	Non members
Rodney Ballentine (RB), NIE Networks (Chair – *resigned on 10 September*)	Neil MacDougall (NMcD), NIE Networks
Trevor Harron (TH), NIE Networks (Chair – *appointed on 10 September*)	Carl Hashim (CH), NIE Networks (Secretary)
David Hill (DH), NIE Networks	Andrew Cupples (AC), NIE Networks
Ian Bailie (IB), NIE Networks	
David McDonald (DMcD), NIE Networks	
Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Utility Regulator	
Joe Duddy (JD), RES [*by conf call*]	
Gemma Monaghan [*by conf call*]	
Andrew McCorriston [*alternate for Fiona Hannon*]	
Paul Kennedy [*alternate for William Steele*]	

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:
- Denis Kelly, NIE Networks

Attendance unconfirmed from:
- Sam Alexander, Powerhouse Generation
- Raymond Skillen, SONI [*Raymond has left SONI; future invites to be sent to Daniel McSwiggan*]
- Kevin Hannafin, Energia

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair noted that attendance constituted a quorum.

2. Update on Panel membership

Owing to a change in roles within NIE Networks, RB resigned as Chair at this meeting and was replaced by TH with immediate effect.

3. Review of minutes of previous meeting, including actions

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed; there were no actions from the meeting. The Panel agreed the minutes.

4. RoCoF workstream update

DH presented an update to the Panel. (The presentation was circulated to the Panel.)

Work remains ongoing.

5. Update on EU network codes

DH gave a verbal update to the Panel, advising that G98 and G99 had been introduced in April 2019. Since April there had not been very many queries on G99. However there have been quite a few queries on G98, but mostly from manufacturers. NIE Networks has been able to address the queries without any issues.

JOB advised that there may be changes being made to the Grid Code, which may have knock-on effects for the Distribution Code. The next Grid Code Review Panel meeting is in October; further details may be available at the next meeting of the DCRP.

6. SSG SCADA update

DH gave a verbal update to the Panel. DH repeated that NIE Networks was still not actively pressing non compliant generators due to the current prioritisation of the RoCoF workstream. A more proactive approach will be taken once the RoCoF workstream concludes.

7. TSO procurement of [12 out of 14] system services

DH advised that there was nothing further to update since the last meeting of the Panel.

8. Consultations updates

   a. Connections update
   DMcD gave a verbal update to the Panel noting –
      • small-scale generation controllability had been added to the scope for investigation by the CIWG;
      • firm access is also being considered further by the CIWG;
      • a draft paper is at an advanced stage of development, and the aim is to publish same in Q4 2019;
      • a workshop will be hosted during the consultation phase.

   b. MIC Charging
   IB gave a verbal update to the Panel noting –
      • work is ongoing to continue engaging with customers, so that customers are sufficiently informed to make the best choice for their needs if/when the charging arrangements change;
      • the NIE Networks team is considering how to avoid any material over-recovery of revenues following any changes to the charging arrangements;
      • this may require an iterative approach, in order to calibrate the arrangements and tariffs appropriately depending on how customers react to the changes;
      • NIE Networks expects to issue a consultation paper in Q4 2019;

- changes in tariffs now proposed for 2021;
- need to be cognisant of the UR's own review of tariff arrangements and what if any impact it may have on this workstream.

c. Greater Access to the Distribution Network
IB gave a verbal update to the Panel noting –
- NIE Networks received 10 response to the consultation paper, with respondents being broadly supportive of our proposed initiatives;
- NIE Networks is working on a next-steps plan which once ready, will be the focus of further engagement with UR.

9. Distribution Security and Planning Standards

Standard P28
IB gave a verbal update to the Panel noting –
- standard P28/2 was approved in GB in May and has been implemented in the GB Distribution Code;
- NIE Networks has a similar standard, P28/1; but as we tend to adopt a fast-follower approach re standards in GB, we have held off introducing P28/2 until any issues with it had been revealed and/or dealt with;
- NIE Networks also needs to advise SONI before we moving towards its introduction;
- as NIE Networks is minded to introduce the new standard it will add the issue to the agenda of the TIA Planning Review Panel, so that SONI can be made aware of it;
- then NIE Networks will need to consult on the changes per due process for amending the D Code.

Standard P2
IB gave a verbal update to the Panel noting –
- NIE Networks is currently operating to standard P2/6 but an updated standard P2/7 has been adopted in GB;
- per the discussion above, NIE Networks is minded to introduce the new standard;
- NIE Networks will inform SONI of same, and in due course carry out the necessary consultation.

10. AOB

IB advised that NIE Networks has developed a capacity heat map which shows the capacity headroom down to primary substation level, on the distribution network. The map will go live before the end of September 2019.

TH raised the issue of Brexit. The Panel noted that there may be some minor changes needed to the Distribution Code (amended references to legislation etc).

11. Date of next meeting

The first or second week of December was proposed for the next meeting.

Action:
i.   Secretary to send invite for next meeting. (CH)