DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Tuesday 12 December 2017

NIE Networks, Fortwilliam House, Belfast

MINUTES OF MEETING

a. Attendees

Members	Non members
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	Neil MacDougall (NMcD), NIE Networks
Ian Bailie, NIE Networks	Raymond Skillen (RS), SONI
Ciaran MacCann (CMaC), alternate for Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Utility Regulator	Jonny Pollock (JP), NIE Networks
Joe Duddy (JD), RES (*via conf call*)	Andrew McBurney (AMcB), NIE Networks
Paul Kennedy (PK), alternate for William Steele, Power NI	

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:
- Denis Kelly, NIE Networks
- Fiona Hannon, SSE Airtricity
- Mervyn Adams, ESBI
- William Steele, Power NI (alternate in attendance)
- Sam Alexander, Powerhouse Generation

Attendance unconfirmed from:
- 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

The Secretary provided the following updates –

- the CBI was contacted in early December to remind it that it is yet to nominate a member to the Panel to represent large usage demand customers; and

- Mervyn Adams is retiring and stepping down from the Panel. NIRIG will need to nominate a new representative for small generators.

Action:

i. **NIRIG to be advised of the need to nominate a new representative for small generators. (CH)**

3. Review of minutes of 5 September 2017, including actions

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, and an update provided on actions from the meeting. The Panel agreed the minutes.

With regard to item 6. in the minutes of 5 September (EU network codes), the Panel discussed the issue of joint governance of the G98/G99 documents with the GB distribution code panel. The GB panel has advised that it is unenthusiastic about sharing an actual single document, saying it would be too big a governance challenge. The GB panel is happy to work jointly on common text but not to progress a single document through joint governance. Accordingly NIE Networks is now progressing the drafting on the basis of separate NI documents.

4. Draft governance / framework arrangements for amending the Distribution Code

CH led a discussion on this draft document.

JD queried if the document was consistent with the Panel's Constitution and Rules. CH will review and confirm same, and will also circulate the Constitution and Rules to the Panel and post the Constitution and Rules on the NIE Networks website.

JD provided some feedback and raised a number of queries. CH will update the draft and circulate to the Panel for further review.

CMaC advised that the UR wished to consider further the issue of retrospective application of Code amendments with its legal department. This led the Panel to discuss further whether all Code amendments were retrospective unless stated otherwise, or if amendments were always prospective unless otherwise stated. Representatives from NIE Networks advised they felt it was the latter, and agreed to review and confirm same.

If it is the latter, then the Panel agreed that all historic versions of the Code should be made available on the NIE Networks website.

Action:

ii. **Constitution and Rules to be circulated to Panel, and posted on NIE Networks website. (CH)**
iii. **Governance / framework doc to be updated and circulated to Panel. (CH)**
iv. **UR to consider further the issue of retrospective application of Code amendments. (CMaC)**
v. **NIE Networks to confirm if Code changes are automatically retrospective or prospective, unless stated otherwise. (NIE Networks)**
vi. **If Code changes are always prospective in nature, then all historic versions of the Code to be posted on NIE Networks website.**

5. RoCoF workstream update

JP presented an update to the Panel. (The presentation was circulated to the Panel after the meeting.)

JP noted that a further consultation had been published on changes to protection settings for SSG. The consultation closes on 22 January 2018.

Work remains ongoing.

6. Update on EU network codes

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

DH raised an issue regarding different interpretations regarding implementation of RfG with the Panel. DH agreed to share with the Panel a letter sent to the UR seeking its guidance. JD also said he would circulate an open letter on the matter from GB.

Work remains ongoing.

Action:
vii.   Letters on RfG implementation to be circulated to the Panel. (CH)

7. SSG SCADA update

SH presented an update to the Panel. (The presentation was circulated to the Panel after the meeting.)

Work remains ongoing.

8. Update on Phase 2 capacity

DMcD gave a verbal update. DMcD advised that a recent Call for Evidence on how best to manage capacity constraints and future generation connections, closed on 3 November 2017. DMcD advised that in conjunction with SONI, NIE Networks has been considering the responses, and both parties are developing a joint consultation paper for publication before Christmas.

9. Future changes to Network Security and Planning Standards

IB gave a verbal update regarding an update to standard P28 that is progressing in GB. As P28 is a standard used in Northern Ireland, we will need to follow suit. The plan is to let the work in GB conclude, and then adopt the updated standard here.

Action:
viii.   Circulate relevant docs on P28 updates to the Panel. (CH)

10. TSO procurement of [11 out of 14] system services

DH gave a verbal update on the above. DH advised that the 11 "slow" system services procured by the TSO are to be retendered. A notice was published in the OJEU on 12 December, and responses are required by 8 February 2018. New contracts are to be in place by May 2018.

11. AOB

No AOB matters were raised.

12. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 13 February 2018 was proposed for the next meeting.

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

Summary of actions

i.   **NIRIG to be advised of the need to nominate a new representative for small generators. (CH)**
ii.   **Constitution and Rules to be circulated to Panel, and posted on NIE Networks website. (CH)**
iii.   **Governance / framework doc to be updated and circulated to Panel. (CH)**
iv.   **UR to consider further the issue of retrospective application of Code amendments. (CMaC)**
v.   **NIE Networks to confirm if D Code changes are automatically retrospective or prospective, unless stated otherwise. (NIE Networks)**
vi.   **If D Codes changes are always prospective in nature, then all historic versions of the Code to be posted on NIE Networks website.**
vii.   **Letters on RfG implementation to be circulated to the Panel. (CH)**
viii.   **Circulate relevant docs on P28 updates to the Panel. (CH)**
ix.   **Secretary to send invite for next meeting. (CH)**