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## DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Tuesday 20 April 2021

Meeting held on Zoom

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### MINUTES OF MEETING

a. Attendees

<b>Members</b>	<b>Non-members</b>
Trevor Harron (TH), NIE Networks (Chair)	Carl Hashim (CH), NIE Networks (Secretary)
David Hill (DH), NIE Networks	Neil MacDougall (NM), NIE Networks
Jonny Pollock (JP), NIE Networks	Andrew Cupples (AC), NIE Networks
Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Utility Regulator	Christopher Surgeoner (CS), NIE Networks
Paul Kennedy (PK), Power NI [ <i>alternate for William Steele</i> ]	Sam Matthews (SM), SONI
Andrew McCorriston (AM), SSE	Kenny McPartland (KM), Utility Regulator
Brian Mongan (BM), Powerhouse Generation [ <i>alternate for Sam Alexander</i> ]	Timothy Steele (TS), Utility Regulator

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:

- Denis Kelly, NIE Networks
- Sam Alexander, Powerhouse Generation
- Joe Duddy, RES
- William Steele, Power NI
- Sinead Ferris, NIE Networks
- Karen O'Doherty, NIE Networks

Attendance unconfirmed from:

- 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

No updates were noted.

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. Consultations updates

##### a. Connections update

An interim connections process decision paper was published on the NIE Networks website on 19 Feb 2021. The decisions therein will go-live one month following approval of an update Statement of Connection Charges, which is currently with the UR for review.

##### b. MIC Charging

JP gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that NIE Networks is proceeding with the MIC charging changes per its published decision paper.

##### c. Greater Access to the Distribution Network

JP gave a verbal update to the Panel, advising that we continue to engage with the UR as we work towards approvals for the various submissions for funding that were made to the UR in Q4 2020.

##### d. Demand connections into clusters

Our Call for Evidence closed November 2020. A consultation paper has been drafted and is undergoing internal review. The aim is to publish the consultation in Q2 2021.

##### e. ADMD (After Diversity Maximum Demand) consultation

JP gave a verbal update to the Panel. NIE Networks is planning to consult on a new ADMD policy (a higher ADMD) in anticipation of increased electrification and new building regulations. The aim is to publish the consultation in Q2/Q3 2021.

#### 5. Updates from UR

JOB advised UR is working with the DfE on its new energy strategy. Some of the out-workings may impact on D-Code. If so, the Panel can discuss this in due course.

Other item noted by JOB is a Grid Code modification UR is working on with SONI. This is unlikely to impact on D-Code.

#### 6. RoCoF workstream update

DH noted that the RoCoF trial is now complete and SONI is now operating at 70% System Non-Synchronous Penetration (S&SP). (S&SP is a measure of how much of the overall system demand is being met by non-synchronous mainly renewable type generators.) Next trials to progress to 75% S&SP.

SM confirmed this is the case.

#### 7. Update on EU network codes

DH advised he has been working on drafting G98/NI and G99/NI. Drafting is complete including a consultation paper. DH plans to circulate to the Panel in the next few weeks, with a view to then consult in May.

#### 8. SSG SCADA update

CS gave a verbal update to the Panel. NIE Networks has written to all affected SSGs, and only 24 (which is 4% of the total) have not responded. Follow-up second letters have been sent, and a further warning letter will be sent in May. The warning will notify recipients of potential de-energisation if they do not comply.

CS advised that NIE Networks expects it will take a further two years to complete the programme.

9. TSO procurement of system services

DH gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that Gate 4 has completed with contracts awarded effective from 1 April. Four DSUs and one wind unit were successful.

An additional gate Gate 4b, which will allow units who had difficulty in testing due to Covid, is progressing. The tenders for this gate are now complete, with seven DSU tenders and one wind farm tender having been submitted. The contract commencement date for this gate is 1 July.

BM asked about FLEX programme. JP advised that we are progressing to procurement stage, and are on track for end of Q3 use of FLEX.

10. AOB

TH suggested FLEX should become a new standing item. JP agreed and suggested NIE Networks would invite Cormac Bradley (who is leading FLEX work in NIE Networks) to give an update.

11. Date of next meeting

September 2021 was proposed for the next meeting.

**Action:**

- i. **Secretary to send invite for next meeting. (CH)**