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DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Tuesday 21 June 2022

Meeting held on Zoom

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MINUTES OF MEETING

a. Attendees

Members	Non-members
Trevor Harron (TH), NIE Networks (Chair)	Carl Hashim (CH), NIE Networks (Secretary)
David Hill (DH), NIE Networks	Cormac Bradley (CB), NIE Networks
Andrew Cupples (AC), NIE Networks	John Boden (JB), NIE Networks
Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Utility Regulator	Kenny McPartland (KM), Utility Regulator
Joe Duddy (JD), RES	Sam Matthews (SM), SONI
Paul Kennedy (PK), Power NI [*alternate for William Steele*]	Cian Fitzgerald (CF), (Energia)

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:
- Sinead Ferris, NIE Networks
- Denis Kelly, NIE Networks
- Sam Alexander, Powerhouse Generation
- Brian Mongan, Powerhouse Generation
- Andrew McCorriston, SSE
- Gemma Monaghan, Air Core NI

Attendance unconfirmed from:
- Kevin Hannafin, Energia

1. Welcome and apologies

    The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Update on Panel membership

    The Chair noted advised that Andrew Cupples was replacing Jonny Pollock as a Panel member for NIE Networks.

3. Review of minutes of previous meeting, including actions

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. CH said he would document the response to the two actions from the meeting in the minutes of this meeting.

These are –

i. To provide the Panel with a note of forthcoming D-Code amendment proposals.

There are amendments being drafted to the D-Code G98/NI and G99/NI. There are multiple changes proposed, mainly consisting of housekeeping amendments, removal of storage exclusions and modifications as a result of feedback from industry. The changes will also keep the G98 and G99 documents aligned to the equivalent GB documents. The timing of the when the changes will go out to consultation is still unclear as NIE Networks is working with SONI/Eirgrid/ESBN to agree a new Registered Capacity definition which would then form part of the changes and consultation.

ii. To consider and advise of forthcoming amendments to system security and planning standards

NIE Networks plans to consult on moving to updated versions of both G5 and P2 at some point later this year.

4. Consultations updates

a. Over-install policy
SONI/EirGrid has completed studies to assess the potential impact of different levels of over-install on the network and has found there to be negligible impact on dispatch down and curtailment. As such they are proposing to remove the over-install limit for both single and hybrid technology arrangements and are currently drafting a paper for public consultation with a view to removing the over-install limit altogether.

b. Demand connections into clusters
NIE Networks has drafted a consultation paper on the subject, which will be published soon.

c. FLEX update
Regarding the FLEX initiatives, key points for update are as follows –
- initial phase of FLEX has concluded;
- while analysis of results is underway, early signs are positive suggesting flexibility can be a cost-effective method to manage network congestion going forward. NIE Networks plans to publish the findings from the trial in due course;
- the trial has identified areas for further consideration, particularly in the TSO/DSO coordination space which is initially being progressed in a dedicated TSO/DSO forum; and
- NIE Networks plans to run a further small-scale trial over the summer, involving generators (who would ramp down) and demand customers (who would ramp up) to help manage supply-demand dynamics on the network. More information will be provided in due course.

5. Updates from UR

   a. Linking back to the update on FLEX, JOB advised that the Department is currently working on a "flexibility plan" for Northern Ireland. This is expected to be published by the end of the year.

   b. JOB noted there would be a need to review system security and planning standards in due course, with a view to ensuring they are fit for purpose in the context of facilitating achievement of the Department's energy strategy.

6. Update on EU network codes

   DH advised there were no updates worthy of noting for the Panel.

7. SSG SCADA update

   JB gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that just over one-quarter of required SSG MW now has SCADA installed. Work remains ongoing with the three installations firms NIE Networks is working with to complete the task.

8. TSO procurement of system services

   DH gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that the Gate 7 procurement exercise was underway with tenders having been published in early June. Responses are due by 20 July, with contract executions on 1 October 2022.

9. AOB

   JOB commented that as part of the energy transition, there is likely to be a material increase in connections to the network (of LCTs, for example). With this will come an increasing importance on ensuring customers understand what is expected of them, in terms of meeting the requirements of the D-Code. This may require some thought on the format and content of the information to made available in this respect.

   JD noted there may be materials in GB, produced by the ENA, that NIE Networks can use a guide. JD also suggested the option of targeting installers, noting that in GB customers can only access the various support schemes that are available from time to time, if they use installers who are certified as meeting certain technical standards.

10. Date of next meeting

   Late Q3 2022 was proposed for the next meeting.

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