
DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Tuesday 22 March 2022

Meeting held on Zoom

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	Neil MacDougall (NM), NIE Networks
Andrew Cupples (AC), NIE Networks	John Boden (JB), NIE Networks
Kenny McPartland (KM), Utility Regulator <i>[alternate for Jody O'Boyle]</i>	Sam Matthews (SM), SONI
Cathal Martin (CM), SSE Renewables <i>[alternate for Joe Duddy]</i>	Marie Therese Campbell (MTC), SONI
Andrew McCorriston (AM), SSE <i>[alternate for Fiona Hannon]</i>	

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:

- Sinead Ferris, NIE Networks
- Denis Kelly, NIE Networks
- Cormac Bradley, NIE Networks
- Jody O'Boyle, Utility Regulator
- Joe Duddy, RES
- Sam Alexander, Powerhouse Generation
- Brian Mongan, Powerhouse Generation
- Paul Kennedy, Power NI
- 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. The action to provide the Panel with a note of forthcoming D-Code amendment proposals was noted as being carried forward by the Secretary.

Action:

- i. **Secretary to provide the Panel with a note of forthcoming D-Code amendment proposals. (CH)**

4. Consultations updates

a. Connections update

At the previous meeting of the Panel, it was advised that further engagement with the UR had taken place and updated wording proposed for inclusion in the Statement of Connection Charges (SoCC). The Panel was advised that an interim connection process whereby NIE Networks would issue distribution connection offers with non-firm market access to generators 5MW and above would go live one month after SoCC update is approved.

By way of update, the revised SoCC went live on 21 Feb 2022.

b. Over-install policy

SONI / EirGrid are running studies to assess the potential impact of different levels of over-install on the network. They are focusing on curtailment, constraint and fault level impacts. Once these studies are complete NIE Networks will look to complete a short consultation on removing the over-install rule.

c. Demand connections into clusters

NIE Networks is proceeding with an interpretation that the customer is chargeable for the transmission assets to ensure compliance with TSSPS (aligning with SONI's view). This position will be consulted upon in the coming weeks when NIE Networks issues a consultation on the issue.

d. FLEX update

Regarding the FLEX initiatives, key points for update are as follows –

- initial phase of FLEX scheduled to conclude towards end of May;
- while analysis of results is underway, early signs are positive suggesting flexibility can be a cost-effective method to manage network congestion going forward; and
- 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.

5. Updates from UR

KM noted that the UR had recently approved modifications to the SONI Grid Code Metering code. UR's approval, and full details of the modifications, are available on the UR's website.

6. Update on EU network codes

DH gave a presentation (the presentation was circulated to the Panel).

7. SSG SCADA update

JB gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting the following –

- >22% of required SSG MW now has SCADA installed;
- delivery delays seen in the months previous have begun to ease and installs have increased over the last few weeks;
- a new engineering installer has commissioned and tested a SCADA and Reactive Power solution; and
- letters were delivered to sites which had made no previous engagement in the SCADA programme just prior to Christmas 2021 and a number of responses were received to nominate an installer.

8. TSO procurement of system services

DH gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that the Gate 6 procurement exercise was near to conclusion with contract executions on 1 April 2022. Gate 7 will commence around May / June time.

9. AOB

KM asked if there are any forthcoming amendments to the system security and planning standards; and if there are, if the Panel could be updated on what these are in advance. AC took an action to consider this and follow up through the Panel's Secretary.

Action:

- ii. **To consider and advise of forthcoming amendments to system security and planning standards. (AC)**

10. Date of next meeting

Late Q2 2022 was proposed for the next meeting.

Action:

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