
DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Thursday 22 September 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)
Alex Houston (AH), NIE Networks (Chair designate)	Cormac Bradley (CB), NIE Networks
David Hill (DH), NIE Networks	Joe Bailey (JB), NIE Networks
Andrew Cupples (AC), NIE Networks	Neil MacDougall (NM), NIE Networks
Sinead Ferris (SF), NIE Networks	Luke Matchett (LM), Utility Regulator
Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Utility Regulator	Sam Matthews (SM), SONI
Joe Duddy (JD), RES	
Paul Kennedy (PK), Power NI [<i>alternate for William Steele</i>]	
Andrew McCorriston (AM), SSE	
Danny McSwiggan (DM), Powerhouse Generation [<i>alternate for Sam Alexander</i>]	

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:

- Denis Kelly, NIE Networks
- Sam Alexander, Powerhouse Generation
- Brian Mongan, Powerhouse Generation
- 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, Trevor Harron, advised that today's meeting would be his last as Chair of the Panel, as Alex Houston was taking over the role of Operations Manager at NIE Networks.

The Panel thanked Trevor for his service, and welcomed Alex to his new post.

3. Review of minutes of previous meeting, including actions

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed.

4. PPM reactive power capability requirements

JD talked to a presentation (the presentation was circulated to the Panel). A discussion of the issues presented and the proposal (which includes a proposal to amend the D Code), then ensued.

DH advised that he would need to consider if the proposal was consistent with the requirements of RfG. DH said he would provide an update at the next meeting of the Panel, at which point the Panel could then discuss the merits of taking forward a D Code amendment for consultation.

Action:

- i. **DH to consider JD's proposal in terms of consistency with RfG, with a view to update the Panel at its next meeting. (DH)**

5. Consultations updates

a. Clusters consultation

SF advised that responses had been received to NIE Networks' recent consultation on clusters. The responses are being analysed and will be used in the development of a decision paper setting out a proposal for implementing the changes to improve the current cluster methodology and to connect large customer and network demand into existing clusters.

b. Over-install policy

SF advised that a draft paper intended for public consultation, which sets out a view to removing the over-install limit altogether, will be shared with UR soon.

c. FLEX update

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

- NIE Networks is assessing the small-scale trial held over the summer, involving generators (who ramped down) and demand customers (who ramped up) to help manage supply-demand dynamics on the network;
- early indications suggest the trial has gone well;
- we are considering a repeat trial in the winter time;
- a report will be prepared and may be available by year-end.

6. Updates from UR

a. JOB reiterated 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 also reminded the Panel 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.

7. Update on EU network codes

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

8. SSG SCADA update

JB gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that around 28% of required SSG MW now has SCADA installed. The expectation is that around 40% can be achieved by year-end.

Progress has been slower than originally planned, owing to supply-chain problems acquiring RTUs. The revised target is now to achieve 100% compliance by end 2023.

9. TSO procurement of system services

DH gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that the Gate 7 procurement exercise was well underway with contract executions on 1 October 2022.

10. AOB

None.

11. Date of next meeting

Late Q4 2022 was proposed for the next meeting.

Action:

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