
DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Tuesday 27 April 2023

Meeting held on Zoom

MINUTES OF MEETING

a. Attendees

Members	Non-members
Alex Houston (AH), NIE Networks (Chair)	Carl Hashim (CH), NIE Networks (Secretary)
David Hill (DH), NIE Networks	Joe Bailey (JB), NIE Networks
Sinead Ferris (SF), NIE Networks	Neil MacDougall (NM), NIE Networks
Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Utility Regulator	Ben Harris (BH), Utility Regulator
Joe Duddy (JD), RES	Finian Hagan (FH), SONI

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:

- Andrew Cupples, NIE Networks
- Laura Birch, NIE Networks
- Cormac Bradley, NIE Networks
- Paul Kennedy, Power NI
- Andrew McCorriston, SSE
- Brian Mongan, FERA

Attendance unconfirmed from:

- Kevin Hannafin, Energia
- Gemma Monaghan, Air Core NI

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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 and agreed.

4. PPM reactive power capability requirements

DH advised that a draft consultation setting out the consequent proposed D Code amendments had been shared with RES for review and comment. DH confirmed that

once feedback is received and reflected in the paper as necessary, the consultation will be published.

Action:

i. **DH to finalise and publish the consultation. (DH)**

5. Consultations updates

a. Clusters consultation

The Panel was advised that there was nothing to update on this workstream.

b. Over-install policy

DH advised the draft consultation which sets out a view to removing the over-install limit altogether, will be ready for publishing in the next few weeks.

c. FLEX update

The Panel was advised that there were no updates on the FLEX project.

d. Generation connections consultation

DH advised that NIE Networks and SONI had published a joint consultation on providing generating export offers to generators of less than 5MW. As part of the consultation, NIE Networks is considering an update to SSG Connection Offers and Agreements as an alternative to issuing refusals to connect. NIE Networks and SONI are developing actions to manage and mitigate against further system security risk, whilst also enabling generation under 5MW export offers to be issued. The consultation closes on 12 May 2023.

6. Updates from UR

JOB advised the following –

- SONI is currently consulting on (aspects of its) planning standards. JOB further advised that UR wants SONI to carry a full review of its standards, and it expects SONI will do so later in the year.
- The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) is considering obligating operators of EV charge points to provide certain information to DNOs. JOB suggested these obligations may be considered for Northern Ireland, and it may have implications for the D Code.

7. Update on network codes

DH advised the forthcoming amendments to the D Code as follows –

- Amendments to reflect changes to the PPM reactive power capability requirements (see item 4. above).
- Amendments to bring G98/G99 requirements in line with those in GB, and to reflect changing standards in line EU network codes. Some housekeeping tidy-up amendments will be included in this series of amendments.

8. SSG SCADA update

JB gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that 40.9% of required SSG MW capacity now has SCADA installed. Progress remains slow but steady. NIE Networks remains of the view 100% compliance can be achieved by end 2024.

9. TSO procurement of system services

DH advised that Gate 8 had concluded, with 4 contracts being awarded with an effective date of 1 April 2023. Gate 9 will commence soon.

DH also advised that future arrangements for procurement of system services were being considered by the regulators and TSOs. One possible change is that services may be procured by auction. Any such new arrangements are likely to be in place post 2025.

DH further advised that the costs of procuring services may exceed the budget in the current year (c€280m versus a budget of €235m). One proposal being considered to address this may be a 'renewables only' provision of system services.

10. AOB

None.

11. Date of next meeting

August / September 2023 was proposed for the next meeting.

Action:

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