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## DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Thursday 31 August 2023

Meeting held on Zoom

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### MINUTES OF MEETING

a. Attendees

| <b>Members</b>   | <b>Non-members</b>                 |
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| Carl Hashim (CH), NIE Networks (Chair)<br>[alternate for Alex Houston] | Gemma Morrow (GM), NIE Networks    |
| David Hill (DH), NIE Networks  | Conleth McAteer (CA), SONI         |
| Andrew Cupples, NIE Networks   | Finian Hagan (FH), SONI            |
| Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Utility Regulator                                  | Ben Harris (BH), Utility Regulator |
| Joe Duddy (JD), RES  |                                    |

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:

- Alex Houston, NIE Networks
- Lisa O'Neill, NIE Networks
- Laura Birch, NIE Networks
- Cormac Bradley, NIE Networks
- Neil MacDougall, NIE Networks
- Andrew McCorrison, SSE
- Sam Alexander, Cool Planet
- Paul Kennedy, Power NI
- Sam Matthews, SONI
- Brian Mongan, FERA
- Mark Gormley, Cool Planet

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

The Chair advised the Panel that Joe Duddy was retiring, and that NIRIG would need to nominate a replacement. The Panel thanked Joe for his many years of dedicated service to the Panel.

**Action:**

- i. **Secretary to contact Renewables NI and request a replacement nominee for Joe Duddy. (CH)**

### 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 NIE Networks consulted over the summer on the necessary changes to the D Code. The consultation closed on 28 July 2023 and two responses were received, both in favour of the changes. DH advised that a decision paper had been drafted which sets out proposed changes to the D Code exactly as per the consultation.

The Panel agreed the decision paper could be submitted to the Utility Regulator (UR) for approval.

#### **Action:**

- ii. **DH to finalise and submit the decision paper to the UR. (DH)**

### 5. Consultations updates

#### a. Clusters consultation

The Panel was advised that proposed changes to NIE Networks' Statement of Connection Charges (SoCC) to enable demand connections into clusters, is being considered by the UR. JOB advised that the UR may consider it necessary to consult on any such changes, before it can approve the updated SoCC.

#### b. Over-install policy

The Panel was advised that a consultation on the matter had closed on 21 July and a total of 16 responses were received. All respondents were in support of removing the 120% limit for single technology and hybrid co-located sites. A decision paper is currently being developed.

#### c. FLEX update

AC gave an update, noting the following –

- NIE Networks had recently consulted on its Flexibility Procurement Statement which covers the procurement principles and process for flexibility services, with 7 responses. AC advised that a final version of the statement was being developed for submission to the UR for approval.
- NIE Networks had published a Call for Evidence on Flexible Connections over the summer months. This considered various types of flexible connection arrangements and how these would be implemented. 9 responses received, NIE Network to consider next steps.

#### d. Generation connections consultation

The Panel was advised that a decision paper has been published in August that confirms the go-live date of 7 November 2023 for a change in NIE Networks' policy to issue SSG (<5MW) export offers, with updated terms within SSG Distribution Connection Offer and Agreements that details control requirements.

### 6. Updates from UR

JOB advised the Panel that the UR and DfE had launched a joint Call for Evidence regarding connection policy in NI. Responses are due by 29 September 2023.

## 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.

JD advised the Panel of possible changes that may be needed to the D Code, arising from work currently being undertaken by ACER. DH said he was aware of ACER's work and was involved in working groups considering what, if any, changes might be needed to industry codes.

## 8. SSG SCADA update

DH gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that nearly 50% 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 9 had opened in June, with seven tenders for service provision having been received. DH advised all seven tender providers had been issued with consent letters to proceed. Contracts for Gate 9 will commence from 1 October 2023.

## 10. AOB

- JOB advised the Panel that improvements to transparency regarding the Grid Code were being progressed including publication of (1) a modification register, (2) a derogation register, (3) Grid Code Panel membership, and (4) the process for modifying the Grid Code.

The Panel noted this seemed like good practice, and it should consider doing same. This matter will be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

### **Action:**

- iii. **Secretary to add transparency improvements to the agenda of the next Panel meeting. (CH)**
  - DH advised the Panel of a consultation that SONI had carried out regarding large-scale PV installations, the outcome of which required some changes to the PPM Setting Schedule. As these were relatively minor in terms of impact on the distribution network, the changes were made without the need for consultation by NIE Networks.

## 11. Date of next meeting

December 2023 was proposed for the next meeting.

### **Action:**

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