
DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Monday 6 July 2020

Meeting held by conference call

MINUTES OF MEETING

a. Attendees

<u>Members</u>	<u>Non members</u>
Trevor Harron (TH), NIE Networks (Chair)	Carl Hashim (CH), NIE Networks (Secretary)
David Hill (DH), NIE Networks	Neil MacDougall (NM), NIE Networks
Ian Bailie (IB), NIE Networks	Andrew Cupples (AC), NIE Networks
Sinead Ferris (SF), NIE Networks	Sam Matthews (SM), SONI
Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Utility Regulator	Tim Steele (TS), Utility Regulator
Joe Duddy (JD), RES	Karen O'Doherty (KOD), NIE Networks
Paul Kennedy (PK), Power NI [<i>alternate for William Steele</i>]	
Gemma Monaghan (GM), Air Core NI	
Andrew McCorriston (AM), SSE	
Brian Mongan (BM), Powerhouse Generation [<i>alternate for Sam Alexander</i>]	

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:

- Denis Kelly, NIE Networks
- Sam Alexander, Powerhouse Generation
- William Steele, Power NI

Attendance unconfirmed from:

- Kevin Hannafin, Energia

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair noted that attendance constituted a quorum.

2. Update on Panel membership

The Chair advised there had been no changes since the last meeting of the Panel.

3. Review of minutes of previous meeting, including actions

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed; there were no actions from the meeting. The Panel agreed the minutes.

4. RoCoF workstream update

DH gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that –

- NIE Networks had completed all the necessary work to give affect to the RoCoF changes;
- As of 16 June the TSOs are now progressing with the next phase of the programme.

5. Update on EU network codes

DH gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that –

- there are minor changes and housekeeping modifications required to the Distribution Code, G98/NI and G99/NI. These changes have been drafted and will be circulated to the Panel ahead of a possible consultation in Q3 2020;
- as part of the EU Network Code Emergency and Restoration, the TSOs are required to have in place a system defence plan and a system restoration plan. NIE Networks has been working with SONI on these a consultation on same will be published during the summer;
- an EU expert working group has been considering how storage can be facilitated within the current Network Codes. At present the Requirements for Generators (RfG) code excludes storage installations. The group has concluded and has recommended an approach where RfG would be amended to now include storage; and the group has drafted the required changes and these will have to go forward to the EU Commission to make the necessary legislative changes which make take some considerable time.

6. SSG SCADA update

DH gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that work was due to recommence on the programme in September following completion of the RoCoF work programme.

7. TSO procurement of system services

DH gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that –

- 'Gate 3' opened on 15 June via an OJEU notice, and bidders have until 20 July to submit their tenders;
- NIE Networks has until 21 August to issue consent letters to allow bidders to participate in the provision of these system services.

8. Consultations updates

a. Connections update

KOD gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that the consultation on the issue had concluded without a clear consensus on the way forward. NIE Networks had hosted a workshop recently, and is planning another workshop, in order to develop an informed plan for next steps which has industry support.

- b. MIC Charging
IB gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that a decision paper was being finalised by NIE Networks and would be submitted to UR during the summer.
- c. Greater Access to the Distribution Network
IB gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that NIE Networks is currently engaging with UR regarding funding to take forward the proposals in the recommendations paper.
- d. Standard P28/2
IB gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that the recent consultation had concluded with NIE Networks adopting the standard exactly as it is in GB. The new standard took effect from 1 July 2020.
- e. Demand connections into clusters
KOD gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that NIE Networks will soon be issuing a Call for Evidence to allow industry to give its view on future policy relating to cluster connections. This will include considering if demand customers can/should connect, and/or how clusters might feed into any reinforcement planning in the vicinity of a cluster. The Call for Evidence will then be followed by a consultation.
- f. Future design of connections for low carbon technologies (LCT)
IB gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that –
- NIE Networks is at an early stage of considering how best to future-proof the network vis-à-vis an appropriate After Diversity Maximum Demand (ADMD) design policy for new connections to facilitate the up-take of LCTs;
 - as part of these considerations, NIE Networks will be seeking views from industry by way of a consultation, which is expected to occur during August;
 - NIE Networks has a reopener in the price control which allows it to seek additional allowances to facilitate growth in LCT, and a request for such allowances is planned to be submitted to UR in October 2020. The responses from the August consultation are expected to help inform NIE Networks submission for additional allowances.

9. AOB

- SF gave a verbal update to the Panel on fast-track G99 applications, noting that NIE Networks would be in a position to accept these imminently.
- JOB advised the Panel that UR will be issuing a paper in autumn time regarding interim arrangements for transmission-connected storage. There may be implications for the Distribution Code as this workstream unfolds, and UR will engage with the Panel as necessary.

10. Date of next meeting

Mid September 2020 was proposed for the next meeting.

Action:

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