
DISTRIBUTION CODE REVIEW PANEL

Thursday 9 September 2021

Meeting held on Zoom

MINUTES OF MEETING

a. Attendees

Members	Non-members
Carl Hashim (CH), NIE Networks (Chair) <i>[alternate for Trevor Harron]</i>	Neil MacDougall (NM), NIE Networks
David Hill (DH), NIE Networks	Andrew Cupples (AC), NIE Networks
Jonny Pollock (JP), NIE Networks	Christopher Surgeoner (CS), NIE Networks
Jody O'Boyle (JOB), Utility Regulator	Karen O'Doherty (KOD), NIE Networks
Paul Kennedy (PK), Power NI <i>[alternate for William Steele]</i>	Cormac Bradley (CB), NIE Networks
Sinead Ferris (SF), NIE Networks	Roisin Ballentine (RB), NIE Networks
Brian Mongan (BM), Powerhouse Generation <i>[alternate for Sam Alexander]</i>	Kenny McPartland (KM), Utility Regulator
Joe Duddy (JD), RES	

b. Apologies

Apologies received from:

- Trevor Harron, NIE Networks
- Denis Kelly, NIE Networks
- Sam Alexander, Powerhouse Generation
- William Steele, Power NI
- Andrew McCorriston, SSE
- Gemma Monaghan, Air Core NI
- Sam Matthews, SONI

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

No updates were noted.

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. Consultations updates

a. Connections update

KOD provided an update, advising that a decision paper on the interim connections policy whereby NIE Networks would issue distribution connection offers to generators 5MW and above with non-firm market access, was published in Feb 2021. NIE Networks has been working with UR since Q1 to agree drafting to be included in the SoCC to enable the process to go live. Drafting is currently with UR for consideration.

JOB confirmed UR had stated at the Renewables Grid Liaison Group (RGLG) that it has no objections in principle and it was just a matter of agreeing the drafting.

b. Over-install policy

KOD provided an update, advising that as part of FlexTech the four System Operators (SOs) had committed to reviewing the current 120% over-install rule. NIE Networks and SONI have had initial engagement with UR to make it aware of the review. Timelines are challenging with a target end date of Q1 2022 for approval from UR to proceed with any necessary changes to approved documents. The process will involve industry engagement and a public consultation if changes are required to such approved documents.

It was noted by the Panel that industry is in favour of the review and JD stated that industry would prefer that a rule such as this was within an approved and governed document.

c. MIC Charging

RB presented an update to the Panel (the presentation was circulated to the Panel).

d. Demand connections into clusters

KOD provided an updated, noting that there is one outstanding issue to be addressed to enable the publication of the consultation which follows on from the Call for Evidence held in 2020.

e. FLEX update

CB provided an update on the FLEX initiative. Key points as follows –

- NIE Networks is awarding contracts for circa 20 MW of Flexibility services in 11 Flexibility Trial Zones (subject to testing);
- estimated total value of these contracts is circa £400,000;
- contracts are being awarded to five separate operators for all three products: Sustain, Secure and Dynamic;
- estimated 14,530 MWh Availability, 874 MWh Utilisation;
- there will be 71 assets ranging from 1.54 MW to 3.4 kW.

5. Updates from UR

There were no updates noted.

6. Update on EU network codes

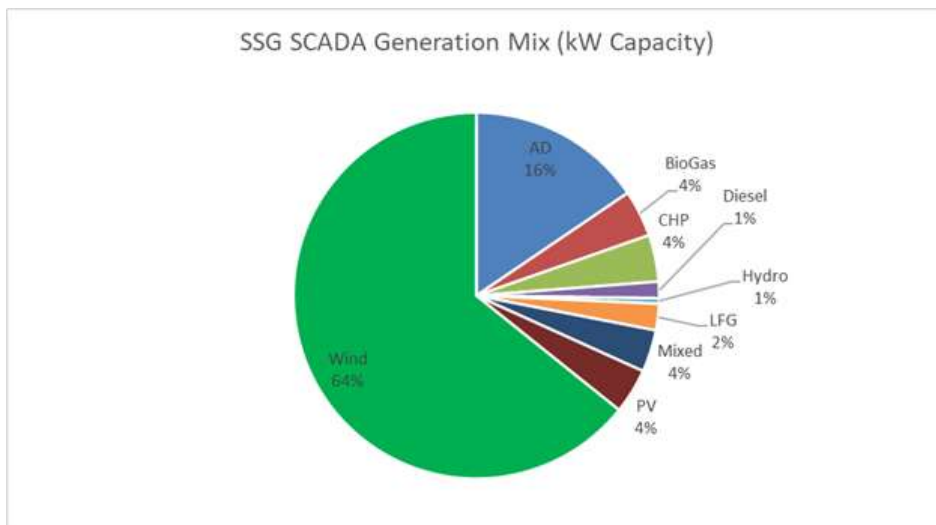
DH gave an update on the status of the G98/NI and G99/NI consultation. Drafting had been completed but had to be revisited due to a query raised in respect of storage. DH plans to circulate to the Panel before the end of September.

7. SSG SCADA update

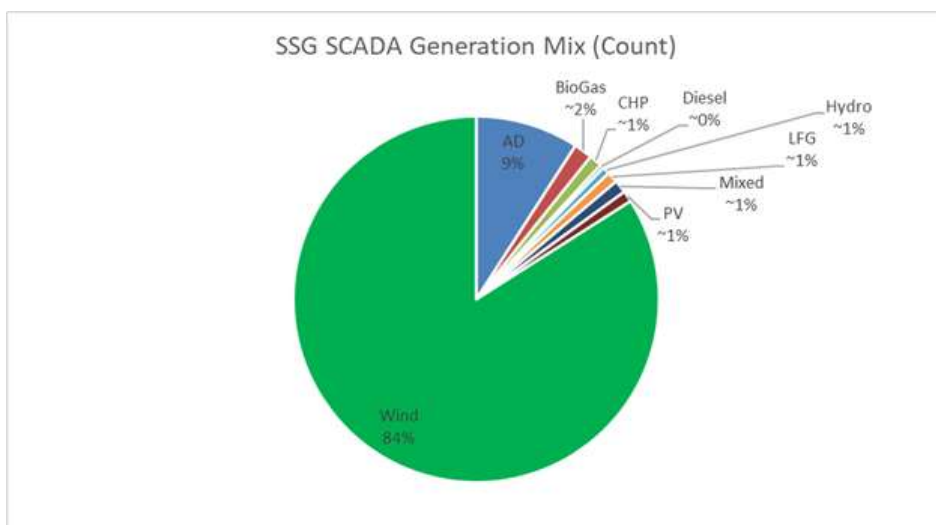
CS presented an update to the Panel (the presentation was circulated to the Panel).

BM asked a question regarding the technology mix of SSGs requiring SCADA. CS said he would review this provide the information in due course – see below.

a. A percentage of the total kW capacity of SSGs requiring SCADA



b. A percentage of the total number of generators which require SCADA



8. TSO procurement of system services

DH gave a verbal update to the Panel, noting that the Gate 5 procurement exercise was underway, with six providers submitting bids and being awarded contracts to commence on 1 October.

DH noted that the SEM Committee was due to undertake a review of the arrangements for procuring system services, given that current arrangements are to end in 2023. However, the SEMC has extended the period to April 2024 meaning there will be a Gate 6 procurement exercise. The SEMC will be reviewing the procurement arrangements, to be effective from 2024.

9. AOB

(1) JOB advised that the UR is undertaking a review of the governance arrangements in respect of SONI's Grid Code Review Panel. JOB said would consider requiring amendments to governance documents such as the Panel Constitution, to mirror relevant documents applicable in GB. JOB said the arrangements in GB give better transparency on process and timelines for how the Panel should operate, including things such as how Codes are modified.

JOB advised that after it had concluded this work for the Grid Code Review Panel, it may consider doing same for the Distribution Code Review Panel.

(2) KOD advised that the TSOs had commenced a review of "Registered Capacity" in summer 2021, and after presenting at the JGCRP it was felt the review should encompass all four SOs and all four Codes. The plan is to review "Registered Capacity" and related terms in each of the Codes and assess its suitability for existing and new technologies. If it is deemed a new definition(s) is required, the appropriate change and consultation and approval processes will be followed for each of the four Codes. This work is due to conclude Q4 2022.

10. Date of next meeting

December 2021 was proposed for the next meeting.

Action:

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