

SONI Consultation Paper: HVDC Modification

Consultation Paper
04/10/23



1. Introduction

- 1.1 Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1447 of 26 August 2016 establishing a network code on requirements for grid connection of high voltage direct current systems and direct current-connected power park modules (hereafter referred to as HVDC Network Code) is one of three Connection Codes which form part of the European Network Codes.
- 1.2 The HVDC Network Code seeks to provide a clear legal framework for grid connections and facilitate electricity trading whilst ensuring system security, facilitating the integration of high voltage direct current (HVDC) connections, including direct current-connected (DC-connected) Power Park Modules (PPMs), as well as the associated system services while ensuring a more efficient use of the network.
- 1.3 The HVDC Network Code 'entered into force' on 15 September 2016, and applies to HVDC systems and DC-connected PPMs that conclude a final and binding contract for the purchase of their main plant after 15 September 2018.
- 1.4 This modification is required to ensure the SONI Grid Code is inclusive of the HVDC Network Code requirements.
- 1.5 This consultation period is proposed to be 6 weeks; the deadline for submission of comments is close of business on 15/11/2023. SONI will submit a copy of all responses to the Utility Regulator alongside a report on this consultation. If a response is required to remain confidential this should clearly be stated. The intention is to publish all non-confidential responses. Please note that, in any event, all responses will be shared with the Regulatory Authority.

2. Background and Overview

- 2.1 The HVDC Network Code is one of three Connection Codes which form part of the European Network Codes. It seeks to provide a clear legal framework for grid connections and facilitate electricity trading whilst ensuring system security, facilitating the integration of HVDC connections, including DC-connected PPMs, as well as the associated system services while ensuring a more efficient use of the network.
- 2.2 The HVDC Network Code 'entered into force' on 15 September 2016, and applies to HVDC systems and DC-connected PPMs that conclude a final and binding contract for the purchase of their main plant after 15 September 2018.
- 2.3 SONI submitted our Proposal for the General Application of the HVDC Requirements for Northern Ireland to the Utilities Regulator on 21 December 2018.
- 2.4 On 26.06.19 The Utility Regulator issued a decision paper, granting part-approval of the HVDC Requirements.

- 2.5 SONI re-submitted an updated Proposal for the General Application of the HVDC Requirements for Northern Ireland to the Utilities Regulator on 05 April 2023.
- 2.6 On 11.07.23 The Utility Regulator issued a decision paper granting full approval of the HVDC Requirements
- 2.7 This proposed modification is in line with the HVDC Network Code and the UR approved HVDC Requirements.
- 2.8 The purpose of this modification is to incorporate the requirements set out in the EU Network Code related to HVDC Connections into the SONI Grid Code.
- 2.9 The proposed changes to the Grid Code are highlighted in Section 3 below.

3. Changes to the Grid Code – High Voltage Direct Current Systems and Direct Current Connected Controllable Power Pack Modules

Red-line Version of Impacted Grid Code Section(s) - show proposed changes to text:

Refer to SPID_04_2023_HVDC_proposal_redline

4. Benefits and Impacts

- 4.1 This modification will ensure that SONI Grid Code is inclusive of the HVDC Network Code requirements.
- 4.2 Currently any HVDC Unit that is seeking a connection to the Northern Ireland Grid must ensure they are compliant with three separate documents; the HVDC Network Code; the HVDC Requirements; and the SONI Grid Code in order to ascertain all applicable requirements for HVDC Units.
- 4.3 This modification seeks to incorporate all requirements into the SONI Grid Code.
- 4.4 The modification will also ensure that SONI are demonstrably compliant with the HVDC Network Code.
- 4.5 This modification is expected to have no other impact than to ensure the accuracy, completeness and applicability of existing requirements and definitions.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 The consultation period will run for 6 weeks. Users are invited to send their comments to SONI via email to gridcode@soni.ltd.uk by close of business on

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Wednesday 15/11/2023. Should any Users have any queries, they should contact SONI via gridcode@soni.ltd.uk

- 5.2 Following receipt of comments in relation to this Consultation Paper and the expiration of the period for making comments, SONI will, in accordance with Condition 16 of its Licence, send to the Utility Regulator a report on the outcome of this review.
- 5.3 If you require your response to remain confidential you should clearly state this on the coversheet of the response. We intend to publish all non-confidential responses. Please note that, in any event, all responses will be shared with the Utility Regulator.
- 5.4 Following the end of the consultation period and subject to discussions to be held with the Utility Regulator, the approved modification to the Grid Code (with amendments as described in this consultation paper) will be incorporated into the code.