

## APPROVED

### MINUTES OF THE SONI GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, 3 Cromac Place, Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 2JB

On Wednesday 3rd October 2012, 13.15 – 15.30

Present:

<b>Members/Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	
Brendan Woods	SONI	Chairman
Alex Baird	SONI	As an advisor for SONI
Conor O’Doherty	SONI	As an advisor for SONI
Dick Lewis	SONI	As an advisor for SONI
Bronagh McKeown	SONI	As an advisor for SONI
Tom McCartan	SONI	
Yvonne Caughlan	EirGrid	
David Macartney	Power NI Energy Limited (PPB)	Observer
Angela Blair	Power NI Energy Limited (PPB)	Observer
Denis McBride	AES Ballylumford	Generator
Jim Cooke	Coolkeeragh ESB	Generator
Cathal Martin	SSER	Generator
Brian Mongan	AES	Generator
Brian Mulhern	NIAUR	Regulator
Dalia Majumder-Russell	CMS	Secretary of the SONI GCRP

#### **1. Chairman’s Introduction to the Meeting**

- The Chairman welcomed the Panel Members and gave an overview of the agenda.
- The Chairman thanked Dick Lewis and explained to the Panel Members that Dick Lewis was stepping down from the role of Chairman.

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

- The Chairman noted that apologies had been received from Gerry Hodgkinson and Michael Atkinson (who is replacing Bronagh Lunney), Colin Broomfield (NIAUR), Mick McGuckin (Moyle) and Stephen Hemphill (Moyle).

- The Chairman noted that there is no representation in relation to the Distribution Code. Dick Lewis noted that there is no formal role for SONI on the Distribution Code Review Panel

### 3. Minutes of the Grid Code Review Panel Meeting held on 24 May 2012

- The minutes were approved by the Panel without any additional points.

### 4. Points arising from Minutes (not otherwise included in Agenda)

- On the WFPS Settings Schedule, EirGrid has asked generators about their approach to start up time (proposed to be 90 seconds). EirGrid has expressed that it would not have a ramp applicable point and would wish a generator to make best efforts to reduce start up time. Cathal Martin expressed that a harmonised approach would be preferred and that now that the WFPS Settings Schedule sets out specific technical information on this, generators may be in violation of the ramp rate.

**ACTION: SONI to discuss issue with EirGrid to establish position on ramp rate and the reactive capability of the WFPS. SONI to update Cathal Martin.**

- The Chairman updated that a DSU workshop has been held but DSU still cannot operate due to licensing arrangements in Northern Ireland. SONI to keep watching brief on this issue.

### 5. Grid Code Changes

#### 5.1 RoCoF Proposal for discussion (Tom McCartan)

- Tom McCartan gave a presentation of SONI's proposals on RoCoF and opened the topic for discussion.
- Tom McCartan explained that SONI's intention is to change certain Connection Conditions so as to provide a RoCoF for generators. David Macartney pointed out that the GB Grid Code defines what exceptional circumstances are. Tom McCartan noted that there is no such plan for SONI at the moment.
- Tom McCartan explained that the ultimate goal is for the same standard to apply on the Island of Ireland but for the moment and until the second N/S tie line is completed, a higher standard is needed in Northern Ireland (2Hz/s). At the moment there is the 47Hz-52Hz requirement on generators operating. SONI confirmed that the intention is that CC5.3.4 (about 2Hz/s) would be removed once the second N/S tie line has been completed.
- Dick Lewis noted that Fault Ride through has been added for harmonisation with the EirGrid code and is not a standard in existence previously in the SONI Grid Code. The views of the Panel were welcome including, if a fault ride through provision was included, what its content should be.
- Denis McBride commented that DS3 working group published a paper in May 2012 on sizeable events in the last few years. David Macartney requested that references to this paper be made in the consultation paper and noted also that the paper had considered falling rather than rising frequency.
- Denis McBride voiced his concerns about the long term effects and impact on gas turbines and the lack of information from OEMs to date. Denis McBride also noted that 1Hz was the figure that was discussed at Grid Code working group meeting and this figure is achievable. At present

the generator do not have any indication yet about the timescales and costs of undertaking the various studies and there are likely impacts on the business plan. Denis McBride noted to the regulator that 500MW export rejection is becoming an issue and where a change to the systems is required, generators would need recompense for these changes.

- Dick Lewis explained that while a harmonised position would be preferable, it would be remiss for SONI to provide for 1Hz when it recognises that system separation is a potential issue. The Chairman seconded the opinion that a credible risk currently exists.
- Jim Cooke noted that Coolkeeragh plant was built for a minimum functional specification of 1.5Hz/s. Cathal Martin asked about current approach if one of the lines North-South does not function.
- David Macartney asked if PST control could be an alternative solution? Alex Baird and Dick Lewis both did not think this would address the concern and opens other problems. Alex explained that it does not address transient situation and the PST is too small to deal with a 300MW split across the PSTs if North-South does not function. Alex also noted that Moyle availability is not helpful either and potentially can make matters worse.
- There was then a discussion about how non-compliance with the proposals may be dealt with by SONI. Jim Cooke also noted that a doubling in NOx emissions that may be associated with this change would need to be explained to the Environmental Agency. Denis McBride reiterated his concern about the costs of complying with the proposals. Brian Mulhern suggested Denis McBride sends the regulator a breakdown of costs so the regulator has an idea of the sums.
- Dick Lewis noted that the next step is for SONI to consult on the Grid Code modifications and noted that the TSOs intend to progress this issue simultaneously on the Island of Ireland.
- Dick Lewis highlighted that the definition of RoCoF is important to consider and welcomed views from the Panel, as the definition was not specifically included in the presentation. Denis McBride pointed out that a smaller window may result in fluctuations.

**ACTION: SONI to circulate slides prepared by Grainne O’Shea and Panel to provide inputs to SONI on definition of RoCoF and in respect of Fault Ride through.**

## **6. WFPS Testing Document – Consultation / Update**

- Conor O’Doherty updated the Panel that the consultation has now closed and SONI has received 6 responses. Most of the responses note that the reactive capability as stipulated by SONI is difficult for some technologies and note some concerns with the certification process. Overall, SONI believes that having considered these responses it should be in a position to send its report to the Regulator for approval.
- Cathal Martin commented that while the wind industry welcomed the document, they felt it would benefit from further development with the industry. In particular, the wind industry wishes to have a presentation on what the final WFPS Settings Schedule would look like prior to it being sent to the regulator.
- Dick Lewis explained that while the work is carried out jointly, there will be differences in how the standards are stated between the Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland Grid Codes.
- Cathal Martin noted that some requirements were relaxed in DS3 working group meetings, such as allowance for reactive power capability was lowered; post fault active power recovery was put into 2 bands. These changes were considered in the consultation. Conor O’Doherty

explained that initially EirGrid was looking for greater reactive power capability from WFPSs but has since lessened the requirement. Dick Lewis confirmed that the response to consultation will aim to respond and correct discrepancies.

- Cathal Martin noted that the voltage control modifications could be confusing. Conor O'Doherty welcomed the feedback and noted that SONI would wish the WFPS to be operated on full reactive capability, and where there is voltage probation on system, to be operated on PA and then revert to full reactive capability. Cathal Martin thought additional P vs Q charts could be helpful on this to prevent unexpected effects.

**ACTION: Cathal Martin to send Conor O'Doherty a worked example in respect of reactive capability for consideration as part of WFPS Settings Schedule.**

## **7. Fail to Sync – Consultation Update**

- The Chairman explained that 4 responses were received to the joint Fail to Sync consultation and that a joint response paper has been sent to the Regulator. NAIUR is expected to consider the proposals at the start of w/c 8 October and is also considering the dispute in respect of the 2010 Fail to Sync consultation.
- David Macartney voiced that PPB would have wished to have had dialogue with SONI prior to the papers being sent to the regulator because the consultation paper was published the day before the last Panel meeting. The Chairman expressed that SONI believes it is in compliance with its licence conditions and Alex Baird commented that the Fail to Sync matter was discussed in several meetings. Denis McBride commented that he would prefer dialogue to be the normal way of proposing changes.
- Tom McCartan commented that SONI recognises that generators are reacting to SONI being able to re-declare the plant and that SONI does not believe that the modification arose because of the dispute on the 2010 Fail to Sync Consultation. Alex Baird pointed out that SONI recognises that AES and PPB are the primary objectors on this and that Alex Baird wrote to Denis McBride when SONI discovered anomalies in Grid Code to explain why a second modification would be needed.
- Brian Mulhern recognised that the issue is now before the regulator and noted also that NIAUR has received an email from David Macartney voicing concerns.

## **8. DS 3**

- The Chairman noted the Panel had been given an update in respect of DS3 in the joint Grid Code panel meeting and that the commissioning and testing review was held for conventional generations on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Brian Mongan confirmed that there will be representation from generators at the meeting. Yvonne Caughlan will double-check that invitations have been sent out.
- Cathal Martin queried if a session will also be held for wind generators. Conor O'Doherty confirmed that one would be held in the future (19 November, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk)

## **9. Any Other Business**

- The Panel noted that no Distribution Code meetings has been convened in the last 9 months

**ACTION: SONI to query when the next Distribution Code meeting is.**

- The Chairman noted that the next Network Codes meeting is on 24 October in Dublin at Eirgrid offices.
- East West - David Macartney asked for an update on the East-West interconnector. The Chairman explained that it is expected to be fully operational by Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**10. Arrangements for next meeting**

- The Chairman informed the Panel of the following proposed dates for the next GCRPs and JGCRPs
  - 4 December 2012 (Dublin)