

MINUTES OF THE SONI GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin

Wednesday 30th September 2015, 12.45pm -1.45pm

Present:

Members/Alternates	Representing	Position on the GCRP
Sam Matthews	SONI	Chairperson
Marie-Therese Campbell	SONI	Alternate Member
Karen Creighton	SONI	Member
Tom McCartan	SONI	Alternate Member
Stephen Hemphill	Moyle	Member
Conor O'Doherty	SONI	Member
Denis McBride	AES	Member
Angela Blair	PPB	Observer
Billy Walker	NIAUR	Member
Jim Cooke	CESB	Member
Denis Kelly	NIE	Member
Claver Chitambo	RES	Alternate Member
Leigh McCarthy	SONI	Secretary of the SONI GCRP

1. Chairperson's Introduction to the Meeting

The Chairperson welcomed the Panel Members, alternates and observers and gave an overview of the agenda.

2. Apologies for absence

The Chairperson noted that apologies were received from: Alex Baird and Tony McElroy.

3. Minutes of the Grid Code Review Panel Meeting held on 13th May 2015

The Panel Members were asked if there were any further comments on the minutes from the previous SONI GCRP meeting in May 2015. There being no other comments, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Panel.

4. Points arising from minutes

4.1 The Chairperson noted the following actions from the previous meeting:

4.1.1 An action was noted from the previous meeting to discuss DSU/AGU membership of the SONI GCRP. Sam Matthews has spoken to Patrick Liddy about this matter.

Action: SM to speak to Patrick Liddy as chair of the DRAI to seek representation.

4.1.2 Conor O'Doherty to circulate details of the Networks Codes Working Group. This action is now closed.

4.1.3 SONI to issue a revised copy of the Grid Code showing proposed changes. This action is now closed.

4.1.4 The Regulatory Authorities to review SONI's summary re. Fail to Sync Notice and discuss with CER. Billy Walker advised that this had been taken forward and meetings were held with PPB. This modification will be issued very soon.

4.1.5 Panel Membership has now been confirmed and this action is closed.

4.1.6 A joint working group to be set up ahead of this meeting. Karen Creighton is leading this group and this action is now closed.

4.1.7 Marie-Therese Campbell to consider whether the amendments re. the definition of MW availability standard in the WFPS SS would require a consultation. Marie-Therese Campbell noted that the proposed Grid Code changes re. MW availability did not require a consultation. Claver Chitambo noted that a proposal was put to NIRIG and no view was expressed contrary to this. This action is now closed.

4.1.8 Marie-Therese Campbell to circulate a document explaining house-keeping changes. She confirmed that the latest version of the SONI Grid Code was available online from 7th August and is now up to date. This action is closed. Claver Chitambo asked if Marie-Therese Campbell could confirm that there are no further changes to the redline version previously circulated. Marie-Therese Campbell confirmed that there was only one change regarding the 200 ms timeframe. This action is now closed.

4.1.9 SONI to respond to UR on Dynamic Models. This action is now closed.

5. Grid Code Review Panel Membership

5.1 Grid Code Review Panel Membership has now been confirmed.

6. Grid Code Modifications

- 6.1 Marie- Therese Campbell advised that 3 out of 5 DSU modifications have been approved by NIAUR and are included in the latest version of SONI Grid Code.
- 6.2 Billy Walker confirmed that UR will be approving shortly the two remaining modifications relating to DSU's on Frequency Requirements and Performance Monitoring.
- 6.3 Karen Creighton said that SONI comments on responses regarding dynamic models. There has been a delay for the same modification in ROI as there are additional mechanical parameters. The approach going forward will be retrospective and if the TSOs possess enough information nothing further will be required. Any new parties will be required to give information. Confidentiality was also discussed. SONI is taking a pragmatic approach.
- 6.4 Billy Walker advised that EirGrid and the CER are progressing this.
- 6.5 Karen Creighton noted that consultation responses will be published once this moves forward. Comments are contained in a spreadsheet and members can check this before it is published. Sam Matthews queried whether the process will be the same for NI and ROI. Karen Creighton said that it would, previously there had been different requirements in ROI for different types of generators and there nothing regarding modelling in the SONI Grid Code before.

7. Working Groups

- 7.1 Marie-Therese Campbell commented that the item on Working Groups had been covered in the morning session at the JGCRP. Sam Matthews asked the panel members if there were any reflections.
- 7.2 Denis McBride noted that storage is included. Karen Creighton said the operation of storage is more of a discussion regarding 'stand alone' storage which is connected to the transmission system. Other parties may have difficulty controlling ramp rates for storage and this is less of a problem. There are other ancillary services issues which fall outside this forum.
- 7.3 Denis McBride suggested putting in standard characteristics for criteria for generation starting with the RfG Network Code. Karen Creighton said this is more of a terminology issue but acknowledged the need to keep parties on a level playing field.
- 7.4 Conor O'Doherty asked if the RfG Network Code would inform the Working Group. Karen Creighton said a 'light touch' approach should be adopted for this matter. When the RfG Network Code is adopted this will be a change of approach. Ramp rate terminology also needs to be considered and there is a need to try to make certain aspects technology neutral.
- 7.5 Claver Chitambo stated that technologies have similar requirements but could have different settings but capability parameters could be set. Karen Creighton said that the RfG Network Code does not give much scope for setting different parameters. Some things are not applicable and storage may have some specific aspects. At the minute, the Working Group are trying to determine if the ramp rate will work and if exemptions need to be included etc. and this will need to be considered.
- 7.6 Marie-Therese Campbell said there are also considerations regarding functional specifications for testing which will detail requirements rather than putting these in the SONI Grid Code. Karen Creighton noted that core technical specifications will be the same for all parties.
- 7.7 Denis McBride asked what the next steps are regarding the Network Codes. Sam Matthews said there is still some consideration required in this respect. It is currently unknown if there will be one 'all-island' Grid Code or if there will need to be separate codes to account for jurisdictional differences.

- 7.8 Denis McBride asked what the agreed position is. Sam Matthews said the agreed position is still the same as the position previously put forward. Angela Blair asked if TSOs are going to publish the matrix from the Working Group. Conor O'Doherty said this can be published.

Action: Conor O'Doherty to arrange for publication of Working Group matrix document.

8. Derogations

- 8.1 Marie-Therese Campbell noted that the SONI Grid Code does not have content in respect of derogations and it would be helpful to have a process for this. Currently, a generator requests a derogation from the RAs and the RAs ask SONI and SONI conducts analysis. This process should be formalised. EirGrid have a more stringent policy and process for derogation requests and timeframes for responses etc. It is proposed that the generators will now go straight to SONI to request a derogation and the TSOs will liaise with the RAs in order to streamline the process. Billy Walker welcomed the proposed new approach.
- 8.2 Denis McBride said it would be good to have a clear process. Marie-Therese Campbell said it is normal for SONI to be approached informally at the initial stages but the RAs will make the decisions regarding derogations. Denis McBride asked if the RAs have a policy in place. Billy Walker confirmed the RAs do not. Denis McBride said there would be a need to document the whole process and suggested that an independent expert should be appointed in the case of dispute with the RAs.
- 8.3 Sam Matthews said the timescales in the policy will reflect the timelines in the EirGrid Grid Code. Karen Creighton noted that all derogations are currently published under the EirGrid Grid Code.

Action: Marie-Therese Campbell to circulate proposed derogation process and check NI derogation requirements under the Network Codes.

9. New Release of Grid Code and WFSS

- 9.1 This has already been dealt with at the JGCRP meeting.

10. Priority Dispatch

- 10.1 Marie-Therese Campbell noted that there is a requirement for TSOs to periodically review priority dispatch. A letter was sent to the SEM Committee on Tuesday 29th September asking the SEMC to consider options regarding priority dispatch for solar, tidal etc. There may be a need to review this more regularly, the last review was in 2011.
- 10.2 There are two options:
- 10.2.1 Tidal set at the same level as high efficiency CHP; or
- 10.2.2 Solar and tidal at the same level.
- 10.3 Claver Chitambo queried the logic behind this. Marie-Therese Campbell said that the source is variable and not on demand. Tidal is more predictable than wind. Hybrid plant is included on the dispatch list, however this doesn't refer to hybrid connections containing different PPM. Tom McCartan said that this will make issues more complicated.

11. Regulator Update

- 11.1 No further issues to be noted.

12. Any other business

- 12.1 Marie-Therese Campbell noted that the RAs have asked SONI to raise a modification regarding retirement of plant. This currently does not exist. P.C. 6.1.3 of the SONI Grid Code specifies changes to plant but not retirement. The RAs are proposing alignment with EirGrid Grid Code which specifies that a capacity of more than 50MW requires 36 months' notice for retirement and a capacity of less than 50MW requires 24 months' notice for retirement. This will be circulated for consultation prior to the SONI GCRP meeting in December.
- 12.2 Tom McCartan commented that this would impact on the future outlook for operation of the system. Sam Matthews said there is a European direction towards notice regarding operational planning.

Action: Marie-Therese Campbell to circulate the proposed modification document ahead of the next SONI GCRP meeting.

13. Arrangements for next meeting

2nd December 2015 (Belfast)