

MINUTES OF THE SONI GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

SONI Limited, Castlereagh House, Belfast

Thursday 14 September 2017, 1.15- 2.15pm

Present:

Members/Alternates	Representing	Position on the GCRP
Raymond Skillen	TSO	Chairperson
Sam Matthews	TSO	Member
Karen O'Doherty	TSO	Member
Conor O'Doherty	TSO	Member
Ciaran MacCann	Regulator	Member
Alan Kennedy	TSO	Observer
Cathal Martin	Generator	Member
Conleth McAteer	TSO	Observer
Ian Bailie	DNO	Member
Timothy Steele	SEMO	Observer
Rowan Griffin	TSO	Observer
Angela Blair	Power NI PPB	Observer
Jim Cooke	Generator	Member
Brian Mongan	Generator	Alternate
Joseph Coyle	Generator	Alternate
Sam Gibson	Interconnector	Alternate
Mervyn Adams	Renewables	Member
Alastair Cooke	TSO	Observer
Ian Stevenson	TSO	Alternate
Conor O'Byrne		Observer
Leigh McCarthy	TSO	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. Minutes of the Grid Code Review Panel Meeting held on 25 April 2017

The Panel Members were asked if there were any further comments on the minutes from the previous SONI GCRP meeting in April 2017. There being no other comments, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Panel.

3. Points arising from minutes

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

- 3.1.1 SONI to inquire if generators would be asked to participate in a review of the amendments required to the Grid Code re. retirement of plant. From previous discussions there will be a workshop and all attendees can input. This action is now closed.
- 3.1.2 SONI to set up a Joint TSO/DNO working group to enable SONI to achieve controllability of generation down to 1MW in Northern Ireland. The working group has now met and a constructive meeting took place. Terms of reference were reviewed and the main areas identified were governance of codes. TSO/DNOs considered their ability to fulfil licence obligations. Another area is controlling telemetry. The penetration of embedded generation is increasing and the control of this generation is important to maintain transmission system stability. The process will consider any gaps in governance and licence requirements for the TSO/DSO. The next working group meeting will take place in mid-October. Cathal Martin noted that ROCOF settings are separate.

4. Discussion Items

4.1 *Over Installation/Zero export Modification*

- 4.1.1 A detailed [consultation](#) will be published into which participants can contribute. Conleth McAteer presented slides.
- 4.1.2 Cathal Martin asked if Grid Code capacity will be based on registered capacity rather than MEC, if so, this will mean reactive power is based on 120% of Registered Capacity. Reactive power requirements are currently based on registered capacity in Grid Code and in the RfG. SONI is trying to keep as many requirements in line with RFG as possible and is only making changes where it makes sense to do so.

- 4.1.3 Cathal Martin queried whether these changes would be retrospectively applied. Conleth McAteer confirmed they would not. Brian Mongan asked for an example. Conleth McAteer explained the maximum capacity definition. SONI is aligning terms and taking text from RfG maximum capacity term to expand upon current Grid Code term Registered Capacity. Brian Mongan noted that he did not think this will work. Conleth McAteer noted that this is a proposal that is going out to consultation. The Chairperson asked that feedback be sent to SONI as soon as possible.
- 4.1.4 The Consultation will be published tomorrow and will be open for a period of 4 weeks from 15/09/2017. Ian Bailie advised that basing reactive power requirements on Registered Capacity will require higher rated connection assets which will incur significant costs, generators will be looking to maximise efficiency, there will be a knock on effect caused by over-installation. Conleth McAteer reiterated that we are not proposing a change to reactive requirements as per today's Grid Code or any deviation from RfG requirements.
- 4.1.5 Mervyn Adams queried the difference between registered capacity and MEC. Karen O'Doherty advised that in the past these were not different and it was assumed they are the same. MEC feeds into TUOS contracts, however, now there will be a difference. Mervyn Adams asked if one site can be different if there is a different turbine, historically this was the case. The Chairperson confirmed this was not. There will be an opportunity to comment on this matter further.

4.2 ***Power Park Module Clarification***

- 4.2.1 The Chairperson noted the clarification has been debated a number of meetings. Karen O'Doherty presented slides.
- 4.2.2 Cathal Martin asked whether all requirements will still apply to battery storage. Karen O'Doherty said this would, if above threshold, i.e. in excess of 10MW. In this case a generator must participate in the energy market. In future if this is not the case this will then need to be separated. Cathal Martin noted that this question will be asked in respect of FFR etc., as converters will need to be updated to participate in the market. Karen O'Doherty noted the potential for a non-energy providing service provider (in excess of 10MW) s will need to be discussed by the TSC panel also, should the matter arise. Cathal Martin stated if generators (batteries) are forced to participate in reactive power this could be a loss maker, they will be forced to participate in a service they don't want to provide. Karen O'Doherty noted that if any PPM technology was to connect they will still have to provide reactive power. Different technologies are not catered for. Cathal Martin said this will apply as things stand but will discourage batteries from providing frequency response. Karen O'Doherty advised that currently the intention is not to consult where no further requirements are being proposed. The Utility Regulator will confirm if this is an appropriate approach. Brian Mongan noted clarification re. compliance with curves irrespective of the new Grid Code clause. Karen O'Doherty said the schedules allow for consuming active and reactive power from the system. The Chairperson reiterated this is not a new requirement being debates, SONI is just seeking to provide clarity.
- 4.2.3 Cathal Martin suggested that one way of dealing with this would be similar to the treatment of min gen for wind farms, so when not working it won't pay charges. Karen O'Doherty confirmed the 12% limit is still the case re. full input/output. A new requirement is not being introduced in respect of this.

Action: Utility Regulator to confirm no consultation is required on clarification.

4.3 ***Solar Setting schedule***

- 4.3.1 The Chairperson noted that a consultation will take place later this year in respect of this matter. Conor O’Byrne presented slides.

5. SONI Grid Code Modifications

5.1 *Controllability of Generation down to 1MW*

- 5.1.1 Updated above.

5.2 *Agreed procedure changes to Metering Code*

- 5.2.1 Alastair Cooke presented slides.

- 5.2.2 Angela Blair noted this has a potential impact on generators and it is important that procedures are in place before I-SEM go live. Brian Mongan asked if the validation will take place before this goes to the market. Alastair Cooke confirmed it will. Also an additional set of comparison data will be provided and existing calculations will be replicated in the EMS to provide accurate redundancy. The Metering Code caters for the required accuracy of Operational Metering. As soon as the TSO is aware of an issue with Meter Data it will raise a market query and re-submit updated Meter Data to the market. SONI hopes the modification will be put in place before the next meeting, subject to approval from the Utility Regulator. Angela Blair noted there is another metering issue that has not been resolved. The Chairperson noted this proposal will be consulted on and participants can input. Once this consultation and approval process is completed it becomes a Grid code obligation.

5.3 *Notice Required for Closure of Plant*

- 5.3.1 The Chairperson noted this was discussed earlier.

6. Regulatory Updates

- 6.1 Ciaran MacCann confirmed that there are no updates.

7. Grid Code Constitution Review Update

- 7.1 A consultation will shortly be published for a period of 4 weeks following resolution of an issue with the SONI website. The chairperson provided clarification that 3 positions are to be included in respect of RES representation (to include large and small scale renewables and PV).

8. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

9. Arrangements for next meeting

It is anticipated that the next SONI GCRP meeting will take place in Dublin. The date and venue will be confirmed at a later date.

