

MINUTES OF THE SONI GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Hilton Hotel, Belfast

Tuesday 31 January 2017, 12.45- 2.00pm

Present:

Members/Alternates	Representing	Position on the GCRP
Raymond Skillen	TSO	Chairperson
Karen O'Doherty	TSO	Member
Conor O'Doherty	TSO	Member
Jody O'Boyle	Regulator	Member
Alan Kennedy	TSO	Observer
Cathal Martin	Generator	Member
Stephen Hemphill	Interconnector	Member
Jim Cooke	Generator	Member
Mervyn Adams	Renewables	Member
Alastair Cooke	TSO	Observer
Angela Blair	Generator	Observer
Ian Stevenson	TSO	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. Apologies for absence

The Chairperson noted that apologies were received from Ian Bailie and Ronan McKeown.

3. Minutes of the Grid Code Review Panel Meeting held on 11th October 2016

The Panel Members were asked if there were any further comments on the minutes from the previous SONI GCRP meeting in October 2016. 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 Brian Mongan was to consider how the management of gas flows might have further implications on I-SEM modifications. Brian was not in attendance, and no correspondence had been received. This action is presumed to be closed.
- 4.1.2 SONI has considered the proposal to vary the frequency of meter inspection in the context of equitable treatment. SONI has made adjustment to the Metering Code to reflect this. This action is now closed.
- 4.1.3 Following discussions between SONI and UREGNI Jody confirmed that there are no specific legal obligations in relation to this particular aspect of meter testing requirements. This action is now closed.
- 4.1.4 Mervyn Adams appointment has been confirmed. Amendments to the SONI Grid Code Constitution will be discussed further. This action is now closed.
- 4.1.5 SONI Commercial and Settlement team has confirmed that the Fuel Switching Agreements are with generators and they would engage with generators until 1st February 2017, after which the matter would be referred to the UR. The UR will address ongoing queries in respect of this matter. This action is now closed.

5. SONI Grid Code Modifications

5.1 *Metering Code*

- 5.1.1 Updates to the Metering Code reflect modern technology and the need to gather significant amounts of information from Wind Farms. A consultation will be published soon in respect of this matter.
- 5.1.2 Alastair Cooke noted that Brian Mongan had previously raised an issue re. the frequency of inspections and had queried if it was equitable for larger generators to be inspected annually while smaller generators were inspected less frequently. SONI are consulting on a proposal for all generators to be inspected at least every 36 months. SONI will increase remote meter registry reading frequency. Physical inspections will remain to be conducted by NIEN within the timeframes set out in the Grid Code.

5.2 *I-SEM*

- 5.2.1 The Chairperson advised the Panel that Alan Kennedy gave a presentation on this matter at the JGCRP. Alan Kennedy noted that there were a number of clarification

and housekeeping modifications required and these would not be consulted on. Alan noted that the legal review had highlighted a number of definitions that may need to be amended. This may be necessary in order to ensure compatibility between the Grid Codes, TSC and CMC and to avoid unnecessary/unintentional impacts on the TSC due to Grid Code precedence. These changes will be considered by the TSO. The final Grid Code draft including any revised definitions will be circulated to the panel prior to the next meeting, for discussion at the next meeting.

5.3 ***Over Installation/ Zero Export***

- 5.3.1 The Chairperson advised the Panel that SONI had previously provided an update on how the Grid Code may be modified, but thinking has moved on from then and another review is now ongoing. There will be a proposal presented at the next panel meeting, and consultation thereafter.. In the interim some customers may need to apply for a time limited derogation. An update will be given at the March RGLG.
- 5.3.2 Karen O'Doherty confirmed that the 120% over installation was not in scope for change during this process.
- 5.3.3 Jody O'Boyle queried how many generators that are currently connected are affected by this. Karen O'Doherty confirmed that no generators that are currently connected are currently affected, but there are parties who have applied for over installation type connections.
- 5.3.4 Cathal Martin queried how zero export is affected by the 120% figure. Karen O'Doherty confirmed that this is one of the issues being considered in the ongoing review, as it affects controllability and there is the added complexity that it could be a hybrid export site. She explained that currently MEC is used to define Grid Code requirements but going forward this will be based on maximum capacity in accordance with Network Codes.
- 5.3.5 The Chairperson noted that the modifications will be consulted on after they are brought to the next GCRP meeting.

5.4 ***Power Park Module***

- 5.4.1 The Chairperson advised that a number of issues have been raised in respect of this matter and noted that SONI has followed due process. SONI is considering technical queries and will review this matter further prior to the next GCRP meeting.
- 5.4.2 Cathal Martin advised that comprehensive comments have been sent to SONI including suggestions of definition changes. No individual feedback has been given to the respondent of the consultation. He queried if a report could be issued with the final version to show the consideration given to the changes which have been made/not made. Jody O'Boyle advised he saw no issue with this. Karen O'Doherty confirmed this will be published at the end of the process, to avoid any confusion.

5.1 ***SONI housekeeping modification (ROCOF)***

- 5.1.1 Following consultation in December 2012 a SONI report to NIAUR (UregNI) stated that SONI would remove clause CC5.3.4 after listening to generators concerns.
- 5.1.2 May 2014 UregNI published a decision paper in which the NI ROCOF requirement is 1Hz/s over 500 msecs and references that NI generators should study 2Hz/s but not be required to comply with this figure.
- 5.1.3 SONI Grid code modification, "Grid Code Amendments Consultation Paper: Rate of Change of Frequency (RoCoF)" displayed on the SONI web site appears not to have

been modified to reflect the removal of clause CC5.3.4. The Website will be updated and CC5.3.4 will be removed

Action: Ian Stevenson to arrange removal of clause CC5.3.4

6. Regulatory Updates

- 6.1 Jody O'Boyle confirmed that the decision paper on Derogations from Network Codes and Codes/Standards in Electricity Generation, Distribution and Transmission Licences will be issued next month. This consultation of the derogation processes and criteria applied by the UR is required under RfG.

7. Website Overhaul

- 7.1 SONI confirmed its intention, as agreed at a previous GCRP, to update the GC with a number of UREGNI approved modifications. This would be carried out in the second half of 2017. To facilitate this and minimise confusion for GC users SONI had carried out a review of its Website. SONI proposed a number of changes to ensure the GC user read the GC in conjunction with a list of up-to-date modifications. Ian Stevenson presented slides to demonstrate the proposed changes.

Action: Ian Stevenson to modify website accordingly.

- 7.2 Cathal Martin queried when an updated version of the Grid Code will be published on the website.
- 7.3 Raymond Skillen confirmed that a complete updated version will be published in the second half of this year. Due to ISEM and network Codes a major technical review is being carried out by both TSO's. It is more efficient to manage these significant changes as agreed in this way and update the GC in the second half of 2017. The Web site will highlight the need for GC users to read the current published GC in conjunction with modifications which will also be published on the website.
- 7.4 Cathal Martin stated that this might cause confusion and it would be preferable for an updated version to be published to show the current outstanding modifications. Raymond Skillen stated that SONI had noted his concerns but would attempt to mitigate this risk with Web site modifications.
- 7.5 Angela Blair and Cathal Martin advised that they are having difficulty accessing documents in Box. Jody O'Boyle noted that this needs to be addressed by an IT administrator and could require a change to security settings. Raymond Skillen advised that if anyone is having these difficulties, they should consult with their IT system administrators, and in the interim they should e-mail the secretary explaining the difficulty and in the interim e-mailed attachments would be sent to them.

8. Grid Code Constitution Review

- 8.1 The Chairperson described the rapidly changing structure of the Electricity Supply Industry in NI, with increasing numbers of grid users on the demand and generation side, using a variety of technologies. This is a good time to review membership and ensure it is suitable moving forward. Ian Stevenson presented a number of slides reviewing each membership category;
- 8.2 Existing *SONI* representation (4) including the Chairman. The opinion of the GCRP was that this number should remain unchanged.
- 8.3 Existing *Generator* representation (4). The opinion of the GCRP was that this number should be reduced to (3) to reflect the participation of this group.

- 8.4 Existing *Suppliers* representation (4). The opinion of the GCRP was that this number should be reduced to (2) to reflect the participation of this group.

Action: GCRP Secretary to contact NI suppliers (10) to evaluate their interest in joining the group. If there are more than two interested parties NIAUR will confirm the successful Panel members.

Action: In addition Raymond Skillen to ask for Supplier Member representation on the GCRP at the next Distribution Code meeting

- 8.5 Existing *RES* representation (1). The opinion of the GCRP was that this number should be increased to (3) to reflect the participation of this group. This increase in numbers was reflective of the increasing number of generators connecting to the T&D networks. The opinion of Cathal Martin and Mervyn Adams was that the Panel should include representation from PV and wind generation and there should be specific representation for Small Scale Generation.

Action: GCRP Secretary to contact NIRIG in order to receive membership nominations for the technology classifications discussed.

- 8.6 Existing *Interconnector* representation (1). The opinion of the GCRP was that this number should remain unchanged.

- 8.7 Existing *TO* representation (1). The opinion of the GCRP was that this number should remain unchanged.

- 8.8 Existing *DNO* representation (1). The opinion of the GCRP was that this number should remain unchanged.

- 8.9 Existing Regulation representation (1). The opinion of the GCRP was that this number should remain unchanged.

- 8.10 The Panel felt it important that representation should be sought from the Market operator (SEMO), the other TSO (EirGrid)

Action: GCRP Secretary to contact the relevant parties in order to receive membership nominations for SEMO and the other TSO.

- 8.11 The Panel felt it important that representation should be sought from expert representatives to represent both Energy Storage and DSM. Karen O'Doherty confirmed that DSM representatives would cover both AGUs and DSUs.

Action: GCRP Secretary to contact the relevant parties in order to receive membership nominations. It was felt that NIREG may have members with expertise in the areas of Energy Storage and DSM.

Action: All GCRP members, who have not already done so, to contact the GCRP Secretary nominating their alternate representative.

9. Any other business

- 9.1 Angela Blair asked if the RoCoF modification has been approved and included in the Grid Code. Raymond Skillen confirmed it has.

Action: SONI to confirm trigger for compliance with this modification and advise Angela Blair.

10. 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.