

MINUTES OF THE SONI GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Via Conference Call

Wednesday 16th December 2020 (11:30 - 13.00)

Present:

Members/Alternates	Representing	Position on the GCRP
Sam Matthews	TSO	Chairperson
Marie-Therese Campbell	TSO	Alternate Chair
Jody O'Boyle	Regulator	Member
Timothy Steel	Regulator	Alternate Member
Angela Blair	Power NI PPB	Observer
Brian Mongan	DSU	Member
Stephen Hemphill	Interconnector owners	Alternate Member
Daniel McSwiggan	TSO	Member
Cathal Martin	RES – Large Scale	Alternate Member
David McDonald	TO	Member
Stephen Brownlees	Generator	Member

1. Chairperson's Introduction to the Meeting

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

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Bailie and Sam Gibson. We wish Ian well on his retirement and thank him for his service on the Panel.

2. Minutes and actions arising from the Grid Code Review Panel Meeting held on 22 July 2020

The Panel Members were asked if there were any further comments on the minutes from the previous SONI GCRP meeting in October 2020. There being no other comments, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Panel.

The following actions were noted and discussed:

- Marie-Therese Campbell gave an update on the GCRP membership on the SONI website. This needs to be considered in the context of GDPR. This has again been carried over from the October meeting. Sam Matthews has been following up with

members to confirm status and is about 80% complete Marie-Therese Campbell indicates that with large batteries connecting in NI in the near future that a representative from that industry would be welcome (and also Solar). Cathal Martin indicated he would approach IWEA for a storage representative. Jody O'Boyle indicated the NI Grid has membership for electricity storage and they would also be member of the Joint Grid Code Panel.

Action: Subject to sign off by SONI compliance, membership lists to be circulated once hear back from members as per action above.

Action: Cathal Martin to approach IWEA members to see if there is a member who would represent electricity storage on the NI Grid Code

3. SONI Grid Code Modifications

a. Incorporation of the Connection Codes - next steps

Marie -Therese Campbell noted the challenging timeframes for this work to incorporate by Q4 2020 and in particular the challenges presented in relation to Price Control determinations.

b. Discussion on the Connection of Energy Storage Units

The Panel was updated on the recent energisations of two large (50MW) battery connections in NI. These were Mullavilly and Drumkee. Test procedures for these connections have been developed and it is recognised that Grid Code may need updated.

Action: Marie -Therese Campbell to send to Angela Blair a copy of the test procedures

c. Update on the HVDC Network Code

As per bullet item a, Marie -Therese Campbell noted the challenging timeframes for this work to incorporate by Q4 2020.

d. 80MW Min Generation Level

Marie -Therese Campbell gave an update on the modification that has been consulted on. Written responses were received from EP Kilroot (modification proposer), RES and Renewables NI. SONI agreed to provide a more detailed response in early 2021.

Stephen Brownlees gave an overview of the business case for the change based on the current emission and environmental limits. He argues that the current Grid Code should reflect the technical requirements as indicated by OEMs and that it is for DS3 to provide the correct financial incentives. He recognises the concerns of renewables and believes that the modern OCGTs being installed will allow high renewables overall. Stephen references the Ireland Grid Code in this area.

Cathal Martin references the high dispatch down of renewables on the NI system (9%) and that this modification could be regressive and go against the drivers of DS3. His members believe that a derogation may be a more appropriate route and notes min generation levels on other units. Cathal feels the TSO should do an assessment on the impact of this modification on curtailment of renewables in particular and the future needs of the power system.

Stephen Brownlees states that current generation in NI (Kilroot and Ballylumford) are over 40% level on min generation. He indicates that the DS3 incentives do provide the correct driver to lower minimum generation levels. Cathal states that new entrants need to ensure that Grid Code provides the correct signals.

Sam Matthews gives an update on the DS3 drivers to reduce the number of generation sets on the island at times of high renewables and indicates the TSOs have not done an assessment on this modification on the future power system.

Brian Mongan does not agree on a derogation approach and notes future new connections to France (from Ireland) and the second North-South Tie line which will change the power system. Having a lower minimum generation level which results in higher emissions may not make sense.

Jody O'Boyle agrees with Brian Mongan that derogation route is not appropriate and that the Grid Code needs to evolve with the technology and to not be discriminatory. It is timely to have this discussion and would like further input from SONI on an assessment before we reconvene again before the next joint Grid Code meeting

Marie -Therese Campbell indicates that a full harmonisation with the EirGrid Grid Code has issues in relation to definitions that are slightly different e.g. Registered Capacity.

Action: SONI to progress an assessment of this modification and look to convene a meeting before the next joint if possible.

e. 20% Over Install

Danny McSwiggan provides an update with a plan being developed in 2021 under the FlexTech initiative (this is a collaborative piece of work with EirGrid/SONI/ESBN/NIEN) to assess overinstall. Cathal Martin asks if there is a specific review of the 20% figure and Danny indicates that this study will aim to assess if the current 20% figure used to as the overinstall limit is still applicable given the period of time that has elapsed since the previous studies. .

4. Regulatory Updates

Jody O'Boyle indicates that a derogation has been received from EPUK on the minimum generation levels of the new Kilroot OCGTs.

Brian Mongan asked if there was going to be a consultation on tariffs for electricity storage. Jody O'Boyle indicates that information is coming out but unsure if will be published before x-mas break.

5. Any other business

Brian Mongan gave an update on the NI members of DRAI have formed a new association for Demand Side Aggregators. It is called FERA (Federation of Energy Response Aggregators).

Marie -Therese Campbell indicated that a Joint Grid Code meeting will be held in spring of 2021. There is a provisional date of 2nd March being internally discussed and will be confirmed in New Year.

Post Meeting Note: Date March 23rd 2021

6. Arrangements for next meeting

The date and venue will be confirmed at a later date for both the SONI GCRP and the Joint GCRP. This is subject to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and will likely be held by teleconference.

DRAFT