

MINUTES OF THE SONI GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Via Conference Call

Tuesday 23rd March 2021(15.00pm – 16.00pm)

Present:

Members/Alternates	Representing	Position on the GCRP
Marie-Therese Campbell [MTC]	SONI TSO	Chair
Jody O’Boyle [JOB]	Regulator	Member
Timothy Steel [TS]	Regulator	Alternate
Angela Blair [AB]	Power NI PPB	Observer
Brian Mongan [BM]	DSU	Member
Stephen Hemphill [SH]	Interconnector	Alternate
Daniel McSwiggan [DMS]	TSO	Alternate
Cathal Martin [CM]	RES – Large Scale	Alternate
Jonathan Pollock [JP]	NIE - TO	Member
Joe Coyle [JC]	Generator	Member
Stephen Brownlees [SB]	Generator	Member

Quorum Achieved: Seven Members present in person or by their alternates or in accordance with Clause 13.3, shall constitute a quorum. Clause 13.3 of the constitution allows for teleconference FYI linked.

http://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/Changes-to-the-Constitution-and-Rules-of-the-SONI-Grid-Code-Review-Panel_Sept_18_Blackline.pdf

1. Alternate Chairperson’s Introduction to the Meeting

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

2. Minutes arising from the Grid Code Review Panel Meeting held on 16 December 2020

The Panel Members were asked if there were any further comments on the minutes from the previous SONI GCRP meeting in December 2020. No comments were received; therefore minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Panel.

3. SONI Grid Code Actions from December 2020 meeting discussed March 23rd meeting

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

Status: Open – membership list to be circulated

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

Status: Complete – email to SONI Grid Code refers, no nomination as yet

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

Status: Complete

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

Status: Complete

4. SONI Grid Code Agenda Items

a. Update on the CNC Network Codes [RfG, HVDC, DCC] implementation

- RfG work progressing closing gap on compliance in Grid Code with test procedures being drafted. Publication on SONI website aim end June 2021
- No further work progressed on DCC and HVDC compliance; however hope to have assessment / gap analysis with support of external consultant by end June 2021

b. Modification on Maximum Continuous Rating clause

- Responses to modification received by RES [not supporting], Renewables NI [not supporting] and EP Kilroot [supporting including additional OEM information]
- SONI assessment of modification sent to UR on March 16th 2021
- EP Kilroot [SB] stated there had been no feedback from UR at this point. Feels strongly the Grid Code needs modifying – when is the right time / at what point do we modify the Grid Code? It has been in existence since 1999 and technology has moved on. All 6 big units derogated against this specific clause in the Grid Code
- Chair [MTC] agreed that Grid Code has not kept pace with recent changes in portfolio and diversification of new and emerging technologies. Questioned if all 6 units are derogated away from this clause
- EP Kilroot [SB] stated the driver is to reduce Min Gen as this means units will be dispatched and Capacity Market obligations mean units mitigate against RO events. OEMs provided an assessment where new machines on the market cannot reach the levels as required in the SONI Grid Code, technically and environmentally
- Renewables NI [CM] has reservations with this particular modification that sends the wrong signals in terms of achievement of renewables targets and strategy. CM is concerned with additional curtailment of renewables where the two new units at Kilroot would be constrained on at a higher Min Gen
- Some discussion [All] around potential processes for updating the grid code and impact on renewable constraints and how this could be assessed
- EP Kilroot [SB] highlighted that their proposed min gen is lower than some of the existing large units so should in fact reduce constraints
- DSU [BM] says we are going backwards not forward in relation to Grid Code where the 3 set rule still exists in NI
- Renewables NI [CM] stated there should not be an open door to old technology where it does not meet environmental limits now imposed

- UR [JOB] questioned the historical basis for 80 MW figure in the clause
- Chair [MTC] stated there is no evidence quantitatively or qualitatively to suggest the figure was based on an assessment at the time of writing of the SONI Grid Code. And that it may have been e.g. 40% of 200 MW where the size of units in NI was smaller
- Chair [MTC] stated that while uncomfortable with current position and SONI Grid Code lagging behind somewhat, it may be prudent to wait until there are wholesale changes to Grid Code e.g. outturn of registered capacity work stream kicked off at Joint Grid Code meeting, building of North South and changes to 3 set rule
- UR [JOB] highlighted that work is required to investigate if the 80 MW is the right number or if/how it is to be replaced. UR sees the need for new studies and modelling of Kilroot units on the system with a number of scenarios.
- UR [JOB] highlighted a willingness to align the two Grid Codes on the island, if it proves to be appropriate. Therefore expects a study that also includes the EirGrid Grid Code clause where 35% is for OCGT [Note CC.7.3.1.1 (k)]
- EP Kilroot [SB] stated that in terms of emissions and efficiencies the 40% figure in the SONI Grid Code can be met for the 2 new 350 MW OCGTs but not the 80 MW, the intent of the modification
- Chair [MTC] action to provide an update on equivalent IE derogations
- Chair [MTC] stated that studies will take time, particularly in SONI where resource availability is limited to do studies
- All are in agreement around arbitrary nature of 80MW, and that it is not achievable in the current market. More work is needed to ascertain what is correct percentage where a figure should not be used

Action: Chair [MTC] to provide assessment all island of derogations status

Action: Chair [MTC] to draft scope of studies and discuss with UR

5. Regulatory Updates

None

6. AOB

None

7. Arrangements for Next Meeting

June 2021 proposed date TBC