

MINUTES OF THE SONI GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING
Held at the Radisson Blu, Belfast
On Wednesday 20th February 2013, 13.20 – 14.39

Present:

Members / Alternates	Representing
Brendan Woods	SONI (Chairman)
Conor O'Doherty	SONI
Tom McCartan	SONI
Jim Cooke	Coolkeeragh ESB
Denis McBride	AES Ballylumford
Gerry Hodgkinson	NIE (TO)
Ian Bailie	NIE (DSO)
Brian Mongan	AES Kilroot
Cathal Martin	SSER (Wind Rep)
Angela Blair	PPB (Power NI)
David Macartney	PPB (Power NI)
Kevin Hannafin	Energia
Lee Donovan	CMS (Secretary of the SONI GCRP)

1. Chairman's Introduction to the Meeting

- The Chairman welcomed the Panel Members and noted that Lee Donovan (CMS) was standing in as secretary in the absence of Dalia Majumder-Russell.

2. Apologies for absence

- The Chairman noted that no apologies had been received.

3. Minutes of the Grid Code Review Panel Meeting held on 4 December 2012

- The minutes were approved by the Panel without any additional points.

4. Points arising from Minutes of 4 December 2012

The Chairman reviewed the action points from the 4 December meeting:

- The Chairman queried if the most recent 100m/s historical data for previous system tripping events had been shared. Tom McCartan thought that all data had been sent

but noted that he would check and re-send if that was not the case.

- The Chairman queried what feedback had been received on holding DS3 meetings in Dundalk. Feedback was mixed but it was generally agreed that the majority were happy for meetings to be held in Dundalk.
- The Chairman noted that NIE had updated the positions of its representations on the Panel. Going forward Gerry Hodgkinson will be TO representative for NIE and Ian Bailie will be DNO representative for NIE. Raymond Smyth and Gerard Magee will be considered as alternate TO and DNO representatives for NIE respectively.

5 Grid Code changes

5.1 RoCoF

- The Chairman explained that he had recently met with representatives from National Grid (NG) to discuss NG's intentions for RoCoF. NG is currently looking at the impacts that a proposed RoCoF of 1 – 2 Hz/s may have and is in discussions with the University of Strathclyde on a RoCoF study. NIE has agreed that its data can be used in the University of Strathclyde study and NIE will receive a copy of the completed study. The Chairman noted that the study is limited to embedded generation and that NG's considerations of RoCoF are at initial stages so NG's studies may have limited impact in analysing the RoCoF proposals in the NI system.
- Jim Cooke noted that, in the open letter which he had seen, the starting point is 1.25 Hz for GB. The Chairman pointed out the fact that the market in GB is different (NG has 13 DNOs to interact and work with) and at the discussions there was consideration of looking at retrospective generation (starting with largest generators first). The Chairman stated that the level of collaboration occurring in NI is less clear. Brian Mongan queried who had been paying for the studies and noted that AES supports the ESB position (that all studies should be complete before it goes to NIAUR). The Chairman referred to the discussions in the JGCRP meeting earlier in the day and to the need for this issue to be progressed.
- Denis McBride stressed that AES wants to ensure that all the information is received before progressing. Tom McCartan thought that AES was able to comply with 1Hz/s. Denis McBride explained that while AES had been tested to 1 Hz/s, there were ongoing concerns around frequency, cost of the studies and also the risk that AES would have to look at doing 2 Hz/s studies at a later stage. Denis McBride explained that, while tests had been conducted at that level, it was not possible for AES to guarantee that it could handle that RoCoF level at all times. Brian Mongan stressed that, commercially, generators needed to be incentivised to incur the costs of carrying out the studies.
- Denis McBride pointed out that AES was awaiting information, including a report from Ansaldo on areas of concern which is expected in March. AES will then send this report to NIAUR. David Macartney queried if further tests would be required after March. Denis McBride thought that depending on the information received, there may be further questions / tests. Jim Cooke noted that there may also be commercial implications for existing long term contracts for certain members.
- The Chairman queried if the NIE report prepared by Strathclyde University will be made public and Gerry Hodgkinson agreed to check if the report could be made public. He explained that the report was a desktop study to analyse technology-

specific RoCoF tests and preliminary conclusions indicate that a 2 Hz/s RoCoF value may be achievable for wind farms. Gerry Hodgkinson noted that the report is useful but, given the technology specific aspects, is limited in scope.

- Gerry Hodgkinson explained that NIE was looking to send a letter to generators regarding settings it requires for distribution system connected generation. Tom McCartan noted that SONI had already sent out a similar letter. Gerry Hodgkinson queried if it was worth considering below 1Hz/s RoCoF values and noted that it may be necessary to look at a different way of addressing small generation and in particular the questions in relation to the nature of relays and if settings need to be changed. Tom McCartan confirmed that SONI has not requested full details of the relays or about relay tapes or how to change them. There was a discussion about what questions NIE should pose to generators. Gerry Hodgkinson noted that NIE would ask generators to conduct the tests themselves and noted a preference of starting with 10s of sites and then confirming approach with SONI. The Chairman agreed and noted that this is similar to the plan for RoCoF protection for small generators in GB.
- Denis McBride commented on the fact that no further dates have been set for the RoCoF joint working group. He asked what the next steps were and if a project plan was available. The Chairman explained that, as discussed in the JGCRP meeting, implementation of the studies by NIAUR was awaited. Tom McCartan noted that the agenda of advisory council shows that the plan is to “resolve by 2014” but does not include any more detail.

5.2 WFPS settings schedule – update

- The Chairman explained that SONI had hoped to have this published by this meeting but has been delayed by the need to consider certain responses in more detail. Conor O’Doherty explained that the document is nearly finished and should be sent to NIAUR shortly.

5.3 Fail to sync

- The Chairman noted that the results of the first Fail to Sync dispute had been discussed in the JGCRP meeting. He explained that the current dispute (relating to the first Fail to Sync Grid Code changes) had been determined by NIAUR: Brian Mongan explained that SONI and AES intend to re-settle the disputed amounts on the market and will send a letter to this effect to SONI.
- The Chairman noted that he had asked NIAUR if the decision applied only to the individual dispute and that all other disputes were dealt with under OC11. Brian Mongan thought the decision applies to all other disputes.
- Kevin Hannafin asked if the determination was public. The Chairman confirmed it was not. David Macartney noted that PPB (Power NI) had written to NIAUR to state its view on the dispute. It confirmed that it had not seen any additional correspondence between NIAUR and SONI.
- Denis McBride stated that, if the modification does not suit anyone, maybe the parties should sit around the table and re-discuss.
- Denis McBride queried what the position was in the interim regarding code modifications. The Chairman confirmed that the Grid Code is unchanged. The Grid Code modifications consulted on in January 2012 (the 1st modification). The 2nd modification has not yet been passed.

- There was then a discussion about scope of OC11 and SONI's use of OC11 for making Grid Code changes. Tom McCartan noted that SONI has the right to monitor under the code though Brian Mongan pointed out that it is not designed for constant monitoring. The Chairman noted, as far as SONI is aware, NIAUR has not raised the scope of OC11 with its counterpart in the Republic of Ireland, CER, as of last week.

5.4 Demand side unit.

- The Chairman noted that, as discussed on the JGCRP meeting, there are two modifications for DSU purposes but these are glossary type changes. The Chairman explained that SONI will bring in modifications that will mirror the Republic of Ireland modifications. The modifications will be put out for consultation in the coming weeks.

6. DS3

- Denis McBride stated that the consultation document had a limited target audience and provided little incentive to do anything. He noted that investment is required but returns are not apparent. The Chairman queried if it would be useful to include a presentation on the consultation at the next meeting. Denis McBride confirmed that it would be useful, particularly to see what the incentives are. Kevin Hannafin noted that there was a need to change the fundamental position in relation to capacity. Denis McBride explained investments are made based on minimum required specification and that incentives are needed to encourage generators to have additional flexibility. David Macartney noted that the future issues, including issues post 2015, need to be known. The Chairman confirmed that SONI had been flagging the future issues post 2015 to DETINI and NIAUR.
- Tom McCartan explained that SONI was in the early stages of looking at inertia monitoring rather than SNSP. The Chairman cautioned that there are many interplays which must be taken into account when analyzing inertia. Cathal Martin noted that there is marked difference between winter and summer demand. Brian Mongan queried if SONI was already studying inertia. Tom McCartan confirmed that, while they were studying inertia in ROI, SONI had not yet started to do this in NI.
- Kevin Hannafin noted that if the plan was to incentivise generators and then trade in certain periods, this must be made clear. Tom McCartan explained that, at the moment, there was not enough energy to trade and that the current levels were not enough to get on any par-exchange. David Macartney queried if there would be a public consultation regarding par-exchange. The Chairman confirmed that, while SONI had had an initial look at being a member of a par-exchange, there are concerns from different parties about SONI being on a par-exchange.
- David Macartney also queried if there had been a consultation on the Chinese walls in EirGrid regarding blackstart capability of the the East-West Interconnector and Kevin Hannafin queried if information had been published in relation to trading and if market participants' feedback had been sought. Tom McCartan explained that comments were invited at the customer conference and the Chairman also noted that comments are welcomed at the generators forum in March.

7. Any Other Business

- Brian Mongan queried if there was any update on the Moyle situation. The

Chairman stated that a Moyle representative would give a presentation at the customer conference on 7th March. The Chairman believed that Moyle is in discussions with NIAUR about its situation but as investigations for the fault location are ongoing SONI is not in a position to update the Panel.

8. Arrangements for next meeting

1 May 2013 (Dublin)