

**DRAFT**

**MINUTES OF THE SONI GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING**

**Held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Belfast**

**On Wednesday 11 September 2013, 13:30 - 14:23**

Present:

<b>Members/Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Position on the GCRP</b>
Brendan Woods	SONI	Chairperson
Alan Kennedy	SONI	As an advisor for SONI
Karen Creighton	SONI	As an advisor for SONI
Joe Duddy (alternate for Cathal Martin)	RES	Generator
Denis McBride	AES	Generator
Jim Cooke	Coolkeeragh ESB	Generator
Gerry Hodgkinson	NIE	NIE (TO)
Robbie Aherne	EirGrid	Observer
Angela Blair	Power NI PPB	Observer
Brian McMullan	Power NI PPB	Observer
Dalia Majumder-Russell	CMS	Secretary of the SONI GCRP

**1. Chairman's Introduction to the Meeting**

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

**2. Apologies for absence**

- The Chairman noted that apologies were received from David Macartney (Power NI PPB), Tom McCartan (SONI), Conor O'Doherty (SONI), William Steele (Power NI), Alex Baird (SONI) and Kevin Hannafin (Energia). It was noted that several members were absent without having sent apologies including Brian Mulhern (Utility Regulator), Mick McGuckin (Moyle), Stephen Hemphill (Moyle), and Ian Bailie (NIE).

**3. Minutes of the Grid Code Review Panel Meeting held on 1 May 2013**

- The Chairman noted that no comments were received to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 May 2013 in Dublin. There being no other comments, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Panel.

**4. Points arising from Minutes (not otherwise included in Agenda)**

- 4.1 The Chairman gave an update on the actions arising out of the last meetings:

- 4.2 SONI and NIE have met to discuss NIE's proposals on RoCoF and agreed on most issues, except on vector shift settings.
- 4.3 SONI has written to Northern Ireland energy suppliers who have nominated William Steele from Power NI to become a Supplier Representative on the Panel. The role of Kevin Hannafin is currently under consideration depending on elections for supplier representatives on the EirGrid GCRP. The Chairman has requested that Energia propose another supplier representative to replace Kevin Hannafin.

4.4 There were no additional points to be discussed.

## **5. Panel Membership**

5.1 The Chairman opened the matter of Panel Membership explaining that in accordance with the SONI GCRP constitution all Panel Members automatically retire at the beginning of the meeting held soonest after the first business day in March and are eligible for re-election. Notice for re-election is deemed to be given for existing Panel Members.

5.2 The Chairman noted that this is an opportunity to review the make up the Panel which according to the constitution should comprise:

- (a) a Chairman appointed by SONI;*
- (b) 3 persons representing SONI;*
- (c) 4 persons representing Generators;*
- (d) 4 persons representing Suppliers;*
- (e) a person representing the Interconnector Owner;*
- (f) a person representing the TO provided that such person shall only have a right to vote on matters related to the list of data items in GC.6.2(b) which the TO is allowed to submit suggestions for amendment;*
- (g) a person representing the DNO;*
- (h) a person appointed by and representing the Authority; and*
- (i) a person appointed by SONI to keep the Panel aware of renewable energy sources and their impact on the NI System.*

5.3 Should the Panel consider that the composition is no longer appropriate (for example whether a separate role (i) is needed), then changes may be made, subject to approval of the Utility Regulator. In respect of the renewables role, Joe Duddy thought this may have been allocated to be an individual from SONI and suggested that Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group (NIREG) may be able to recommend a renewables representative.

5.4 The Chairman updated the Panel that William Steele has been nominated to the GCRP as a supplier representative joining with effect from the start of this meeting. There is still an issue of insufficient supplier representation and the Chairman has raised this with Energia.

5.5 The Chairman welcomed suggestions for new alternate Panel Members. Following changes in SONI, new SONI representatives are likely to be needed. Further, the Chairman explained that Brian Mulhern is on sick leave and a request had been submitted to the Utility Regulator requesting that an alternative attends.

5.6 Denis McBride suggested that a new generator representative could be a demand side generator including another person from AES. The Chairman did not consider belonging to the same company to be a barrier as the generator representatives represents the constituency.

**Action: SONI to write to NIREG and Suppliers in Northern Ireland to request representatives for renewables and suppliers.**

**Action: Panel Members to consider and nominate additional representatives (or alternates) for the Panel. Submissions should be sent to the Chairman or the Secretary.**

5.7 The Panel considered whether it was necessary to form a Metering Committee in respect to the Metering Code Review Panel. The Chairman explained that the Grid Code requires SONI to have a Metering Committee. To date none has been convened. It was accepted that should the need for a Metering Committee arise, such committee would be formed from the Panel Members. The Chairman will confirm this understanding with the Utility Regulator.

**Action: SONI to confirm approach with regards to the Metering Committee with the Utility Regulator.**

5.8 The Panel also noted that some Panel Members have been absent at a number of GCRPs without sending apologies. The Chairman pointed out that the constitution allows for vacancy of membership.

**Action: SONI to write to the relevant Panel Members noting the provisions in the constitution about vacating the post.**

## **6. Update on Grid Code Modifications**

6.1 The Chairman updated the Panel that both the DS1 modifications and the Wind Farm Settings Schedule are currently with the Utility Regulator for approval. There being no Utility Regulator representative at the meeting, no further updates on timescale were made.

6.2 The Chairman explained that SONI is looking into the impacts (including cost impacts) of declaring a generator to zero as part of its fail to sync proposals. Once this is agreed internally and with the Utility Regulator, SONI will update the Panel.

## **7. RoCoF Decision Paper**

7.1 The Chairman noted that RoCoF was subject of extended discussions in the Joint GCRP.

7.2 Denis McBride commented that the process in Northern Ireland appears to be falling behind and that the consultation is silent on cost recovery. The Chairman agreed that the Utility Regulator's consultation is silent on cost recovery, penalties and how the modelling process is to be managed. The Chairman understands from a conversation with the Utility Regulator that the position, insofar as possible, would be aligned with the approach in Republic of Ireland.

7.3 Denis McBride queried why the 2Hz/s standard was raised again. The Chairman explained that SONI had originally proposed a 2Hz/s standard but there was opposition to having 2 standards apply on the Island of Ireland. SONI has therefore requested that if modelling studies are to be carried out, these include the 2Hz/s standard to understand if a higher standard would be justified on a temporary basis. However given the delays, this differentiation in getting a decision and then the delay in the standard coming into effect, may no longer be needed. The Chairman also agreed with Denis McBride that the 18 month period appears optimistic.

7.4 Denis McBride asked how SONI intends to engage with generators once the position on RoCoF is decided. The Chairman stated that the final engagement will depend on requirements of the Utility Regulator.

7.5 Jim Cooke asked how the scope of the studies would be decided noting that OEMs would not wish to give complete assurances in respect of RoCoF. Denis McBride agreed with Jim Cooke that the proposals continue to be an area of concern for the OEMs and he did not believe this work has been implemented in other jurisdictions. The Chairman explained that TSOs want to have the right to input into scope of the studies and noted that Australia has implemented similar RoCoF requirements.

7.6 There was a brief discussion about RoCoF in other jurisdictions and standards with Jim Cooke commenting that different environmental standards need to be taken into account. Denis McBride noted that changing minimum specification requires the generator to consider a number of impacts (eg. torque) and it would be prudent to have sufficient time to consider the feedback from OEMs. While it is likely that many of the impacts will be low risk there will be significant wear and tear. Jim Cooke also noted that RoCoF may impact on existing long term services agreements and existing maintenance obligations.

7.7 The Chairman encouraged Denis McBride to respond to the Utility Regulator on these points and noted that further discussions with the Utility Regulator prior to the final decision being reached would be welcome.

7.8 Joe Duddy noted that modelling requirements are a concern for renewable generators.

## **8. Any Other Business**

### **8.1 Voltage control**

- Joe Duddy raised the issue of voltage control which has been considered as part of the DS3 process. Noting the minutes of the last GCRP, Joe stressed that embedded generation has been receiving unusual feasibility studies/grid connection offers that seem to allow DNO to dispatch certain amount of reactive power through its connection system. This has resulted in much higher estimates of the cost of connection. Joe Duddy queried if this issue has been considered at a TSO level. In particular, are there agreements which govern the transfer of reactive power between NIE and SONI and may it be prudent to have a coordinated study regarding the provision and use of reactive power across the transmission and distribution system in the most cost effective manner? The Chairman noted that this is an issue for the Distribution Code Review Panel but agreed that the DNO update the Panel on the work done in relation to this matter so far.
- Gerry Hodgkinson agreed that this is an issue for the Distribution Code and in particular for connection design. He explained that through the DS3 process there has been a recognition that there has been a displacement of power from conventional power to renewables so one solution being considered is to have the displacing generation to provide this reactive power. If the loss from transmission-connected generation can be offset by distribution-connected generation then voltage control will need to be considered from the point of connection.
- DNOs are conscious that there is a need to protect voltage control and have developed models. These models are being debated including in respect of the commercial implications. SONI and NIE met last week to discuss the DS3 process and have agreed the programme.
- Gerry Hodgkinson informed the Panel that NIE is considering the reactive envelope and aims to make this accessible at point of connection. Regarding the point of implications for design, NIE needs to bear in mind that a lot of the generation is

connected in clusters which has reactive power implications. This can be discussed further in the Distribution Code Review Panel meeting.

- SONI and EirGrid are also aiming to agree a programme on voltage control to make the best use of the reactive capability and dealing with ancillary issues. The DSO/TSO coordination is being facilitated through the DS3 working group.
- The Chairman confirmed that there have been several meetings on this issue and updates are to be tabled at the DS3 working group meeting. Joe Duddy encouraged SONI, bearing in mind its licence obligations regarding planning the system in 'coordinated' manner, to take a wide view of these matters including in discussions with NIE.

## 8.2 European Network Codes (ENCs)

- Denis McBride asked for the Panel's opinion regarding moving to a single Grid Code. The Chairman explained that if this task is not undertaken now, there will be neither the appetite nor the resources to do so later. The working group can consider whether a single code is a desired outcome. Joe Duddy considered moving to an umbrella network code requirement akin to having a single code.
- The Chairman explained that the TSOs had considered 2 parallel codes but decided it would be impractical. Karen Creighton asked how interactions between the SONI and EirGrid Grid Codes would be dealt with. The Chairman explained that the STC is a precedent but development of the ENCs would require wider stakeholder engagement. Further, the Chairman commented that CMS gave a presentation about the developments on ENCs in GB and noted that DETI is participating in the GB discussions. The Secretary commented that generally it appears that the ENCs are framed with less complex electricity systems in mind so the requirements of the GB and Irish systems do not fit neatly into the framework of the ENCs.
- The Chairman reminded the Panel about sending expressions of interest to join the ENTSO-E Network Code Adoption Working Group and expressed concern that the network code process will be piecemeal so are likely to have unforeseen knock-on impacts.
- Gerry Hodgkinson reiterated that that it is important to have government involvement in the development of the ENCs and ideally to have representatives on the ENTSO-E Network Code Adoption Working Group. The Chairman expressed the view that both the Utility Regulator and DETI were looking to the TSOs to lead the ENC development process.
- Gerry Hodgkinson commented that adopting the ENCs in full would minimise the risk non-compliance however noted that the Grid Code in Northern Ireland has been developed to suit the particular needs of the Irish market and interactions with the Republic of Ireland so a light-touch approach to amending the Grid Code would be preferable. The Chairman agreed that changing the Grid Codes with full industry engagement is desired and has also been requested by DETI. The Chairman explained that the TSOs have made presentations to both Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland ministries last year and the approaches in each jurisdiction seemed not to be contradicting each other. However the two departments have not discussed the network codes together.

- Gerry Hodgkinson queried if the departments would be interested in cross-jurisdictional engagement considering that the Member States are required to comply. The Chairman noted that due process needs to be followed and the development requires engagement with the Utility Regulator.

### 8.3 Modelling

- Karen Creighton informed the Panel that SONI will be issuing a consultation on revised proposals in respect of modelling requirements. This will be included as a Grid Code modification in respect of planning data with the details of modelling requirements set out in supplementary documents.

## 9. Arrangements for next meeting

- Wednesday, 4 December 2013 (Dublin)

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