

# MINUTES OF THE SONI GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Radisson Blu Hotel, Belfast

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015, 1.30pm -2.45pm

Present:

<b>Members/Alternates</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Position on the GCRP</b>
Sam Matthews	SONI	Chairperson
Karen Creighton	SONI	Member
Tom McCartan	SONI	Alternate Member
Conor O'Doherty	SONI	Member
Brian Mongan	AES	Member
Angela Blair	Power NI PPB	Observer
Billy Walker	NIAUR	Member
Jim Cooke	CESB	Member
Ian Bailie	NIEN	Member
Joe Coyle	CESB	Observer
Bryan Murphy	SONI	Observer
John O'Higgins	SONI	Observer
Cathal Martin	SSER	Member
Gareth McLoughlin	SONI	Observer
Leigh McCarthy	SONI	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: Stephen Hemphill, Denis McBride and Alex Baird.

## **3. Minutes of the Grid Code Review Panel Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

The Panel Members were asked if there were any further comments on the minutes from the previous SONI GCRP meeting in September 2015. 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 An action was noted from the previous meeting for Sam Matthews to speak to Patrick Liddy re. DSU/AGU GCRP representation. Patrick Liddy has nominated Sam Alexander. This will be added to the list. This action is now closed.

4.1.2 Conor O'Doherty to arrange for publication of the matrix document from the Network Code Working Group. This action is now closed.

4.1.3 Marie-Therese Campbell to circulate proposed derogation process and check NI derogation requirements under the Network Codes.

*Action: Sam Matthews to follow up the above action from the previous meeting.*

4.1.4 Marie-Therese Campbell to circulate the proposed modification document re. retirement of plant. This is covered on the agenda. This action is closed.

## **5. Grid Code Modifications**

5.1 Sam Matthews asked the Panel if there were any reflections on the discussion regarding new technologies at the JGCRP. Cathal Martin queried if there are separate schedules for each technology. Karen Creighton said that WFSS and also MFS' for other technologies, the latter would sit outside the Grid Code and noted this aligns with the EirGrid testing documents, which also sit outside the Grid Code. Cathal Martin queried if the MFS would only contain parameters and tests. Karen Creighton confirmed that MFS will state a figure within a range (which is contained within the Grid Code), as per the WFPS SS. Cathal Martin asked if this could become a vehicle through which SONI could put through modifications and this cannot be used as a means to avoid consultation.

5.2 Sam Matthews queried if past modifications had not been brought under the Grid Code and is there a perception that the TSO makes changes this way. Cathal Martin said that industry participants must be given a voice in respect of this. Karen Creighton noted that MFS shouldn't have anything additional to the Grid Code. Cathal Martin asked what the process is for changing the MFS. Karen Creighton confirmed this would be issued on the SONI website on an ad hoc basis. Gareth McLoughlin said that if something is contained in the MFS that should be in the

Grid Code this would be brought to the attention of the GCRP. Cathal Martin said it would be good to have this process formalised. Brian Mongan agreed that it would be best to consult on any rules for new technologies.

- 5.3 Karen Creighton confirmed that there are no testing documents currently set out for new technologies. Cathal Martin asked if MW availability and signal lists are included in a schedule. Karen Creighton confirmed these would be contained within the MFS documents. Sam Matthews highlighted that a consultation will take place in January and this should be included in any response. SONI and the RAs will note this point.
- 5.4 *[John O'Higgins gave a presentation on Outturn Availability. Slides can be found in Appendix A.]*
- 5.5 Tom McCartan queried the use of the term "mesh". John O'Higgins said that a distribution system would be 'unavailable' rather than 'outturn unavailable'. Cathal Martin said that wind farms will not be compensated. John O'Higgins said this was a distribution issue. Karen Creighton commented that this was for planned outages. Sam Matthews said the TSO will need to plan this well and keep to the five day timeframe. Brian Mongan queried if the five day period and the equipment specific to generator issue is specific to SONI. John O'Higgins confirmed this is correct and is part of the SDC section of the Grid Code.
- 5.6 Brian Mongan asked if the second point is not limited to five days, how is this determined? Tom McCartan said that legacy positions will apply. Brian Mongan said he thought there was a lack of clarity. Karen Creighton said this will depend on the connection point. John O'Higgins noted that there is a need to clarify the second paragraph of this section.
- 5.7 Sam Matthews said that there was an intention to implement principles in respect of this matter from 1 January. This is not as big an issue for SONI as it is for EirGrid. John O'Higgins said there are only a couple of issues for SONI. Sam Matthews noted there may be an impact on DS3 system services e.g. reactive power, this point had been raised at the JGCRP and an action was taken by the TSOs to investigate. Billy Walker noted that a portion of a day will be taken as a whole day. John O'Higgins said that a generator can declare when it is/is not available. Gareth McLoughlin said a generator can declare up within day and get paid as normal.
- 5.8 Brian Mongan asked what the timescales are for sending through Outturn Availability and queried if the TSOs were able to apply the principles of Outturn Availability in January if there is no Grid Code in place. John O'Higgins said there would be a forum in March to discuss this matter. Sam Matthews said there would be a modification in the New Year. Brian Mongan asked if there would be a backstop date. John O'Higgins said Outturn Availability outages will be identified in January 2016. Karen Creighton said this would pass to the market through a SEM Committee decision. A consultation will take place in January. John O'Higgins confirmed that an annual outage programme is due in December.

***Action: SONI to look at wording for the Outturn Availability modification.***

- 5.9 *[Sam Matthews gave a presentation on Housekeeping Modifications. Slides can be found in Appendix B.]*
- 5.10 Cathal Martin queried the consequences of not providing a notice re. retirement of plant. Sam Matthews confirmed there are no financial consequences. Cathal Martin said that plants are shutting down in GB and there might not be any foresight in respect of this. Sam Matthews said there are issues regarding short notice. Cathal Martin asked if there is a specific notice form. Sam Matthews said that notice is given via letter to SONI.
- 5.11 Karen Creighton gave an update on Dynamic Models. She explained there was a minor wording issue around timeframes of new models that was being considered in ROI. She confirmed that SONI is ready to reengage with UR when the ROI modification is submitted to CER. Billy

Walker agreed that the UR have been comfortable with this modification for some time. Sam Matthews said this will be kept on the agenda.

## **6. Working Groups**

- 6.1 Sam Matthews said there is no update from the Network Codes Working Group.
- 6.2 Sam Matthews noted there are new terms of reference for the DSM Working Group, Sam Alexander is interested in this but is not present.

## **7. Derogations**

- 7.1 Brian Mongan noted there are a couple of matters which need to be adopted. Sam Matthews and Billy Walker confirmed a note will be available on NIAUR and SONI websites.

*Action: SONI to circulate a note on derogations to the GCRP.*

## **8. New Release of Grid Code and WFSS**

- 8.1 Sam Matthews noted that information regarding Outturn Availability will be provided in January. There are also additional matters regarding approved modifications.
- 8.2 Billy Walker asked when comprehensive version of the Grid Code will be provided. Karen Creighton said that there may be significant changes and a further consultation may be required. The version of the Grid Code with the red line changes is not fully up to date.

*Action: Sam Matthews to consider the timing of the Grid Code release with updates.*

- 8.3 Gareth McLoughlin commented that PPM will affect WFSS modifications.
- 8.4 Angela Blair noted late sync issue and queried if clarity has been provided on this. Gareth McLoughlin confirmed this has been approved.
- 8.5 Tom McCartan queried the progress of the inclusion of fail to sync in the Grid Code. Karen Creighton noted that approval has been given and therefore it is effective. Brian Mongan said this is effective and should be included in the Grid Code as soon as possible. He asked if late sync is in the Grid Code. Tom McCartan said this is a HAS issue. Five to fifteen minutes is “late sync” and more than fifteen minutes is “fail to sync”.

## **9. Priority Dispatch**

- 9.1 Billy Walker confirmed this is to be reviewed in January 2016. Karen Creighton noted a Power Park Module query is to be reviewed. Tom McCartan said this is to be discussed internally.

## **10. Regulator Update**

- 10.1 No further issues to be noted.

## **11. Any other business**

- 11.1 Tom McCartan said a second report has been sent to NIAUR re. RoCoF. Billy Walker confirmed SONI can publish this report.
- 11.2 Karen Creighton asked if there was anything further to add in respect of the JGCRP discussion re. the harmonised modification process. Sam Matthews said this was to be reviewed. Billy Walker said a clearer understanding of the ROI modifications process was required. Karen

Creighton said there is no clear criteria regarding what requires consultation in ROI. Brian Mongan said that consultation provides a more robust process and allows those outside the GCRP to have a say. Karen Creighton said the ROI approach may not be quicker as there is a need to wait until the next panel discussion creating an inherent 3 month delay. Cathal Martin agreed he didn't think the ROI process was any faster. Sam Matthews said that a shorter consultation period would be better for minor modifications.

**12. Arrangements for next meeting**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March (Dublin)

13. Appendix A – Outturn Availability slides



## Outturn Availability

Implications for Northern Ireland  
John O'Higgins – Near Time

### Background

- SONI obliged under T&SC to provide generator outturn availability to SEM
- Outturn Availability can be thought of as commercial availability
- Outturn Availability sets the upper limit on what the generator can be scheduled to in the SEM
- Should be calculated in transparent non discriminatory way



## SEMC Decision

- SEM-15-071 Calculation of Outturn Availability decision paper
- NI generators in the “new” connection position
  - Will be Outturn available for all connection asset outages
  - With the exception of annual maintenance outages or capital works associated with the relevant generation unit lasting up to and including five calendar days.
- NI Generators connected at the “legacy” position are deemed Outturn Available if there is an outage of the connection asset in all cases (i.e. for fault repair or maintenance).

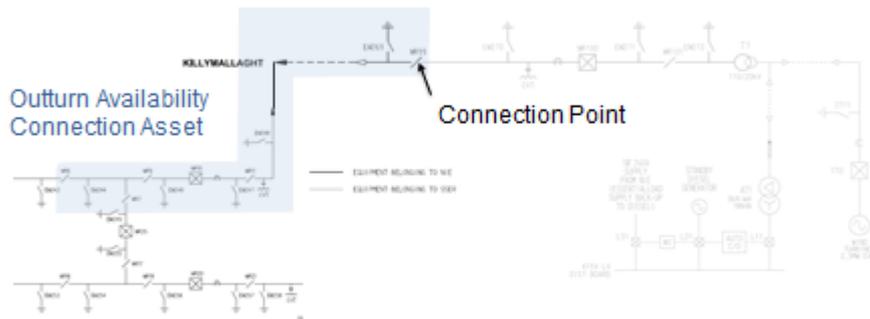


## Key Principles

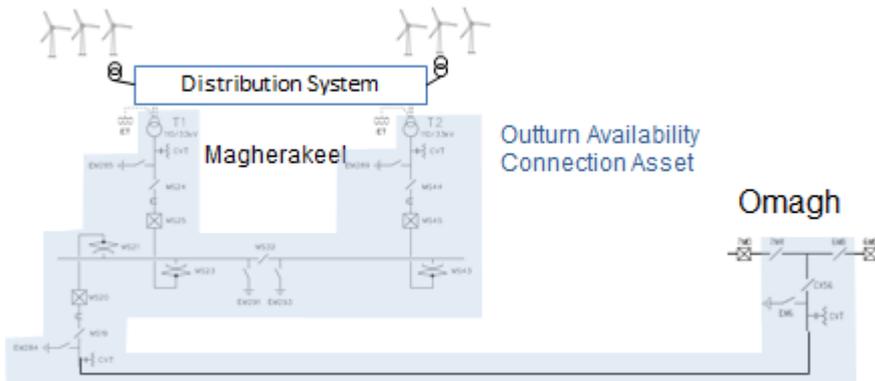
- Applied from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016
- Applies to both Transmission and Distribution connected CDGUs and Controllable WFPS
- For annual maintenance of the transmission connection assets or
- Capital works associated with the relevant generation unit
- For up to 5 calendar days
- SONI will try to coordinate annual maintenance with generator outages



## Specific NI Example Transmission



## Specific NI Example Distribution



## Discussion



### 14. Appendix B – Housekeeping Slides presented in meeting



# SONI Grid Code Modifications

- DSU - Performance Monitoring (approved 05/10/15)
- DSU - Frequency Requirements (approved 29/09/15)
- Failure to Follow Synchronisation (approved 05/10/15)



## House Keeping

### Modification Approved

SDC2.4.2.11 Action Required from Users

(a) Each User will comply in accordance with SDC2.4.2.12 with all **Dispatch Instructions** given by the TSO unless the User has given notice to the TSO under the provisions of SDC2.4.2.10 regarding non-acceptance of **Dispatch Instructions**.

(b) When complying with **Dispatch Instructions** for a **CCGT Installation** a **Generator** will operate its **CCGT Modules** in accordance with the applicable **CCGT Installation Matrix**.

(c) Where the TSO issues a **Synchronising** time to a **Generator** for a specific **CDGU** and the **Generator** identifies that such **CDGU** will not be **Synchronised** within **15.5 minutes**

of the instructed time, the **Generator** must immediately (at the time the discrepancy is identified) inform the TSO of the situation and estimate the new **Synchronising** time.

### Modification Should Be

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## Retirement of Plant (SPID 221015)

- PC6.1.6
- *Any User proposing to de-rate, close, retire, withdraw from service or otherwise cease to maintain and keep available for Dispatch in accordance with good industry practice any Generating Unit(s) or Controllable WFPS(s) with Registered Capacity greater than 50 MW in aggregate shall give the Transmission System Operator (TSO) at least 36 calendar months' notice of such action and any Generating Unit(s) or Controllable WFPS(s) with Registered Capacity less than or equal to 50 MW in aggregate shall give the Transmission System Operator (TSO) at least 24 calendar months' notice of such action.*
- One response to consultation (closed 27<sup>th</sup> Nov)
  - Supports the idea of providing clarity
  - Concern on Market / Regulatory changes which may result in not being able to meet proposed timescales.
  - Firmly believe in no “incentives” around this.

