

MINUTES OF THE SONI GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Via Conference Call

Thursday 9 April 2020 11.00-13.00

Present:

Members/Alternates	Representing	Position on the GCRP
Sam Matthews	TSO	Chairperson
Marie-Therese Campbell	TSO	Member
Jody O'Boyle	Regulator	Member
Cathal Martin	Generator	Member
Ian Bailie	DNO	Member
Angela Blair	Power NI PPB	Observer
Brian Mongan	DSU	Member
Joseph Coyle	Generator	Alternate
Leigh McCarthy	TSO	Secretary of the SONI GCRP
Gareth McLaughlin	TSO	Observer
Sam Gibson	Moyle	Observer
Stephen Hemphill	Moyle	Member
Kenny McPartland	Utility Regulator	Observer

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 David MacDonald.

Action: Leigh McCarthy asked all members to write to her to advise of who the current member and alternate for their company on letterhead paper (if possible), even if membership/alternates have not changed over the last number of years. Please provide this information before 30 April 2020 via email to leigh.mccarthy@soni.ltd.uk.

2. Minutes and actions arising from the Grid Code Review Panel Meeting held on 19 November 2019

The Panel Members were asked if there were any further comments on the minutes from the previous SONI GCRP meeting in November 2019. 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 re. the GCRP membership on the SONI website. This needs to be considered in the context of GDPR.

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

- Marie-Therese Campbell discussed the expiration of connection agreements and noted RfG and a discussion paper which has been circulated to provide clarity re. Requirements for existing users re. Connection code. She requested this action should be kept open..

Action: Marie-Therese Campbell and Ian Bailie to discuss this action further and provide feedback to GCRP..

- Grid Code Metering Code modifications were provided by SONI to NIE Networks.

3. SONI Grid Code Modifications

a. Update on the RfG Incorporation Consultation

Gareth McLaughlin presented slides. The Chairperson confirmed that the comments on the slides should be provided in advance of the formal consultation process.

Action: Any comments on these slides should be provided to SONI by 30th April 2020.

b. Incorporation of the Connection Codes - next steps

Gareth McLaughlin presented slides. Marie- Therese Campbell noted the challenging timeframes for this work, referencing correspondence from SONI to UR in January 2020

c. Discussion on the Connection of Energy Storage Units

Marie-Therese Campbell presented slides. Brian Mongan asked if there is a similar implementation note for Ireland. Marie-Therese Campbell advised that SONI is aiming for a consistent approach for battery operation on an all-island basis. Gareth McLaughlin noted battery storage is more of an issue for Northern Ireland in respect of high frequency response. Brian Mongan highlighted that this should be tendered for under DS3 System Service contracts. Marie-Therese Campbell noted that we would like to utilise operationally, the full capability of battery / storage technology as per Grid Code requirements and implementation note.

4. Regulatory Updates

Jody O'Boyle confirmed that the UR is working through RfG derogations. Other information may be required for derogation process. No further updates.

5. Any other business

Ian Bailie discussed the potential of over installation at existing sites. He noted that there is pressure from generators to incorporate new technologies. He advised there no over install limit on uncontrollable generation. The restriction does not apply and NIE Networks cannot reject applications. An email confirmation of this has been sent to Eimear Watson in SONI.

Clarification is sought on the 20% over install in relation to controllable generation. NIEN seek clarification on where the 20% over install is in relation to approval and incorporation in the NI Grid Code. NIE Networks is unsure about restrictions on controllable generation and whether there is an intention to include something in the Grid Code in respect of this.

Ian notes that it is the utilisation factor for each site that is changed by over installing and SONI TSO has had concerns around forecasting issues. NIE Networks' proposal is that the applications above the notional level for uncontrollable will be accepted.

Ian clarified that 'uncontrollable' is small-scale generation which is non-Grid Code compliant.

Action: Marie-Therese Campbell to confirm SONI's understanding of the over-installation issue and whether this is to be consulted on and confirm to NIE Networks as soon as possible.

Post Meeting Note: Marie-Therese Campbell investigated the status of this issue and can confirm a note will issue shortly to NIEN on this subject.

Brian Mongan asked for some clarification re. operation and compliance certificates. He queried why certificates are not issued under existing rules. Marie-Therese Campbell noted that she is aware of this discussion and it has been raised previously. SONI's approach to issuing certificates has been consistent. There has always been a link with the Market Operator and the effective date for increase in registered capacity. This is linked to registration process and also stated in the DSU System Operator Interface Agreement (DSU SO IA). There is nothing specific relating to process in the NI Grid Code re. operation certificates.

Brian noted the delays for effective date for Grid Code documents are getting harder to manage. He is concerned this is not sustainable. The first point is getting the compliance certificate under the Grid Code. There may be an issue if there is a change to SONI's current Group structure. There are too many delays for generators getting an effective date. Marie-Therese Campbell noted the increased traffic in terms of DSU partaking in Capacity, System Services and Balancing Markets and there are timelines set out by the MO to be adhered to.

Action: Marie-Therese Campbell and Brian Mongan to discuss the issue re. Certificates directly and with colleagues in Dublin.

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 may need to be held by teleconference again.

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