

Minutes of the SONI Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP)

27 September 2023

Attendance: Name	Present	Role
Conleth McAteer (CM)	Y	SONI GCRP Chairperson
Finian Hagan (FH)	Y	SONI GCRP Secretary
Brian Mongan (BM)	Y	Aggregator Member
Stephen Hemphill (SH)	N	Interconnector Owners
Rowan Tunnicliffe (RT)	Y	Interconnector Owners
Stephen Brownlees (SB)	Y	Generators
Aaron McClean (AM)	Y	Generators
Jody O'Boyle (JO)	Y	Utility Regulator (UR)
Ben Harris (BH)	N	Utility Regulator Alternate
Tiarnan Lyness(TL)	Y	Utility Regulator Alternate
Niall Maguire (NM)	Y	RES- Large Scale
Andy McCrea (AC)	N	RES- Large Scale Alternate
William Deane (WD)	Y	RES – Small Scale
Krishna Anaparthi (KA)	Y	Electricity Storage
Jim Cooke (JC)	Y	Generators
Leonard Taggart (LT)	N	NIE Networks
Francesca McKee (FM)	Y	TSO - Member
Sam Matthews (SM)	Y	TSO - Member
Deirdre Hughes (DH)	Y	TSO - Member
Sarah Friedel (SF)	N	TSO- Member
James McGrann (JM)	Y	TSO- Member
John Taylor (JT)	Y	TSO- Guest

Introduction to the GCRP and Approval of Minutes

CM and FH welcomed all members to the meeting.

As new members, AC and NM were welcomed and introduced to the panel.

NM introduced himself. AC was not present.

Minutes

There were no comments on the minutes from the previous meeting.

The minutes are now taken as accepted.

Actions

Regarding UR action to highlight panel vacancies in supplier roles to CDA. JO confirmed this has been actioned and information was provided to CDA members on NI GCRP.

Modifications and Updates

ESPS Modification

CM requested update from UR regarding approval status.

JO stated it was with the decision makers. Resolution expected soon.

TIA/SOA Modification

CM discussed proposed modification.

CM questioned whether there was the need for 6 week consultation for housekeeping modifications or whether presentation to the panel would suffice.

SB & JO mentioned that the panel could not be aware of all consequences, intended and unintended, of each proposed modification. Both suggested SONI ask the SONI Legal team before altering approach.

BM mentioned similar.

CM said that SONI would continue to follow due process after the feedback that was received.

This modification proposal will issue for consultation following the GCRP.

DSUSOIA Modification

DH updated GCRP on changes made following consultation and thanked BM for contribution which improved proposal. The changes proposed were minor changes.

Modification Consultation Report to be submitted to UR alongside request for approval.

AGUSOA Modification

DH presented on proposed modification.

CM explained that new modification was being progressed following feedback from DSUSOIA modification.

This modification proposal will issue for consultation following the GCRP.

EP Kilroot MCR Clause

CM presented on proposed modification which was raised by EP and the outputs of the Jacob's study.

Following this feedback was initially requested from EP.

AM stated that report is light on the technical side but agrees with conclusions.

AM highlighted a number of areas that had not been included or considered, such as ambient conditions, the Clean Energy Package + efficiency.

AM expressed that some of the information within the report was not clear and that there appeared to be some confusion within the report.

AM queried the accuracy of some information and relevance to NI.

AM also described mitigation efforts as speculative.

CM stated that when the study was kicked off it became quickly evident that a full investigation into every element in significant detail would not be possible. However, the analysis performed was detailed enough to provide a good basis for the proposed grid code update.

There was discussion around the aim of the study report.

AM and SB highlighted the study aim should have been to propose new requirements for Users, mentioning that the panel had discussed the appropriateness of adopting the Irish requirements when the modification was tabled. Otherwise, the study could be considered a waste of money.

CM highlighted that there was only one proposal made for modification of the Grid Code, removal of the 80 MW limit and that the study was centred around this proposal. The Study assessed various levels of minimum generation and concluded that there were no barriers to the proposal for removal of the 80 MW limit, with a new requirement set to 40%.

AM and SB suggested that the study did not fully bottom out what the minimum generation level should be for all units.

JO stated that the study was funded by the NI customers, Users were free to commission any study to support grid code modifications. In terms of debate around what the minimum generation should be, the UR will take all considerations on board but will ultimately be the decision maker.

CM suggested that were there to be new modifications proposed, SONI believed that the report suggested setting the minimum generation level at the lowest possible level provided the most benefit to the system in terms of cost and emissions. However, the plan would be to progress with incorporation of EP's original proposed modification into the Grid Code.

CM reiterated JO's point that there is an opportunity for EP to commission their own further assessment of what the minimum generation levels should be, stating that the report went through a range of possible minimum generation levels, but it suggested that 40% as a suitable limit.

BM asked SB if there were any issues with the report recommending a limit of 40%.

SB responded no, however that the report suggests that EP's original modification should have been progressed at the time of submission.

BM agreed.

SB queried that given the report merely suggests there was no issue with original proposed modification, and stating that the panel was already in agreement with this, why then did it take three years to get to this point.

CM asked if any more comments of which there were none.

CM requested any input into the original consultation be resubmitted to SONI to be included in the modification consultation report.

A modification consultation report will be submitted to the UR to progress the incorporation of the EP MCR modification into the SONI Grid Code.

HVDC Modification

FH presented on this modification.

JO asked if there was a consideration given to also including HVAC requirements.

CM stated not at this time. The only jurisdiction that NI has or is likely to have HVAC interconnection with is Ireland due to characteristics of the technology. The HVDC requirements cannot be duplicated for HVAC as there is significant difference in the technologies. This modification is being progressed to ensure alignment with EU regulations.

BM asked if SONI has had any contact with other TSOs regarding HVAC requirements.

CM stated SONI would contact ENTSOE colleagues regarding existing requirements.

RT stated that Mutual Energy are supportive of the modification, but queried Black Start requirements, as not all HVDC technologies can provide.

FH clarified that this was not a mandatory requirement for all HVDC Units, any requirement for such capability would be agreed in the Connection Agreement.

CM clarified that this modification is not retrospective and would not place any new requirements on Non HVDC Units.

This modification proposal will issue for consultation following the GCRP.

DCC Modification

JT presented on this modification.

CM explained that SONI developed the modification in line with the DCC EU Network Code and the part approved DCC requirements. SONI are also developing a Demand Metering Code. Articles 27-30 would need to be further investigated before any proposal is made to the GCRP.

JO queried placement of the requirements within the Planning Code, whether the DNO section had been updated to incorporate Closed Distribution System Operators or whether these requirements were in Users other than the DNO section.

CM confirmed that the requirements were in the section for Users other than the DNO, some requirements within the DNO section have also been updated.

BM asked whether placing requirements for the TSO to validate the DNO models would be acceptable to NIEN. BM also queried the impact on DNO Demand Customers.

CM mentioned that the requirements in general should only impact transmission connected customers, however CM was not sure whether requirements placed on the DNO would filter down to their customers.

CM stated SONI shared the modification with the DNO prior to the panel and the DCC Requirements proposal was developed in conjunction with NIEN

CM stated that for the Demand Metering Code update, SONI would consult with BM in the development phase.

This modification proposal will issue for consultation following the GCRP.

OC291 Modification

FH presented on this housekeeping modification.

This modification proposal will issue for consultation following the GCRP.

UR Update

JO updated that UR are working through several derogation requests, there are some issues that are with UR legal that will be chased up. Regarding the C30 derogation UR are awaiting feedback from ESB to progress.

AOB

CM stated that SONI will be working on LCIS. As an update during the summer SONI had requested feedback on current implementation plans and had received feedback from OEMs.

SONI will also be working on a review of Grid Code in relation to Generating Unit Agreements no longer being applicable in NI.

Next GCRP should be in November. This may be an in person event should availability be sufficient.