

Minutes of Distribution Code Review Panel Meeting – 26th October 2017

<u>Present:</u>	Brian Tapley (BT)	Chairman & Secretary
	Ellen Diskin (ED)	Incoming Chair & Secretary
	Lisa McMullan (LMcM)	TSO Representative
	Michael O’Hara (MOH)	ETCI Representative
	Sean Doolin (SD)	PES Representative/ Independent Suppliers Representative
	Mantas Vencius (MV)	CRU Representative
	Esther Fructuoso Marquez (EFM)	CRU
	Derek Hynes (DH)	DSO Representative
	Ger Beatty (GB)	Synchronous Generators Ireland
	Tony Hearne (TH)	DSO Representative
	Carlos Galvan (CG)	ISEA Representative (Alternate)
	Ellen Diskin (ED)	ESB Networks
	Padraig Lyons (PL)	ESB Networks
<u>Apologies:</u>	Robert O’Rourke (ROR)	CER Representative
	Conor Minogue (CM)	Major Customers Representative
	(Alternate not present)	
	Ciaran Donnelly (CD)	Embedded Generators Representative
	(Alternate not present)	
	Peter Kavanagh (PK)	ISEA Representative
	Seán Wynne (SW)	PES Representative/ Independent Suppliers Representative

1. Review of Previous Minutes

BT presented minutes of the last DCRP meeting (30th March 2017). All changes were accepted by the panel and agreed as final for publication.

These minutes will be published on the ESB Networks website - <https://esbnetworks.ie/who-we-are/distribution-code>

BT also stated that this would be his final meeting as chairman of the DCRP and the next meeting would be chaired by ED.

Action:

- ED to put minutes onto website

2. Update on the implementation of approved modifications #22, #23 and #24

LMcM confirmed that temporary derogations were being extended for units that haven't testing completed but can which have test dates. There is a backlog of permanent derogations to be assessed (180 permanent derogations covering 50 sites), which can be prioritised if financial issues arise.

LMcM noted that the team assessing are resource constrained. Derogations process is being reviewed as there is a reduction in resources within the TSO due to I-SEM and System Services implementation programmes.

LMcM also reported that the TSO is minded to support derogations related to DMOLs

Regarding reactive power, TH noted that insofar as this relates to Type B windfarms, he is unsure whether customers will be in a position to comply by year end. Reactive power control modifications need to be completed so that wind farms can receive a reactive power setpoint.

At Cauteen, neither the wind farms nor the DSO are ready yet. Other than Cauteen, they will not be ready by year end, so he expects that these will need derogation extensions.

TH has engaged with a number of windfarms and is trying to understand what Type Bs are interested in becoming nodal controller compatible.

MV reported that no permanent derogation requests had been received by CRU.

Action:

- LMcM to provide update on permanent derogations at next meeting

3. Use of DSO RTU for controllability

LMcM confirmed that the objective is to agree a lower cost RTU solution for generators from 1 – 5 MW. The DSO RTU looks like a possible agreement, however TSO IT personnel believe that there are a number of acceptable solutions. The TSO has a telecoms consultant engaged at present completing a review of their systems, and the TSO wants to explore another option as part of this review process.

DH enquired what telecoms consultants were completing this review and LMcM offered to confirm later, subject to confirming that there was no commercial impediment. BT requested that he would also be included on further correspondence on this matter.

TH noted he had not heard about an alternative TSO RTU option until the day before this meeting and considered that the DSO RTU had been agreed as the preferred solution.

CG confirmed ISEA support for the DSO RTU solution, and noted that the timing of publication of the Enduring Connection Policy Transitional Arrangements would likely drive the timeline for the solar industry to need a firm requirement.

Agreed that at the next meeting the control solution would be recommended.

Actions

- Next meeting to be convened before Christmas to allow for this.
- LMcM / TH to prepare a recommended control solution for the next meeting.

4. Modification Proposal #36 – Power Park Modules

TH presented that previously a 1 MW controllability threshold for solar had been proposed, and that a modification to the distribution code to make provision for solar had been prepared based on copying the existing provisions for wind farms.

Subsequently this was overtaken by developments introducing the EU Requirements for Generators network code (RfG). Mod #36 was thus put on hold.

LMcM noted that introduction as part of RfG implementation would mean that the Distribution Code remains silent on requirements for solar generation for a period. However

she noted that offers issued to solar applicants will have highlighted the intent for controllability. She also noted that an RTU charge has been embedded in all offers issued, so there would be no additional charge to use a DSO RTU, and that work was ongoing on a signals list.

TH also noted that it had already been indicated that the system operators would not seek to use the implementation of the EU Requirements for Generators network code (RfG) to introduce more strenuous requirements. This requirement for control of generators <5MW, is non-mandatory under RfG. It had been raised with the DCRP previously, strictly insofar as it pertained to solar generation.

CG was concerned that the controllability requirements need to be flagged to solar generators. In procuring plant, it is difficult to choose and order when the Distribution Code is silent on requirements. CG requested that a generic solar controllability list be provided. GC believes it is credible that 500MW of solar generation will connect in the coming 2 years, and of this, some will connect prior to next May, irrespective of the introduction of a subsidy by then or not, if they can secure power purchase agreements.

It was also noted that a DSO RTU was required for EGIP, which uses an NX+C. DH noted that Nulec have stopped manufacturing the reclosers used to date. CG sought to confirm whether this means that the pre-existing solution of ABB Safering + Nulec is superseded. This was confirmed, however generators are only subject to the old charge for the Nulec.

The group agreed that it was urgent to progress a standalone mod #36 for solar connections, and BT and DH noted that it was also urgent to get an agreed control solution (per Item 3 – RTU).

LMcM noted that TSO will seek for all generation down to 1MW threshold to be controllable, but that only 2 offers issued since 2015 had been technologies other than solar. This requirement is based on system security studies. TH suggested that a presentation justifying the reduced threshold could be provided at the next meeting. GB sought confirmation that this meant all generation and noted that this could present challenges for CHP.

Actions:

- TH to confirm an existing draft of this which could be recirculation for discussion at the next meeting.
- LMcM to present on TSO's proposed requirement for all generation to be controllable at next meeting.
- LMcM also to present on signals list template at next meeting.

5. Modification Proposal #41 – Class Derogations

This has been approved.

Actions:

- ED to get this published on ESB Networks' website.

6. Emerging issue of maintaining Power Factor at low MW levels

This is to be submitted to CRU for approval.

Actions:

- ED to submit this to CRU for approval.

7. NSAI completion certificate. Due Jan 2018.

MOH reported that ETCI has received a submission from Ray Eustace ESNB which may be subject to comment at next ETCU meeting (Dec 12th), but that he does not expect the certificate documents to be adopted by January 2018.

MOH observed that ETCI want to keep away from the “authorised person role”. This role is not defined in legislation. LV installations are restricted but anyone can be nominated to work above 1000V.

DH outlined that Ray Eustace is working on interface procedures, contestable works, arrangements for electric vehicle chargers etc, and could present an ESB Networks view on these matters at the next meeting. DH also noted that it is not ESB Networks’ role to go beyond the meter, but that Ray could provide insight into what ESNB is doing in recognition of changes happening behind the meter.

MOH noted that Ireland is falling behind international standards in this regard and that without technical ownership at a central level, there will always be opposing views.

Actions:

- Ray Eustace to present at next meeting
- MOH to update any progress or comments received on the ESNB proposal at next meeting

8. NC RfG non-exhaustive parameters

TH presented on some issues which will be addressed in the upcoming consultation on RfG.

- The parameters being consulted on will apply to plant purchased from May 2018 onwards.
- The “Types” in the current Distribution Code have been mapped to “Topologies” so as to avoid confusion, as the RfG creates new “Types”. Nonetheless, it is acknowledged that there is scope for confusion.
- There is a discrepancy between the U/Q requirement at maximum output in RfG and the P/Q profile and voltage range currently specified in the Distribution Code. This will be highlighted in the consultation.

Two options for dealing with this may be presented in the consultation

1. Retain the existing requirements (and seek a mechanism – potentially class derogation – to allow for this)
 2. Change the Distribution Code requirement to match the RfG ones. This might result in higher connection costs for generators. Complying with the new profile may limit or preclude the use of affected generators’ reactive power capability in SSRP or any equivalent products.
- Some Fault Ride Through profiles may also need to be changed in the Distribution Code.

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CG believes that there are contracted solar customers who will connect in advance of May 2018. As a result, the group agreed that modification of the Distribution Code to account for solar was necessary so TH previous modification proposed would be recirculated for recommendation at next meeting.

9. Any Other Business

TH updated that structural changes would be required to the Distribution Code to accommodate EU Network Codes. TH to propose a structural mod.

MV reported that CER is now CRU, and that the CRU website has been overhauled, intending to make it more user friendly.

MV introduced Esther who has recently joined CRU.

MV noted that there will be another EU Stakeholder Forum in February 2018.

GB has heard that there are proposals to change the General Conditions covering generators connected to the system and requested that the group get a heads up of what is coming. DH proposed that Stephen Walsh presents at the next meeting.

LMcM told the group that there would be a workshop in December on Network Codes. LMcM to confirm the date to the group.

Actions:

- TH to prepare modification to the Distribution Code structure to allow modifications pursuant to RfG to be slotted in as they are ready.
- SW to present at next meeting.
- LMcM to confirm date of RfG workshop in December.

10. Next Meeting Dates:

To be advised when meeting minutes issue

**Ellen Diskin,
Chair,
DCRP**

26th October 2017