

## **Minutes of Distribution Code Review Panel Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	Derek Hynes (DH)	Chairman
	Paul Harrington (PH)	Secretary
	Nigel Morris (NM)	CER Representative
	Tony Hearne (TH)	DSO Representative
	Keith Moore (KM)	DSO Representative
	Ciarán Donnelly (CD)	Embedded Generators Representative
	David Cashman (DC)	TSO Representative
	Michael O'Hara (MOH)	ETCI Representative
	Catherine Joyce-O'Caollai (CJ)	Major Customers Representative
	Sean Doolin (SD)	PES Representative
	Cormac McCarthy (CM)	EirGrid

**Apologies:** Ciarán O'Brien Independent Suppliers Representative

### 1. Review of Previous Minutes

- The minutes of the last DCRP meeting (17<sup>th</sup> June 2014) were accepted by all.

### 2. Confirmation of the membership of the Distribution Code Review Panel

- Section 5.3 of The Constitution and Rules of the Distribution Code Review Panel outlines the procedure for appointing members to the DCRP. This is to take place each year at the September meeting.
- The three DSO representatives (including the chairman) will be confirmed at the December meeting of the DCRP. The delay is due to current staff reorganisation in ESB Networks.
- Ciarán O'Brien has stepped down as the Independent Suppliers' representative. This is due to the sale of Bord Gáis Energy. The Electricity Association of Ireland will appoint a new member.
- Ciarán Donnelly has moved companies but remains the Embedded Generators' representative.
- All other representatives were re-appointed.

#### **Conclusion/Actions:**

- o If they have not already done so, all members to return up-to-date contact details for both themselves and a nominated alternate to the DCRP Secretary.

### 3. Recently approved Distribution Code modifications and documents

- V3.0 of the Distribution Code and V0.5 of The Constitution and Rules of the Distribution Code Review Panel were approved by CER on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014.
- These documents are available on the ESB Networks website: [http://www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/en/about-us/our\\_networks/distribution\\_code.jsp](http://www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/en/about-us/our_networks/distribution_code.jsp)
- Distribution Code Modifications #25 (*Registered Capacity*) and #29 (*Changes required due to the restructuring of the Electricity Industry*) were approved by CER on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014.
- These modifications and their approval letters are available on the ESB Networks website: [http://www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/en/about-us/our\\_networks/distribution\\_code\\_modifications.jsp](http://www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/en/about-us/our_networks/distribution_code_modifications.jsp)

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- DCRP currently publishes approved modifications only on the ESB Networks website.
- Question was asked if DCRP should publish proposed modifications and past versions of the Distribution Code (as the Grid Code Review Panel do on the EirGrid website).

### **Conclusion/Actions:**

- o ESB Networks are currently redesigning their website. KM to consider adding the following to the Distribution Code section of the ESB Networks website:
  - Historical modifications (i.e. before #22, the earliest currently on the website).
  - Modification proposals (i.e. prior to their approval)
  - Past versions of the Distribution Code

#### 4. Proposed Distribution Code Modifications

##### **a) #30: Windfarms less than 5 MW – fault ride through**

- CM presented an EirGrid update on this upcoming modification proposal:
  - EirGrid dynamic simulations are showing that for certain faults on the Transmission System, large quantities of sub-5 MW distribution-connected windfarms may trip.  
This results in a loss of reactive power absorption and post-fault voltage rise.
  - Current EirGrid thinking is that fault ride-through capabilities should be extended to sub-5 MW windfarms (note: conventional generators already have to comply with these fault-ride-through requirements).
  - From a poll of manufacturers: all modern turbines have this capability available as an option; approx. 10 out of 70 existing windfarms can be easily converted to this functionality.
  - This requirement is expected to be included in the forthcoming European Network Codes. It is currently a requirement for distribution system-connected windfarms in Northern Ireland.

### **Discussion:**

- DH and TH stated that ESB Networks have not yet looked at this issue in detail.
- TH noted that the new EGIP over-voltage standards may help reduce the magnitude of this problem, but would not completely remove it.
- CD:
  - o Compliance with this could be very easy for newer projects, i.e. connected within the last 18 months, but may be impossible for older projects. The ease of compliance, if possible at all, depends on the vintage of the turbine technology.
  - o There are 4 categories of projects to consider:
    - Wind farms with turbines installed that already include this capability;
    - Wind farms with turbines that require minor changes to implement this capability;
    - Wind farms with turbines that can be altered but at a high cost;
    - Wind Farms that cannot comply due to age of turbine.

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- No problem with this proposal moving forward, but concerns about possible retrospection. Forced compliance could involve a relatively large cost for small IPPs.
- There can be difficulties in getting OEMs to engage with <5MW windfarms.
- CM:
  - Compliance with this proposal should not have any cost impact for new windfarm projects.
  - EirGrid are studying the implications of retrospection/non-retrospection for smaller IPPs.

### **Conclusion/Actions:**

- PH to send CM's presentation to the DCRP members.
- EirGrid will complete further studies and prepare modification proposal wording.
- TSO and DSO will work through the detail of the proposal and provide an update at the next DCRP meeting.
- TH to send the EGIP settings relating to overvoltage to EirGrid.

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

- KM provided an update:
  - Approx. 170 derogation applications have been received.
  - DSO and TSO are assessing the requests. The completed assessments will be submitted to CER in October.

### **Discussion:**

- CD:
  - It is the practise that an IPP that has applied for a derogation will not be moved to a different category until after their derogation application has been processed to conclusion.
  - IPPs should not be penalised because they are waiting on a decision on a derogation application.
- DH:
  - Acknowledges that this is the practise, but it has not been established that this is formal policy.
  - Distribution Code compliance is not the same as Operational Cert compliance – the relationship between the two has never been formally defined.
  - Work is required to asses the options.

### **Conclusion/Actions:**

- KM will bring an update on this issue to the next DCRP meeting, i.e. how the following may or may not be linked: derogation process; immunity to re-categorisation; signal lists; windfarm testing; commercial issues (e.g. bonds); etc.

## 6. CER update on Distribution Code Modification Proposal #28 (Distribution Code Modification Implementation Process)

- NM provided an update:
  - CER has received the ESB Networks discussion summary and the EirGrid letter setting out the TSO's position.
  - CER analysis of this modification proposal is ongoing. This analysis will be completed ahead of the December DCRP meeting.

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### **Conclusion/Actions:**

- NM will present CER's position on Modification Proposal #28 at the December meeting of the DCRP.

### 7. Any Other Business / Items for discussion at next meeting

#### **a) Separation of ESB and Customer earthing systems**

- MOH raised his concerns on this topic:
  - It is not always possible to achieve the necessary separation of the ESB's and the customer's earths in some installations.
  - There are dangers associated with this – if, for example, switchroom doors in a premises are connected to different earthing systems, it may be possible to touch each door when they are open.
  - MOH understands that there have been incidents relating to earth potential rise in ESB substations.
  - IEC 61936 / IS EN 61936 forbids the separation of earthing systems unless certain criteria are met.
  - ETCI TC3 Committee (*Power installations exceeding 1 kV a.c. (1,5 kV d.c.)*) has already noted this issue, but is not the correct body to provide a solution.

*Post meeting note: ESB Networks has already convened an internal working group to review this issue*

### **Conclusion/Actions:**

- MOH, on behalf of ETCI, to submit a document outlining the issue to the DCRP Secretary ahead of the next meeting. This document will be circulated by the Secretary to the DCRP members.
- ESB Networks will provide an update on their internal discussions on this issue at the next DCRP meeting.

### 8. Next Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014.

**Paul Harrington,  
Secretary.**

14<sup>th</sup> October 2014.