

MINUTES OF THE JOINT GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Held at the Clarion Hotel, IFSC, Dublin 1

On 29 April 2009 at 10.30am

Present:

Members/Alternates	Representing	By invitation
Jon O'Sullivan	Chairman	Ian Luney (NIE Energy PPB, in advisory capacity for NIE)
Dick Lewis	SONI	
Tom McCartan	SONI	As an alternate for Alex Baird
Alan Kennedy	SONI	
Brendan Woods	SONI	
Adrian Henning	SONI	As an observer for SONI
Mark Norton	EirGrid	
Arlene McGrath	EirGrid	As secretary of the GCRP in Ireland
Chevron Nolan	ESB Customer Supply	
Jim Cooke	Coolkeeragh ESB Power Station	
Donald Murray	Premier Power Limited	As an alternate for Ivan Purvis
Andrew O'Hare	AES Kilroot Power Limited	As an alternate for Roger Casement
Garrett Blaney	Independent Generators CCGT	
Ger Harnett	Independent Suppliers	
Paul Cooley	Independent Generators, Renewable	Apologies
Joe Duddy	RES	
Dave Thornton	Representing NIE	
Grainne O'Shea	ESB PG	
Arnold Mahon	ESB PG	As an observer
Derek Hynes	ESB Networks	As alternate for Rónán Ó hÓgartaigh

James Gallagher	ESB International (HDVC Interconnector)	
Maurice Holly	ESB International	As an observer
Deirdre Powers	Endesa Ireland	As an observer
Brian Mc Auley	SEMO	As alternate for Liam Ryan
Andrew Ebrill	CER	
Sarah Friedel	NIAUR	
Munir Hassan	Secretary of the GCRP in Northern Ireland	
Nick Molho	CMcK as reflected in the General Conditions of the SONI Grid Code	

1. Apologies for absence

- The Chairman noted that apologies had been received from Alex Baird (SONI), Gerry Hodgkinson (NIE), Leslie Bryans (NIE), Ivan Purvis (PPL), Roger Casement (AES), Peter Gillespie, Padraig Nolan (IPP Generators excl. Renewables and CCGT), Paul Cooley (Renewables), Rónán Ó hÓgartaigh (DSO), John Lynch (CER), Liam Ryan (Market Operator), Simon Tweed (TSO), Simon Grimes (TSO) and Conor Healy (TAO)

2. JGCRP meeting

- Jon O’Sullivan welcomed Panel Members to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.
- Jon O’Sullivan checked with Panel Members whether all members had received minutes of the last JGCRP meeting. Panel Members confirmed they did.
- Jon O’Sullivan summarised the minutes of the previous JGCRP meeting and the Panel approved the minutes. Jon O’Sullivan reminded Panel Members that in accordance with the JGCRP constitution rules, the minutes should be issued within 20 days of a meeting being held and the TSOs would be endeavouring to issue minutes within these time lines going forward.

3. Grid Code modification proposal: SEM Direction 08-179

- Jon O’Sullivan summarised the SEM Direction to Panel Members.
- Following the summary, Garrett Blaney pointed out that in preparing this Direction, the Regulatory Authorities’ Market Monitoring Unit (MMU) made no reference to either Grid Code despite the fact that the Direction would have impacts on the wording of both Grid Codes. In addition, the MMU did not consult with either Grid Code Review Panel. Garrett Blaney stressed that this highlighted a key point of principle, in that the Regulatory Authorities should not be in a position to take

unilateral decisions without giving Grid Code Review Panel Members an opportunity to be consulted.

- Jon O’Sullivan agreed and stressed that it was important for any issues that could impact on the Grid Codes to be brought to the attention of both Grid Code Review Panel s and be subject to consultations with the Grid Code Review Panel s.
- Dick Lewis recognised the fact that in certain circumstances where a potential decision from the Regulatory Authorities could have an impact on stakeholders other than just those represented by the Grid Code Review Panel s, the Regulatory Authorities needed to carry out a wide consultation exercise. However, Dick Lewis and Munir Hassan stressed that the key issue in these circumstances was to define the “trigger point” in time as from which the Grid Code Review Panel s should be consulted when a proposed decision of the Regulatory Authorities could have a potential impact on stakeholders including but not limited to Grid Code Review Panel Members.
- Andrew Ebrill and Sarah Friedel recognised the validity of the points raised and confirmed that they would bring this issue to the attention of the Regulatory Authorities.

ACTIONS:

The following actions were agreed:

- Andrew Ebrill and Sarah Friedel agreed that they would relay the concerns of Grid Code Review Panel Members to the Regulatory Authorities;
- Grid Code Review Panel Members, following the lead of the TSOs, agreed that they would provide a letter to the Regulatory Authorities by the end of May highlighting Panel Members’ key concerns and suggestions as to how and when Grid Code Review Panel Members should be consulted when Regulatory Authorities are considering making determinations that could impact Grid Code Review Panel Members as well as a wider group of stakeholders. As part of this action, the TSOs agreed to circulate a draft note to Panel Members within two weeks of the meeting;
- As part of the upcoming wind consultation to be issued shortly by the Regulatory Authorities, Grid Code Review Panel Members agreed to flag out to the Regulatory Authorities any points that could have potential impacts on the Grid Codes.

4. Update on Distribution Code related changes to the SONI Grid Code

- Nick Molho provided an update to Panel Members on the amendments being carried out to the SONI Grid Code following the development of a full fledged Distribution Code;
- Nick Molho explained that a consultation had taken place from 27 February to 17 April 2009 on proposed amendments to the Grid Code;
- Comments had been received from several users and SONI was currently reviewing these comments;

- Nick Molho explained that once all the comments had been reviewed, SONI would revert to each user with its responses and would liaise with NIAUR to finalise the Grid Code amendments;
- Nick Molho clarified that, to the extent that comments were made which were not related to the development of the Distribution Code, these comments would not be taken into account by SONI as part of this consultation exercise and would need to be raised by users as part of a separate modification request.

5. Update on other SONI consultations

- Nick Molho reminded users that three consultations had been issued on 2 April to all SONI Panel Members;
- The three consultations regarded:
 - the issue of maximisation;
 - amendments to the definitions of hot/warm/cold start and boundaries to align the Grid Code definitions with the TSC definitions;
 - the introduction of the concept of real time availability declarations in SDC1.
- Nick Molho reminded Panel Members who wished to respond to the consultations to do so by close of business on Friday 1 May 2009.

6. Items for discussion

6.1 Failure to synchronise

- Following the discussion held at the previous JGCRP meeting, Jon O’Sullivan provided an update on the proposed modifications to the Grid Code to reflect the concept of “failure to synchronise”. Jon O’Sullivan clarified that this concept would mean that generators who did not synchronise their generating units within a specified amount of time would not receive any payments for starting their units;
- Jon O’Sullivan provided Panel Members with a bar chart showing the minimum, average and maximum amount of time measured between issuing a synchronisation instruction and a failure to synchronise event for each unit. This chart was based on statistics from the Republic of Ireland only (see attachment to minutes);
- Garrett Blaney pointed out that there would be a lot of synchronisation instructions going forward due to the substantial expected changes to the transmission system with the connection of a considerable amount of wind farms and that it was therefore important that the proper incentives were put in place to encourage generators to synchronise on time;
- Jon O’Sullivan clarified that the TSOs’ desire to introduce the failure to synchronise changes to the Grid Code was due to the fact that industry documentation was currently not incentivising generator performance;

- Following queries from Panel Members, Jon O’Sullivan clarified that under the current proposals, failure to synchronise instructions would be issued after 15 minutes of an instruction to synchronise regardless of the type of generating unit;
- Various Panel Members queried whether a period of 15 minutes was a sufficient amount of time to elapse before issuing such an instruction, in particular given the different synchronising time requirements of the different types of generating units.

ACTION:

- Jon O’Sullivan agreed that the TSOs would prepare a paper on the issue of failing to synchronise, which would deal with the timing issues, in time for the next joint Grid Code Review Panel meeting.

6.2 European Grid Code harmonisation

- Jon O’Sullivan provided a short update to Panel Members on the latest developments following the approval of the so-called “third package” at EU level;
- Jon O’Sullivan explained that a new organisation called “ENTSOs”, which regrouped the TSOs across Europe, had been set up;
- This new body as well as the latest measures adopted by the EU would aim to promote more harmonisation across network codes in the EU;
- Munir Hassan provided an overview of how the ENTSOs would operate and provided users with an explanation of the four priority areas that had been identified by the EU as needing to be addressed by the development of harmonised network codes.
- Munir Hassan explained to Panel Members that there was a lot of merit in getting engaged with the discussions held by the ENTSOs and European regulators at the early stages, so as to influence the debate over how European Grid Codes could be harmonised;
- For information, the link to the ENTSO website is www.entsoe.eu/ and the link to the European Regulators website is www.energy-regulators.eu/;
- Jon O’Sullivan asked Panel Members to be proactive in updating the Panel whenever they became aware of new developments on harmonisation that could have an impact on Panel Members.

6.3 Constituency Rules

- Following the previous JGCRP, Jon O’Sullivan clarified that members of both Grid Code Review Panels were eligible to attend the JGCRP;
- The rules regarding who could become members of a domestic Grid Code Review Panel was set out in the constitution of both Panels as well as in the General Conditions;
- Dick Lewis provided Panel Members with an overview of the Constituency Rules for the Northern Ireland Grid Code Review Panel as set out in the General Conditions section of the Grid Code. Dick Lewis highlighted that whilst most areas of the

electricity industry seemed to be adequately represented on the Panel, suppliers seemed to be unrepresented and this needed to be addressed.

ACTION:

- The TSOs will consider defining the Constituency Rules to both Grid Code Review Panel s more clearly and revert to users by the next JGCRP / GCRP meetings.