

MINUTES OF THE JOINT GRID CODE REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Held at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Belfast

On 24 September 2009 at 11am

Present:

Members/Alternates

Representing

Dick Lewis	Chairman	
Jon O'Sullivan	EirGrid	
Tom McCartan	SONI	As an alternate for Alex Baird
Alan Kennedy	SONI	
Brendan Woods	SONI	
Adrian Henning	SONI	As an observer for SONI
Michael Preston	SONI	
David Macartney	NIE PPB	As an observer
Donna Kearney	EirGrid	
Arlene McGrath	EirGrid	As secretary of the EirGrid GCRP
Chevron Nolan	ESB Customer Supply	
Jim Cooke	Coolkeeragh ESB Power Station	
Ivan Purvis	Premier Power Limited	
Brian Mongan	AES Kilroot Power Limited	As an alternate for Roger Casement
Garrett Blaney	Viridian Power & Energy	
Kevin Hannafin	Viridian Power & Energy	
Ger Harnett	Independent Suppliers	
Joe Duddy	RES	
Gerry Hodgkinson	NIE (DNO)	
Dave Thornton	NIE (TO)	As an alternate for Leslie Bryans
Gráinne O'Shea	ESB PG	
Rónán Ó hÓgartaigh	ESB Networks	

James Gallagher	ESB International (HDVC Interconnector)	
Maurice Holly	ESB International	As an observer
Miguel Gonzalez	Endesa Ireland	
Jane McArdle	Airtricity	
Peter Gillespie	Edenderry Power	
Brian McAuley	SEMO	As alternate for Liam Ryan
John Lynch	CER	
Sarah Friedel	NIAUR	
Munir Hassan	Secretary of the SONI GCRP	
Nick Molho	CMcK as reflected in the General Conditions of the SONI Grid Code	

1. Introduction to JGCRP meeting

- Dick Lewis welcomed Panel Members to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.
- Jon O’Sullivan introduced some new members to the panel:
 - § Donna Kearney (EirGrid) represents the TSO and replaces Simon Tweed.
 - § Jane McArdle (Airtricity) represents Renewable Generators.
 - § Miguel Gonzalez (Endesa Ireland) represents Grid Connected Independent Generators, excluding Renewable Generators.
- The JGCRP approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th April in Dublin.
- Dick Lewis explained that the Failure to Synchronise issue is an item arising out of the previous minutes and invited Donna Kearney to speak on the subject.
- Donna Kearney explained that EirGrid intended to put forward a proposal in time for the next JGCRP meeting to deal with how the Grid Code and TSC may need to be amended to deal with how Failure to Synchronise instruction would be communicated to Generators. Donna Kearney explained that there would be 2 main elements to the Failure to Synchronise proposal:
 - Failure to Synch Instructions would be issued when Generators failed to synchronise prior to reaching their minimum generation level;

- Failure to Synch Instructions would also be issued when Generators fail to synchronise within a specified amount of time following a Dispatch Instruction.
- Sarah Friedel commented that generators are subject to a trip charge and short notice declaration charge.
- Donna Kearney explained that the trip charge was unlikely in the majority of these incidents as it only applied when generator was above 100MW. The Short notice Declaration charge was applicable but is used to cover the costs of expensive plant that is necessary because of the tripping.
- Donna Kearney explained that the Fail to Synchronise instruction cancels the previous synchronise instruction and therefore generator would not get paid for start up cost.
- **ACTIONS:**
 - *Grid Code amendment proposal to be put forward at next JGCRP.*

2. Update on Distribution Code related changes to SONI Grid Code

- Dick Lewis updated Panel Members on the SONI Grid Code amendments to reflect the separation between the Grid Code and the Distribution Code.
- Dick Lewis explained that the Grid Code had been submitted to NIAUR.
- Sarah Friedel explained that NIAUR had started reviewing the Grid Code amendments but were awaiting receipt of the Distribution Code before reaching its conclusions on the proposed amendments.
- Dave Thornton explained that the Distribution Code would be circulated to the Distribution Code review Panel on 24 September for a one week review and would then, subject to comments received, be submitted to NIAUR for approval.
- Dick Lewis also mentioned that EirGrid and SONI had started giving some initial consideration to possible further harmonisation changes to the Grid Codes across both jurisdictions and would update Panel Members in due course.

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

- Dick Lewis explained that other proposed modifications to the SONI Grid Code had been submitted to NIAUR for approval, including the consultation on maximisation changes and the consultation on the “hot” / “warm” / “cold boundary” definitions. There was a final issue regarding the meaning of the term “real time” in the real time changes consultation which needed to be resolved prior to submission of these changes to NIAUR.
- Dick Lewis also pointed out that when consulting on changes that affected both the SONI and ROI Grid Codes, it had to be borne in mind that both Grid Codes had slightly different procedures in place to accept changes and that this was an issue that

the TSOs would try and work on to ensure more consistency in procedures when processing all island changes.

4. Response from the Regulators regarding the priority of the Grid Code over the SEM Directives

- Dick Lewis went through the response provided by the regulatory authorities and queried whether Panel Members were satisfied with the response.
- Jon O’Sullivan then reminded Panel Members that the Grid Code was the highest document in the hierarchy of documents and that it would be futile to be making a change to the TSC which conflicted with a Grid Code provision without involving Grid Code Review Panel Members in parallel.
- Dick Lewis also made a short reference to the latest Grid Code modification request brought about by ESB. This impacted on both the SONI Grid Code and the EirGrid Grid Code; however, it would be discussed at the separate GCRPs as it was not a joint issue.

5. Overview of the EU’s Third Liberalisation Package

- Following on from the discussions at the last JGCRP meeting, Munir Hassan then provided an overview of the key provisions of the EU’s Third Package of directives. A copy of the slides is attached to the minutes.
- Following the presentation, Dick Lewis clarified that both SONI and EirGrid were active in ENTSO-E (the association of EU TSOs) and the North Sea Group and were taking part in the various code harmonisation debates.
- Jon O’Sullivan also clarified that the association of European Regulators (ACER) was the body that had authority to determine which harmonised network codes needed to be developed but it was effectively up to ENTSO-E to actually develop these codes. A key area of focus was the topic of a wind network code, in particular in view of the EU’s 2020 renewable energy targets.
- Garret Blaney queried whether, in view of the changes introduced by the Third Package, there were any Grid Code changes that the JGCRP should start thinking about at this stage. Dick Lewis explained that there were no obvious changes to be made to the Grid Codes at this present stage. Jon O’Sullivan also added that due to the introduction of SEM, the SONI and EirGrid Grid Codes had probably already done quite a few the changes required by the Third Package.

6. Any Other Business

- The issue of Failure to Synchronise Instructions was raised again. Jon O’Sullivan clarified that Grid Code changes should ideally happen first before conflicting changes to the TSC were made. At this point in time, the TSOs clarified that there was no formal co-ordination between the TSC Modifications Panel and the Grid Code Review Panels although the TSOs also sat on the TSC Modifications Panel. It was recognised that it may be helpful for this to be remedied to ensure that where potential changes to the TSC were at odds with the Grid Code, TSC and Grid Code changes worked hand in hand;
- Garrett Blaney suggested that a formal arrangement could be put in place whereby where a potential change affected both the TSC and the Grid Codes, it should be

approved by the JGCRP first before being approved by the TSC Modifications Panel. However, Sarah Friedel pointed out that there could be a danger in bringing potential amendments too soon to the attention of the JGCRP. The Regulatory Authorities agreed to give further thought to this issue.

- **ACTIONS:**

- § *NIAUR to give further thought to a formal arrangement for changes to the TSC that could potentially require a Grid Code change.*

7. Arrangements for next meeting

- It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Thursday 21 January 2010 in Dublin.**