



Failure to Synchronise and Failure to Reach Minimum Generation

Grid Code Amendments Consultation Paper

27 April 2010

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following the presentation given by SONI and EirGrid at the Grid Code Review Panel and the Joint Grid Code Review Panel meetings held in Dublin on 27 January 2010, EirGrid and SONI have prepared drafts of various sections of the Joint Grid Code with proposed amendments to define the Failure to Follow Notice to Synchronise and to clarify how and when this instruction will be used. Drafts have also been prepared with proposed amendments to reflect the introduction of a new instruction to cover the situation where a Centrally Dispatched Generating Unit (CDGU) trips before reaching Minimum Generation or has been on for its Minimum on time and does not reach Minimum Generation within the time determined by their Technical Parameters and Warmth State +/- 10 minutes. The proposed amended texts of the Grid Code, with both clean and redlined versions of each relevant section showing all the changes made to the existing version of the Grid Code, can be found in the “Grid Code Drafts” section of the SONI website and in the “Grid Code Consultations” section of the EirGrid’s website. This consultation paper sets out a high-level summary of the proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Grid Code and EirGrid Grid Code and both SONI and EirGrid seek comments from Users on any aspect of the proposed amendments.
- 1.2 Paragraph 2 of this paper provides a general overview of the proposed changes to be made to the Grid Code. Paragraph 3 provides a section-by-section overview of the proposed changes. As explained in paragraph 4, the deadline for submission of comments to SONI and EirGrid is **close of business on Tuesday 18 May 2010**.

2. General overview of changes

Failure to Synchronise

It is proposed to define the “Failure to Follow Notice to Synchronise” and to clarify how and when this instruction is to be used. This instruction will be used when a CDGU fails to Synchronise more than 5 minutes after the Synchronising time in the relevant Notice to Synchronise. In SEM, the instruction would be profiled as a FAIL instruction and as such would be matched off with the relevant Notice to Synchronise and have the effect of negating that Synchronisation instruction. The Generator is not entitled to Synchronise after it receives a Failure to Follow Notice to Synchronise unless dispatched to do so by the TSO (and therefore the Generator may not recover any start-up costs already incurred).

If a CDGU requests to Synchronise more than 15 minutes before the original Notice to Synchronise time, the TSO may agree to the CDGU Synchronising at that time or request that the CDGU Synchronises at the original Notice to Synchronise time. If the TSO decides to accept the request to Synchronise more than 15 minutes before the original Notice to Synchronise time, the TSO will not amend the original Notice to Synchronise time but will allow the CDGU to Synchronise.

These times (15mins and 5mins) are consistent with the Generator Performance Incentive in the Harmonised Ancillary Services.

Failure to reach Minimum Generation

It is proposed that a new instruction be introduced to cover the situation where a CDGU trips before reaching Minimum Generation or has been on for at least its Minimum on time and does not reach Minimum Generation within the time determined by the Technical Parameters and Warmth State +/-10 minutes. When a Failure to Reach Minimum Generation Instruction is received the Generator must De-Synchronise immediately. Minimum Generation and Technical Parameters are as defined in the Grid Code. In practice, the relevant Technical Parameters are those set out in the Technical Parameters Notice submitted daily to the TSO. In respect of PPA CDGUs in Northern Ireland, the Technical Parameters shall be their Contracted Technical Parameters. In SEM, the instruction would be profiled as a FAIL instruction and as such would be matched off with the relevant Notice to Synchronise and have the effect of negating that synchronisation instruction. Consequently, the Generator would therefore not receive a start up payment or idling costs. All energy produced by the Generator would be treated as an over-generation situation i.e. paid an uninstructed imbalance payment. Following the Joint Grid Code Meeting the subject of a tolerance band around the time to reach Minimum Generation was raised. The TSOs have suggested +/- 10 minutes tolerance band, which is considered appropriate as sufficient notice is given to the CDGU

The key proposed changes to the Grid Code include:

- new definitions of “Failure to Follow Notice to Synchronise” and “Failure to Reach Minimum Generation Instruction”;
- Amending SDC2 to include new provisions relating to the issuing of Failure to Follow Notice to Synchronise and Failure to Reach Minimum Generation Instructions.

3. Section by Section Review

3.1 Glossary & Definition

The proposed changes to the Glossary & Definition section of the Grid Code are as follows:

- “*Failure To Follow Notice to Synchronise*”: The **CDGU** has failed to Synchronise more than 5 minutes after the time specified in the **Notice to Synchronise**.
- “*Failure To Reach Minimum Generation Instruction*”: An instruction given by the **TSO** to a **CDGU** that has tripped before reaching **Minimum Generation** or has not reached its **Minimum Generation** within +/- 10 minutes of its **Technical Parameters** and **Warmth State** requiring it to **De- Synchronise**.

3.2 SDC2

The proposed changes to SDC2 are as follows:

- *Issuing a Failure to Follow Notice to Synchronise*: Additional wording has been suggested at SDC2.A.4.1.4 to allow the TSO to issue a Failure to Follow Notice to Synchronise if a CDGU fails to Synchronise more than 5 minutes after the Notice to Synchronise. If a CDGU requests to Synchronise more than 15 minutes before the Notice to Synchronise time, the TSO may agree to the CDGU Synchronising at that time or request that the CDGU Synchronises at the original Notice to Synchronise time. If the TSO decides to accept the request to Synchronise more than 15 minutes before the original Notice to Synchronise time, the TSO will not amend the original Notice to Synchronise time but will allow the CDGU to Synchronise

- *Consequences of a Failure to Follow Notice to Synchronise:* New wording has been proposed at SDC2.A.4.1.5 to the effect that when a CDGU receives a Failure to Follow Notice to Synchronise the original Notice to Synchronise is deemed to have been negated and the CDGU is not entitled to Synchronise. The TSO will then decide whether or not to instruct the CDGU to Synchronise again and will communicate this to the CDGU.
- *Failure to Reach Minimum Generation Instruction:* To allow the TSO to issue an instruction in a situation where a CDGU trips before reaching Minimum Generation. It will also be used when a CDGU has been on for its Minimum on time and does not reach Minimum Generation within the time determined by its Technical Parameters and Warmth Status +/- 10 minutes. The CDGU will then be instructed to De-Synchronise. To address the consequences of such failure, additional wording has been proposed at SDC2.A.4.1.6.

4. Next Steps

In Northern Ireland

- 4.1 The consultation period has been set for 3 weeks. Users are invited to send their comments to **SONI by close of business on Tuesday 18, 2010**. In the meantime, should any Users have any queries or require a meeting with SONI, they should contact Adrian Henning at SONI (Email: Adrian.Henning@soni.ltd.uk, Phone: 028 9070 7439).
- 4.2 Following receipt of comments from those whom it has consulted by this Consultation Paper and the expiration of the period for making comments, SONI will, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Condition 16 of its Licence, send to the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (the "Authority"):
- 4.2.1 a report on the outcome of its review;
 - 4.2.2 the proposed revisions to the Grid Code which SONI (having regard to the outcome of such review) reasonably thinks fit for the achievement of the objectives of the Grid Code referred to in paragraph 1(b) and (c) of Condition 16 of the SONI Licence; and
 - 4.2.3 any written representations or objections from electricity undertakings or the Republic of Ireland System Operator (including any proposals by such persons for revisions to the Grid Code not accepted by SONI in the course of the review) arising during the consultation process and subsequently maintained.
- 4.3 Following the end of the consultation period, revisions to the Grid Code will be finalised and published on the SONI website once approval has been received from the Authority.

In Ireland

- 4.4 The consultation period has been set for 3 weeks. Users are invited to send their comments to **EirGrid by close of business on Tuesday 18th May 2010**. In the meantime, should any Users have any queries or require a meeting with EirGrid, they should contact ArleneMcGrath at EirGrid (Email: Arlene.McGrath@eirgrid.com, Phone 01 2370129)
- 4.5 Following receipt of comments from those whom it has consulted by this Consultation Paper and the expiration of the period for making comments, EirGrid will compile and send to the Commission for Energy Regulation:

- 4.5.1 any written representations or objections from electricity undertakings or the Republic of Ireland System Operator arising during the consultation process and subsequently maintained.
- 4.6 Following the end of the consultation period, revisions to the Grid Code will be finalised and published on the EirGrid website once approval has been received from the Regulator.