

SONI and EirGrid
Joint Meeting of the
Ireland and Northern Ireland Grid Code Review Panels
Wednesday 13 December 2006
NIAER Offices, Queen St. Belfast
Minutes

1. Agenda

- § Welcome and introductions
- § Update on process to date
- § Drafting Consideration on Grid Codes
- § Areas for discussion
- § Outline of process going forward
- § AOB

2. Attendees

2.1 Attendees' List

Ireland GCRP Panel Members

Constituency	Name	Company	Attended?
Chairman	Simon Grimes	EirGrid	ü
Transmission System Operator	Fergus Keane	EirGrid	ü
Transmission System Operator	Cormac McCarthy	EirGrid	ü
IPP Generators (exl. Renewables and CCGT)	Peter Gillespie	Edenderry Power Ltd.	ü
IPP Generators (CCGT only)	Neil Bingham	Energia (Huntstown)	ü
Renewable Generators	Patrick O'Kane	Airtricity	ü
ESBPG	Gráinne O'Shea	ESB	ü
Public Electricity Supplier	Chevron Nolan	ESB	ü
Independent Electricity Supplier	Bridín Ní Chonceanainn	Fuinneamh Glas Teo	
Demand Customers	Pat O'Donnell	Intel	
Transmission Asset Owner	Donal Phelan	ESB	ü

Distribution System Operator	Rónán Ó hÓgartaigh	ESB	ü
CER	Siobhán Dinneen	CER	ü
Other attendees			
Constituency	Name	Company	
CER advisor	Geoff Clarke	SKM	ü
CER advisor	Andrew Ebrill	CER	ü
TSO advisor	Michael Walsh	EirGrid	ü
TSO advisor	Marie Hayden	EirGrid	ü
EirGrid Secretary	GCRP Emma Fagan	EirGrid	ü

Northern Ireland GCRP Panel Members

Constituency	Name	Company	Attended?
Chairman	Robin McCormick	SONI	ü
Transmission System Operator	Brendan Woods	SONI	ü
Transmission System Operator	Denis Garrett	SONI	ü
Transmission Owner	Gerry Hodgkinson	NIE	ü
Generators	Willie Kirkpatrick	AES Kilroot	ü
Generators	Ivan Purvis	PPL	ü
Generators	Jim Cooke	Coolkeeragh ESB	
NIAER	Juliet Corbett	NIAER	ü
Renewable Generators	Paddy O'Kane	Airtricity	ü
Other attendees			
Constituency	Name	Company	
TSO advisor	Leslie Burns	SONI	ü
SONI Secretary	GCRP Robert Lane	Cameron McKenna	ü

3. Welcome and Introduction

3.1 The Chairmen, Robin McCormick and Simon Grimes welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was the first joint meeting of the SONI and EirGrid Grid Code Review Panels. Given the wide range of people attending, the Chairmen asked that everyone introduce themselves, which they did. Robin McCormick outlined the format of the meeting. The two Grid Code Review Panel Secretaries, Robert Lane and Emma Fagan, would talk through a number of slides, which summarised the issues to be covered. As the meeting progressed, everyone should feel free to ask questions, and raise issues, so that there could be a good discussion on the issues to be covered.

3.2 There was then a brief overview given of the presentation to be given, which was to cover:

3.2.1 Process to Date;

3.2.2 Drafting Considerations;

3.2.3 The SONI/EirGrid Positions;

3.2.4 User Positions;

3.2.5 Specific Considerations; and

3.2.6 The Process Going Forward.

4. Update on Process to Date

4.1 Plans

An update was provided to Users of the current plans for the harmonisation of the two Grid Codes. The harmonisation was part of the steps needed in order to deliver a set of documents to enable the Single Electricity Market to work in practice. It was explained that SONI and EirGrid had been working together to identify the similarities and differences between the two Grid Codes. There were many areas which were very similar, and the overall 'shape' of the Grid Codes was almost identical. Each concentrated a little more on the areas which had a greater technical or historical relevance to each System, but the topics covered were much the same.

4.2 Common Sections

It was explained that it had been identified that there were a certain small number of critical parts of each Grid Code that required harmonisation and that the intention was to concentrate on harmonising those parts. There was neither the time nor the need to harmonise the entirety of both Grid Codes. Like a Venn Diagram, the two Grid Code would fit together with certain sections being harmonised, and the others continuing to be focused on each relevant System, albeit there would be further changes in these sections to facilitate the new SEM.

4.3 Common Governance

The harmonised parts of the Grid Codes can be characterised as coming under 'Common Governance'. Provisions under common governance will only be able to be modified following discussion at a meeting of the 'Common Sections Grid Code Review Panel'.

This would be constituted as a joint Grid Code Review Panel meeting with all members of the respective Grid Code Review Panels being members. Following that discussion, each TSO would then follow its usual route within its jurisdiction to effect changes to its Grid Code, using the common wording as discussed.

4.4 Relevant Issues

It was emphasised again that the process had, and would continue, to focus on issues impacting the All Island issues. There was a great deal to be done and very little time.

5. **Key Drafting Considerations**

5.1 Equivalence

There was a need to try to ensure that the two Grid Codes were able to work together within a single wholesale market and facilitate equivalence in terms of the approach to issues and the way in which Users could operate North and South. That did not mean that wording would need to be identical in all parts of the Grid Codes, or even that harmonised sections should always be the same; there might be a good reason to have a slightly different approach in each System. There would still be two separate Transmission Systems.

5.2 Interface between the two TSOs

It was explained that the relationship between the TSOs would be reflected in the respective licences and in the relevant parts of the Grid Codes, particularly the Scheduling and Dispatch Codes. Neither TSO would be bound by the other Grid Code, but instead the relationship between them would be captured in a regulated agreement to be known as the System Operator Agreement.

5.3 Interface between the Grid Code and the TSC

The TSC, it was explained, is the trading document which everyone generating or buying power was to comply with and which set out the rules on trading. It was still being developed and there is a lot of work to be done to it to turn it into a workable document. The TSOs would be likely to be parties to the TSC because of certain information to be given and received, but it was the Market Operator (a joint venture between the two TSOs) which would be principally involved with the operation of the TSC. In terms of the Grid Codes, they would aim to be consistent with the TSC, and also where possible the data requirements would be co-ordinated. However, certain data would be 'technical' data which would be needed for the operation of the Systems, and not for trading, and so the data requirements of the TSC and the Grid Codes would be different.

5.4 Interface between the Grid Codes and wider Framework

An overview was given of the interface between the Grid Codes, which had largely already been covered in previous slides, and also how the Grid Codes sit within the wider legal and regulatory framework. They will continue to be required by licences and to have contractual force through the relevant connection and use of system agreements.

5.5 Definitional Alignment, internal Grid Code interfaces and Jurisdiction Specific Aspects

The proposed method for dealing with definitions was then outlined. There would be a need for some common definitions where terms were either used in common sections or not used in the common section but had a wider relevance for the SEM. In a way it was necessary to develop the substantive harmonised parts of the Grid Codes and then the definitional needs would fall out. Within the Grid Codes there was a need to ensure that the non-common sections interfaced smoothly with the common sections, as each Grid Code also needed to work internally. This was therefore an important part of the process of development. Also, it had to be recognised that certain elements would only be relevant for one or other jurisdiction. For example, interconnectors are relevant only in the North, and pumped storage stations only in the South.

6. Areas for Discussion

6.1 TSO Obligations

It was explained that the Grid Codes will need to reflect the information flow requirements on the TSOs. There would be an equivalence of obligations in each Grid Code in relation to matters such as scheduling, and this would be reflected. Additionally, it was explained, there would be provisions ensuring that in the context of the new All Island market the practical operational matters would be reflected.

6.2 User Obligations

The presentation outlined the Grid Code Users to be captured under the Grid Codes as revised. The users to be covered were the same as those currently covered, with the addition of “Intermediaries” who would be bidding in certain generation which is currently under contract. The issue of information flows was discussed, with reference to data to be supplied by Users and how the data they would be supplying under the TSC would interface with the data they are required to submit under the Grid Codes. It was explained that there was an intention to align the information flows in all key All Island areas, particularly the SDCs.

6.3 Points Being Considered

There was then a discussion on certain specific points currently being considered. These included the concepts of Availability, Within Day Testing, the introduction of a new type of User - Demand Side Units, Wind issues generally, Planning Code issues, Ancillary Services/System Support Services, Outage Planning, TSO Licences, Metering, the Grid Codes Introductions sections and the General Conditions. A number of questions were raised by attendees, including in relation to ‘Day 2’ Ancillary services harmonisation issues and the potential effect on the Grid Codes, and the way that the Distribution Systems interfaced with the Grid Code requirements.

7. Outline of Process Going Forward

7.1 Reference was also made to the consultations to be undertaken, and the fact that this was the first meeting and that there would be others. Users indicated that they had found the meeting very helpful and informative, and welcomed the opportunity for further meetings.

8. Conclusion - AOB

- 8.1 The TSOs stated that it would be likely that the next meeting would be during February or March 2007, and that the location for this meeting would be Dublin.
- 8.2 The meeting was then brought to a close. The TSOs reiterated that they would welcome comments from Users.
- 8.3 AOB: No “Any Other Business” items were raised.