

Modification proposal:	Grid Code 0052: Assigning Detailed Planning Data (DPD) References		
Decision:	The Authority ¹ directs that the proposed modification to the Grid Code be made ²		
Target audience:	National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET), Grid Code users and other interested parties		
Date of publication:	1 October 2014	Implementation Date:	1 November 2014

Background to the modification proposal

A User³ wishing to connect to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) is required by the Grid Code (Planning Code 4.4.2) to submit planning data to National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) regarding the proposed connection. The submission of this data happens after the User has accepted an offer for connection to the NETS from NGET.

Grid Code H/09,⁴ raised by NGET and approved by the Authority in October 2010, separated the data to be submitted by Users (ie, Detailed Planning Data (DPD)) into two datasets, DPD I and DPD II. DPD is used by NGET in planning for work on the NETS:

- DPD I – data to be submitted by the User within 28 days of the date of it accepting the connection offer (or such shorter or longer period as determined or agreed to by NGET with the User)
- DPD II – data to be submitted by the User no later than two years (or such shorter or longer period as determined or agreed to by NGET with the User) prior to the date on which the connection is complete and ready to start (ie, the Completion Date) as agreed bilaterally between the User and NGET.

However, there are currently several references in the Grid Code that categorise data as DPD only. For these items, it is unclear within what timescale they should be submitted. This can cause confusion during the application process and potentially delays a connection, if, for example, the timescale associated with the data item is given one interpretation (eg, DPD II) by the User and another (eg, DPD I) by NGET.

The modification proposal

Grid Code modification proposal GC0052 was raised by NGET. The proposed modification will amend remaining references in the Grid Code (in the Planning Code and the Data

¹ The terms 'the Authority', 'Ofgem' and 'we' are used interchangeably in this document. Ofgem is the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority.

² This document is notice of the reasons for this decision as required by section 49A of the Electricity Act 1989.

³ A term used in various sections of the Grid Code to refer to the persons using the National Electricity Transmission System. See Grid Code Glossary and Definitions (GD.1) at:

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Industry-information/Electricity-codes/Grid-code/The-Grid-code/>

⁴ The Authority's decision on the proposal can be found at: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/ofgem-publications/62304/h09d.pdf>

Registration Code) that categorise data as DPD only and re-categorise them as either DPD I or DPD II. The change from DPD to either DPD I or DPD II will reflect the current way in which this data is treated. For instance, if an item is classified as DPD and NGET currently requires this information within 28 days of a connection offer being accepted, the classification will change to DPD I. NGET considers that for this reason, GC0052 should have no impact on current or future generator connections.

NGET consulted on this proposed modification in July 2014 and received one response which supported the modification.

NGET's recommendation

NGET submitted the final report for GC0052 to the Authority on 29 August 2014. In NGET's view, the changes to the Grid Code proposed by GC0052 would better facilitate Grid Code objective (ii) (facilitating competition in the generation and supply of electricity) by providing clarification on timescales for data to be provided in the application process for a new grid connection point and removing potential confusion as a result.

Our decision

We have considered the issues raised by the modification proposal and in the final report dated 29 August 2014. We have also considered and taken into account the response to NGET's consultation on the modification proposal which is included in the final report.⁵ We have concluded that:

1. Implementation of the modification proposal will better facilitate the achievement of the specified Grid Code Objectives⁶; and
2. Approving the modification is consistent with our principal objective and statutory duties.⁷

Reasons for our decision

This section sets out our assessment against Grid Code Objective (i) which we consider is impacted by this proposal. We consider that the proposal has no impact on Grid Code Objectives (ii), (iii) and (iv). We do not agree with NGET that the main impact of implementing the proposal will be to facilitate competition in generation and supply (Objective (ii)). We consider that clarifying existing data requirements is beneficial for users but consider any impact on competition to be minimal.

Grid Code Objective (i) 'to permit the development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, coordinated and economical system for the transmission of electricity'

We consider that GC0052 would better facilitate Grid Code Objective (i). Users who develop generation projects often seek an offer of connection to the NETS at an early stage. The application for a connection offer may be made in advance of other generator procurement decisions regarding which generating units the User will install. Clarity in

⁵ Grid Code proposals, final reports and representations can be viewed on NGET's website at:

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Industry-information/Electricity-codes/Grid-code/Modifications/>

⁶ As set out in Standard Condition C14(1)(b) of NGET's Transmission Licence, see: <https://epr.ofgem.gov.uk/Content/Documents/Electricity%20transmission%20full%20set%20of%20consolidated%20standard%20licence%20conditions%20-%20Current%20Version.pdf>

⁷ The Authority's statutory duties are wider than matters which NGET must take into consideration and are detailed mainly in the Electricity Act 1989 as amended.

the Grid Code about which DPD items are required in which timescales would provide certainty to Users about the data they need to make available to meet NGET's requirements.

At the same time, the timescales in which technical information should be provided to NGET ought to reflect the time at which NGET requires that information to facilitate the economic and efficient development and operation of the NETS. By providing clarity within the Code on the data required in particular timescales, the proposed changes should assist NGET to develop and operate an efficient and economic network.

Decision notice

In accordance with Standard Condition C14 of NGET's Transmission Licence, the Authority hereby directs that modification proposal Grid Code GC0052: '*Assigning Detailed Planning Data (DPD) References*' be made.

Gareth Evans

Head of Profession Engineering

Signed on behalf of the Authority and authorised for that purpose