

Headline Report – 07 May 2020

Grid Code Special Review Panel

The Grid Code Review Panel Headline Report is produced after every Panel and includes any Special Panel meeting that have been held. It aims to provide an overview of the key decisions made. Minutes for this meeting will be published separately.

A Special Panel was convened on 06 May 2020 to present the Draft Final Modification Report, discuss the consultation responses and hold a recommendation vote with Panel Members for **GC0143 - Last resort disconnection of Embedded Generation**.

Draft Final Modification Report

GC0143: Last resort disconnection of Embedded Generation

<https://www.nationalgrideso.com/industry-information/codes/grid-code-old/modifications/gc0143-last-resort-disconnection-embedded>

This modification sets out that under emergency conditions and as a last resort the Electricity System Operator (ESO) may instruct a Distribution Network Operator (DNO) to disconnect embedded generators connected to its system. The requirement for this is due to the unprecedented societal changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic which has led to demands out-turning up to 20% lower than predicted.

The Code Administrator talked through the history of the modification and a high-level summary of the responses received (a full breakdown of the themes can be found in the Final Modification Report submitted to the Authority)

- GC0143 was raised on 30 April and submitted to the GCRP with a request for it to be treated as **Urgent**. The GCRP on 1 May 2020 **recommended, by majority**, that the modification be treated as Urgent. On 1 May 2020, the **Authority decided** that GC0143 should be treated as Urgent and follow the timetable recommended by the GCRP.
 - The **Code Administrator Consultation** was issued on 1 May 2020 and closed on 5 May 2020 (two working days). A total of **69 responses** were received, (two confidential).
 - Most respondents stated that they understand the reasoning behind the modification being raised and the threat to Security of Supply that the current situation (COVID-19) poses for the GB National Electricity Transmission System (NETS).
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- Whilst there was broad understanding of the issue facing National Grid ESO there were concerns raised around the approach outlined in this modification. Questions have been raised around the approach through urgency and whether there would be unintended consequences to the modification being implemented as a result.

The Grid Code Review Panel noted the number of responses received to the Consultation and considered seriously the range of concerns raised. They discussed the fact that the change was being made to add clarity to a right already in the Grid Code but that they understood the concerns raised. The Panel decided that the responses should be explored further at the next Grid Code Review Panel meeting ahead of a modification being raised to explore an enduring solution to be in place for Spring 2021.

The Panel also discussed the communication required to be published in line with the implementation of GC0143 should it be approved by the Authority. The following actions were taken:

1. The ESO to publish, on the ESO National Grid website, a letter outlining their position around the use of Emergency Instructions
2. The ESO and DNOs to work on a joint communication around the change and particularly how instructions would be carried out
3. The Panel to consider the responses and themes in more detail at the next Panel meeting
4. The ESO to raise the issue at either a Grid Code Development Forum (GCDF) meeting or other meeting to be set up in June/July to start work on the Proposal for an enduring solution. The consultation responses to GC0143 and any Panel advice would also be an input to this process

Panel Recommendation Vote

The Panel held their Recommendation Vote and voted by majority that **GC0143** (9 out of 10 votes) better facilitates the Grid Code Objectives when compared with the Baseline (what we have in code today). The Final Modification Report was sent to Ofgem on 06 May 2020 for their decision. Their decision is expected on 7 May. Should the modification be approved it will be implemented on 7 May 2020.

Questions or feedback?

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