

Grid Code Review Panel

Minutes: 29 July 2021

Grid Code Review Panel Minutes

Date: 29/07/2021 **Location:** Microsoft Teams

Start: 10:00am **End:** 14:00pm

Participants

Attendee	Initials	Company
Trisha McAuley	TM	Independent Panel Chair
Nisar Ahmed	NA	Code Administrator Representative
Kavita Patel	KP	Panel Technical Secretary
Alastair Frew	AF	Panel Member, Generator Representative
Christopher Smith	CS	Panel Member, Offshore Transmission Operator Representative
Damian Jackman	DJ	Generator Representative Alternate
Gurpal Singh	GS	Authority Representative
Guy Nicholson	GN	Panel Member, Generator Representative
Graeme Vincent	GV	Alternate, Network Operator Representative
Iain Dallas	ID	Generator Representative Alternate
Joe Underwood	JU	Alternate, Supplier Representative
Jeremy Caplin	JC	BSC Panel Representative
Nadir Hafeez	NH	Authority Representative
Robert Longden	RL	Panel Member, Supplier Representative
Rob Wilson	RWi	Panel Member, National Grid ESO
Roddy Wilson	RW	Panel Member, Onshore Transmission Operator Representative

Steve Cox	SC	Panel Member, Network Operator Representative
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Observers/Presenters

Attendee	Initials	Company
Antony Johnson	TJ	National Grid ESO
Bryan Rhodes	BR	Frontier Power, Observer
Stephen Baker	SB	National Grid ESO

Apologies

Attendee	Initials	Company
Alan Creighton	AC	Panel Member, Network Operator Representative
John Harrower	JH	Panel Member, Generator Representative
Sigrid Bolik	SB	Panel Member, Generator Representative

1. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies were received from Alan Creighton, Sigrid Bolik and John Harrower.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from the Grid Code Review Panel meeting held 24 June 2021 will be approved at the August Panel.

3. Review of actions log

The Panel was advised of the remaining actions which are kept being open.

Action 400 and 403 were closed as approved by Panel.

The actions log can be found [here](#).

4. Chair's update

There were no updates.

5. Authority Decisions

Ofgem stated that the pending decision on [GC0134](#) 'Removing the telephony requirements for small, distributed and aggregated market participants who are active in the Balancing Mechanism' is still being reviewed.

[GC0109](#) 'Publication of the various GB electricity Warnings or Notices or Alerts or Declarations or Instructions or Directions etc. ("System Warning Alerts") issued by or to the Network Operator(s)' was made on the 12 July 2021. The Authority has directed that the original proposal of this modification be implemented on 23 August 2021.

GC0151 'Grid Code Compliance with Fault Ride Through Requirements' which was awaiting urgency decision had been granted on the 02 July 2021

The Authority's publication on decisions can be found on their [website](#).

6. Whole System Grid Code Digitalisation Update (Slide 8 – 22)

Laetitia Wamala presented back to Panel the overall feedback / themes which had been identified so far as part of the Whole System Grid Code Digitalisation project.

Panel was asked to provide their views and feedback on the themes outlined below to help put together the consultation:

- a) Key benefits of increased whole system alignment of the technical codes
- b) How to most effectively realise the key benefits
- c) Potential solutions to realise benefits.
- d) Effective collaboration with industry during development
- e) Enduring arrangements within industry
- f) Digitalisation

RL raised concerns around losing detail and precision in a translation to a digital version of the Grid Code. LW to that added that a lot of feedback on this area has already been received and that this is where industry input is required to ensure importance is given in working groups when formed, as there is a risk identified.

Discussions around having a formal process to help identify responsibilities for situations also took place.

DJ, as a user of the Code, stated that the valuable thing would be the consolidation of a whole system code. It was stated that, it's a step that's now needed with the amount of generation now connected to the system.

DJ also stated that having an objective to simplify what users actually need to know is worthy but also highlighted that there may be a risk of how digitisation may take priority over consolidation into a single code and if there was a chance that one may disrupt the other's achievement, Is there a prioritisation on what's important? A whole system code or a code more easily accessible to users? LW replied it's a question that will be included in the consultation which will help respond to industry needs: and there will be two teams that run digitalisation and consolidation in parallel.

RL asked if there was any cross-code working taking place or if this had been considered in line with BEIS and Ofgem's code reform thinking. RWi to that added, in the Energy Code Reform consultation it is stated that Ofgem are looking at options for consolidation of codes and alignment of various technical codes. RWi stated that the Whole System Grid Code Digitalisation project is an opportunity for us all to help direct the solution and potentially to get ahead of the game before a solution is imposed. RWi also noted that combining the Grid and Distribution Codes has been discussed on occasions previously and is one of the more obvious consolidations that could be proposed.

JC stated that all Code managers and Panels should be kept informed of any cross code impacts.

It was also highlighted that potential modifications may arise as an outcome of the Whole System Grid Code Digitalisation project. It was stated by a few members that an advance review would be beneficial.

The route of guidance notes was also considered as a potential part of achieving a more user-friendly outcome as part of this project as well as having a combined code.

Discussions around forming stakeholder groups took place as it was highlighted by Panel that industry time is a major challenge and concerns were raised around it needing sufficient input. LW stated that this is part of the consultation and engagement is taking place with all industry members.

GN suggested having an independent consultant to provide a resource and lead on the engagement/represent industry.

GS at this stage stated he would encourage industry to participate in this consultation as this will help get the right balance.

SC stated that he would like the project to consider the volume of users whose life is made easier as part of the projects Terms of Reference and not just to focus on the consolidation of the codes rather than improving user experience.

LW closed the presentation with a note to ask Panel to provide further input offline to help support the project as well as asking to return to future Panel meetings to provide progress updates.

7. GC0117 Review Terms of Reference *'Improving transparency and consistency of access arrangements across GB by the creation of a pan-GB commonality of PGM requirements'*

Garth Graham of SSE was invited by the Chair to put across his views as proposer for the updated Terms of Reference for **GC0117** following the May 2021 Panel meeting.

GG requested further clarity on the Terms of Reference which had been inserted by Panel.

RWi stated that these were added as a helpful reference for a more coordinated solution to be formed.

DECISION: Panel approved removal for the insertions of having interactions between **CAP169** and **CMP291** from the Terms of Reference.

GG requested further clarity on why the need for a Cost Benefit Analysis was needed for this modification and also questioned practicality of the need to coordinate with the National Grid System Operator/Distribution Network Operator/Open Networks project.

DECISION: It was agreed by majority to retain the note in the ToRs to be aware of the developments by Open Networks rather than having a coordinated approach.

ACTION 404: **GC0117** Terms of Reference to be returned to Panel for approval after review by the workgroup.

8. New modifications

There were no new modifications raised for July 2021, however RWi advised Panel that a modification would probably be raised in August as a minor amendment to the Governance Rules to line the code modification process with that set out in the Emergency and Restoration Code given that Ofgem have just approved (on 13 July) a mapping of the Terms and Conditions for System Defence and System Restoration Service Providers to the Grid Code; and similarly to the EBGL A18 process as implemented in **GC0132** this now mandates a one month consultation period where any of these clauses are amended.

9. In flight modification updates

NA outlined the progress of the [in-flight modifications](#). It was brought to Panel's attention that:

- Code Admin have facilitated a record of 16 workgroups across Grid Code and CUSC.
- **GC0151** is being given urgency by Code Admin and is due for Code Admin Consultation to commence 30 July 2021
 - There was a query raised by Simon Lord in the workgroup for the differences between the reconnection of generation consisting of a single generator (see slide 31) rather than individual turbines or turbine strings where the main generator circuit breaker might not have operated. SL had asked if a potential modification needed raising as the workgroup felt it might not be in scope of **GC0151**.

A majority of the Panel members noted that the progression of the **GC0151** modification may address the above query, and if it does not then an outcome of that would be to raise a new modification. It was stated by RL, that Simon Lord raised this query as he felt it is a bigger issue than Fault Ride Through. There were discussions around who needed to raise the modification if the concerns raised are not addressed to which a suggestion of using the Grid Code Development Forum was noted by GN.

DECISION: Workgroup for **GC0151** to continue and if it falls out of scope then it is to be discussed at a subsequent Grid Code Development Forum.

- Code Admin need to agree dates for when the **GC0133** Draft Final Modification Report will be presented back to panel. The ESO have provided their statements for the DFMR report in tabular format for the pros and cons and the report is with the Proposer to do the same.
- Code Admin to re-plan **GC0139** as progress on this modification has been slow.

The chair at this point stated that the quality of information for **GC0139** needs to be in line with the ask to avoid an Authority sendback.

- Panel was asked to note a further 3 month delay on **GC0138/141** for the workgroup report to be presented largely due to the number of alternatives.

RL asked NA if the timeline being proposed for **GC0138/141** was ambitious to which NA advised that updates will take place with Panel.

It was also stated by AF that **GC0138** could be progressed first as he believes **GC0141** is far more complicated.

GS advised Panel that if the two modifications in question have no interaction and the sole purpose of them being combined was to manage industry time due to the crossover of members then **GC0138/141** can be progressed separately.

DECISION: **GC0138** to now progress towards the August Panel where the workgroup report can be presented to Panel.

ACTION 405: NA/KP to provide Panel with the revision of timelines for **GC0138/141** for offline approval.

10. Discussion on Prioritisation

Panel reviewed the prioritisation stack for any movements.

GC0151 was agreed to take first place due to the urgency as agreed by Panel and approved by Ofgem.

As per above discussions on **GC0138** and **GC0141** it was noted by Panel that if **GC0141** was dropped below **GC0138** then it could raise concerns with industry.

DECISION: GC0151 to take first place and no other changes were made to the prioritisation stack.

The updated Prioritisation Stack is included in the Headline Report which can be found [here](#).

11. Workgroup reports

There was one Workgroup report presented to Panel.

GC0137 '*Minimum Specification Required for Provision of GB Grid Forming (GBGF) Capability (formerly Virtual Synchronous Machine/VSM Capability) This modification proposes to add a non-mandatory technical specification to the Grid Code, relating to what is referred to as Virtual Synchronous Machine ("VSM") capability.*'

NA presented **GC0137** and provided a background to the modification.

The purpose of this modification is simply to develop the minimum Grid Code technical specification for a GB Grid Forming Capability (which was formerly referred to as a Virtual Synchronous Machine - "VSM"). The market arrangements will then be addressed as a separate piece of work once the specification and technical requirements are in place.

After reviewing the presentation, the Panel was asked to consider whether the changes to the legal text as suggested following comments from panel members were typographical. Antony Johnson the proposer who was invited by the chair stated that he would like to work on the legal text changes and finalise these also seeking final input from the workgroup before having the Terms of Reference approved to avoid any delays or sendback.

The Panel decided that this was a sensible provision and that the decision on the Terms of Reference should be made at the next meeting following completion of the changes.

ACTION 406: Antony Johnson to liaise with Panel members to address the comments on the legal text raised and circulate offline for the report to be then presented at the August Grid Code Review Panel.

12. Draft Final Modification Reports (DFMR)

There were no reports to present to Panel.

13. Reports to Authority

There were no reports to the Authority.

14. Implementation updates

NA advised Panel that **GC0109** '*Publication of the various GB electricity Warnings or Notices or Alerts or Declarations or Instructions or Directions etc. ("System Warning Alerts") issued by or to the Network Operator(s).*' was approved by the Authority 12 July 2021. The Authority has directed that the Original proposal of this Modification be implemented on 23 August 2021.

A summary of the changes that the ESO needs to make to implement this is as follows:

- Four SPICE (system) templates being updated (feeds into the BMRS)
- Capacity Market Notifications (CMNs) to be a manual process since the ESO has no access to these

- IT analysis taking place to explore feasibility of automation of CMNs in future
- Implementation deadline is 23 August. Relevant business processes being updated and new system templates to be signed off through relevant governance board

15. Governance

There were no updates.

16. Grid Code Development Forum (GCDF)

GCDF 07 July 2021

The following presentations took place:

1. Whole System Grid Code

Following the introduction of the Whole System Grid Code concept on 2nd June 2021, a summary of stakeholder feedback received to date was provided and the draft stakeholder engagement plan discussed.

2. GC0117 Questionnaire

Grid Code modification proposal GC0117 proposes that the geographical variations in generator thresholds are removed and a single set of harmonised values for the thresholds are used across GB. To aid the workgroup with considering the levels at which harmonised thresholds should be set through the GC0117 proposal, we are seeking support from industry to complete a short questionnaire.

3. Fault Ride Through - Unexpected Generation Failure Management

This presentation provided an update on the points raised and the expectations on Users and the ESO in these situations.

GCDF 04 August 2021

Panel was advised this was cancelled due to no agenda items.

17. Standing Groups

Distribution Code Review Panel Update

It was advised that the DCR Panel meeting is to take place week commencing 02 August 2021.

Joint European Stakeholder Group (JESG)

The Panel noted that JESG occurred on 13 July 2021.

18. Updates on other Industry Codes

There were no updates.

19. Blockers to Modification progress (February, May, August, November)

There were no updates.

20. Horizon Scan (February, May, August, November)

There were no updates.

21. Electrical Standards

There were no updates.

22. Forward Plan Update

Critical Friend feedback

NA provided Panel with the ongoing works which has been taking place with the critical friend process in Code Admin. Panel was very pleased with the overall work done and service it was providing.

23. Any Other Business (AOB)

GS gave an update on the Energy Code Reform and made Panel aware of the consultation which is currently open. A more detailed update will be given by Ofgem once the consultation closes at the next Grid Code Review Panel meeting.

Meeting closed with a thank you from the Chair to all members and participants who attend the July Grid Code Review Panel meeting.

The next Grid Code Review Panel meeting will be held on 26 August 2021 at 10:00 via Microsoft Teams.

New Modification Proposals to be submitted by 11 August 2021.

Grid Code Review Panel Papers Day is 18 August 2021.