

Grid Code Review Panel

Report on Licence Exempt Embedded Medium Power Stations Joint Grid Code Review Panel / Distribution Code Review Panel working group

1. The working group has met once since the last Grid Code Review Panel in November 2003.
2. The working group is concentrating on a model that represents existing Grid Code obligations on embedded Medium Power station being placed on the Network Operators. In turn, Network Operators will pass these obligations on to Medium Power Stations through the Distribution Code.
3. NGC has identified all the obligations on Embedded Medium Power Stations in the Grid Code and is now in the process of drafting proposed text that places these obligations on Network Operators. The main areas of the Grid Code that NGC believe are affected and is drafting proposals for are:
 - The Planning Code – Annual planning information on embedded medium Power Stations will be passed to NGC through an obligation on the Network Operators. The Network Operators may collect the information and send it to NGC or choose to place an obligation on the generator to send the information directly to NGC. The area of confidentiality will need to be investigated further. There is also an interaction with CUSC 6.5.1, which may also be changed, in that when a new development is proposed the data that a Network Operator is required to send to NGC would normally be detailed in the Planning Code.
 - The Connection Conditions - Network Operators will be required to ensure the obligations on the performance and capability of generating units, mainly detailed in CC6.3, are placed on Embedded Medium Stations. This raises two further issues. Firstly, how the obligations in CC8, that relate to mandatory services based on capability specified in CC6.3 are to be dealt with. Secondly, what are the requirements, if any, for ensuring compliance with the relevant obligations and what are the implications for OC5 –Testing.
 - OC1 Demand Forecasting – The drafting will clarify that the Network Operator is responsible for supplying information on Embedded Medium Power Stations. NGC is also seeking to clarify that this only applies to embedded generators – not directly connected Medium Power Station.
 - OC2 Operational planning and Data provision –changes are required as a result of clarifying that OC1 only applies to embedded generating units. Information on directly connected medium power stations will be collected through OC2.
 - OC5 Testing and Monitoring – Any arrangements agreed for ensuring compliance need to be addressed through OC5 and interact closely with possible requirements in the Distribution Code. NGC is currently considering how to deal with these as OC5 to a large extent assumes all units will be Balancing Mechanism Units, which is not necessarily the case for Licence exempt Power Stations.
 - BC3 Frequency Control - This interacts closely with the requirements of CC6.3 and CC8.1. In drafting NGC is seeking to ensure there is not any conflict between the CCs and BC3.

4. As mentioned previously a number of detailed issues have been highlighted that need to be addressed in the drafting. NGC is currently reviewing the interactions internally and have reported that they hope to have drafting available by the end of February. The next meeting is currently being organised however it proving difficult to find a suitable date before the end of April (11 weeks hence at the time of drafting this report). It may therefore be necessary to find alternate WG members, or to review the draft text by correspondence rather than meeting, in order that the work is not unduly delayed.
5. Once the working group has reviewed the proposed Grid Code text, the next steps will be for the WG to develop appropriate draft changes to the Distribution Code.

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