Energy Emergencies Executive – Black Start Review Recommendations

Consequential Implications for the Grid Code

Introduction

1. During 2005, the Energy Emergencies Executive Committee (E3C) commissioned a review and exercise of GB Black Start[1] capabilities in order to evaluate the robustness and preparedness of the industry of recovering from a Total Shutdown[2].

2. The Black Start Review was undertaken during the period of summer 2005 to spring 2006, culminating in Exercise Phoenix which occurred in spring 2006.

3. The findings of the E3C Black Start Review report identified a number of areas where possible improvements could be made to the Black Start process. Recommendation 1.1 of the report proposed improvements in the governance of the Black Start process.

Background

4. The Grid Code Operating Code, Distribution Code and STC establishes the objective, scope and strategic approach to the Black Start process and outlines which industry participants the provisions apply too.

5. The E3C Black Start Review report proposes that the Grid Code is reviewed (along with the consequential implications for associated industry documentation i.e. Distribution Code, STC) with a view to firming up the specifications of the Black Start process including for example:

   a) Process of LJRP design, review and agreement with signatories;
   b) Explanation to and training of prospective operational role players;
   c) The introduction of a regular and formalised operational liaison programme involving LJRP participants at the working level; and
   d) An enduring approach to exercise and practice of procedure

   The findings of the report propose that changes of this nature will improve the robustness of the existing provisions and provide greater industry clarity regarding the relevant processes and procedures.

6. The report also tasks the Grid Code Review Panel with developing proposals which will provide sufficient scope to allow the System Operator to superintend the capability of Black Start participant companies.

Timescales

7. A target delivery date of August 2007 has been identified by the E3C to implement the necessary changes within the Grid Code.

Proposals

8. National Grid proposes that the Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP) establishes an external working group to discuss and review the issues raised by the E3C Black Start Review i.e. identifying improvements to the existing Grid Code Black Start Governance provisions.

9. The initial proposed terms of reference for the working group are:

   a) Review the existing Grid Code provisions for specifying pan industry the training requirements, obligations, process and procedures for Black Start participants

   b) Consider the adequacy of existing Grid Code requirements regarding the ability of the System Operator to superintend the capability of Black Start participant companies

---

1   The procedure necessary for recovery from a Total or Partial Shutdown
2   The situation existing when all generation has ceased and there is no electricity supply from External Interconnections

    c) Recommend the changes that are required to the Grid Code and related industry documents

Recommendations

10. Members of the Grid Code Review Panel are invited to

    a) Agree to form a working group to discuss the proposed initial terms of reference and take forward the agreed ones

    b) Nominate representatives to the working group