

GB Transmission System Study Network Data File

Introduction

1. This paper explains the existing Grid Code provisions for the exchange of GB Transmission System network data by National Grid to Network Operators and invites the GCRP to discuss whether the current provisions would benefit from clarification.

Background

2. The Grid Code clauses (OC2.4.1.3.3 (i), OC2.4.1.3.4 (d), OC2.4.1.3.5 (a)) relate to the provision of the GB Transmission System Study Network Data File (GBTSSNDF) by National Grid to Network Operators. The GBTSSNDF is inclusive of National Grid's view of the expected output from Generating Units, based on submitted OC2 data.
3. The data held in the GBTSSNDF allows a Network Operator to study the operation of their sub-transmission network with that of the transmission system. This is particularly important for complex interconnected sub-transmission networks where a co-ordinated approach is particularly valuable.
4. A number of Network Operators have requested that National Grid provides them with a regular update of the GBTSSNDF on a weekly basis for the week-ahead timescale using a new form of network modelling data. It is anticipated that the numbers of this type of request will increase in the future given the projected increase in the number of complex interconnected sub-transmission networks.

Data Provisions

5. The Grid Code currently allows Network Operators to choose whether they want National Grid to provide an equivalent network model (option (x) and / or (y)) or for National Grid to provide the GBTSSNDF (option (z)).
6. The provision of GBTSSNDF is subject to both National Grid and the applicable Network Operator agreeing that there is a justifiable requirement for the data file and that the information should therefore be exchanged.
7. Grid Code clause OC2.4.1.3.4 (d) obliges National Grid to provide updates to the GBTSSNDF during Year 0. This provision appears in the section heading 'Operational Planning Phase' with no duplicate provision under the section heading 'Programming Phase' which Users may have expected¹.
8. In the absence of any explicit statement to limit the exchange of the GBTSSNDF (option z) to the Operational Planning Phase it is construed that the obligation extends into the Programming Phase. From a User perspective this lack of clarity may potentially lead to confusion regarding the scope of the provisions.

Recommendation

9. The GCRP are invited to:
 - note that current wording and obligations regarding the exchange of the GBTSSNDF applies to the 'Programming Phase';
 - discuss whether the provisions would benefit from greater clarity regarding the scope of the existing clauses to avoid unnecessary User confusion.

¹ The Glossary and Definition inform Users that headings are only inserted for convenience and should be ignored when construing the Grid Code.