

Headline Report – Grid Code Review Panel

Meeting Name	Grid Code Review Panel
Meeting Number	40
Date of Meeting	19 th Nov 2009
Time	10:00am – 3:00pm
Venue	National Grid House, Warwick

This note sets out the headlines and key decisions of the Grid Code Review Panel held on the 19th November 2009. Full minutes of the meeting will be produced and subsequently approved at the next Panel meeting and will then be published on the website.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP) meeting held on 17th September 2009 were APPROVED subject to minor amendments.

2. Frequency & Voltage Operating Range

National Grid recommended that a new Grid Code Working Group is convened based on the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) to review the frequency and voltage range defined in the Grid Code.

The Panel supported the idea and the group concluded that the content in the (TOR) should be expanded. It was suggested that a background information report should be produced by National Grid before any working group is convened showing areas of concern and the lessons learnt from previous occurrences. In addition to this it was noted the work of the E3C working group and this Working Group are separate and should not be merged.

3. Generator Reactive Despatch Simultaneous Tap Change

Francis Vary (FV) gave a presentation to the Panel on the issue and highlighted the need for Simultaneous Tap Changing to improve the system security and reduce costs for the future.

The Panel suggested for FV to present the Simultaneous Tap Changing option to the Ops Forum and to provide the Panel with a one page description of why this Tap Changing requirement is needed. The one page description should also be circulated to the Balancing Services Standing Group. FV is to report back at the next GCRP.

4. Basic Electrical Safety Competence (BESC)

In January 2009 National Grid published a letter to the industry outlining the adoption of the BESC frame work arrangement. At the May and September GCRP members raised concerns over the complexity and transition of such arrangement. In October 2009 the implementation of BESC was in motion when the concerned members met with Steve Bath the National Grid representative leading this implementation. At the November GCRP members were still concerned in the way the BESC was imposed and implemented. Several members felt that they were pushed into a position which they did not want to take. The panel Chairman agreed the need for further consideration in this area, including but not limited to the Governance surrounding implementation of BESC.

5. Delegations of Authority (DOAs)

National Grid updated the Panel on debate surrounding the possible codification of the DOA contracts in the Grid Code. The legal advice given to an alternative Working Group looking at Multi User Switching Agreements suggested that it would be difficult to incorporate the codification of such contract. It was suggested that a Bilateral Contract may be more suitable.

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The Panel members would like more clarity on legacy documents surrounding this area (where the current arrangements sit and who has legacy arrangements). National Grid to investigate whether alternative arrangements could be reached, if we could provide details to parties of whether they have legacy agreements, and to provide additional feedback from the Working Group looking at Multi User Switching Agreements.

6. Harmonics

National Grid informed the Panel members that they believe a review of the processes used in analysing and allocating harmonic emissions is required. The panel agreed with National Grid that ENA governance structures should be used to review this and for National Grid to write to ENA explaining their view of the issues and defect. National Grid to provide the draft letter to the panel.

7. Transients

National Grid to arrange a one off meeting with Industry members to discuss item further.

8. Constant Terminal Voltage Control

A paper on Constant Terminal Voltage Control was presented to panel. Users seeking to connect and use the NETS have queried National Grids interpretation of “constant terminal voltage control” as referred within CC.6.3.8 with the requirements of CC.6.3.4. National Grid expressed their differing interpretation of the requirements for constant voltage control in the Grid Code. The Panel were asked to consider whether more clarity is required in the Grid Code.

Members suggested that National Grid should state what their requirements are not how one would meet the requirements. National Grid to clarify what is required.

9. Multi Unit BMUs

The panel were updated on the current processes of receiving Multi Shaft CCGTs notification. The Panel noted the continuation of the current arrangements and asked National Grid to consider further investigation on the new Balancing Mechanism system.

10. BMU Configuration

The Panel were presented with a paper providing the background to a need for a BMU Configuration Diagram for offshore. The panel noted this and the fact that once Ofgem have made a determination of BSC changes P237 and P240, assuming they are approved then, NGET will consult on the legal drafting to allow the Grid Code to be amended to facilitate the production of the BMU Configuration Diagram.

11. ENTSO-E

A high level presentation was given to the panel on the ENTSO-E which will be available on our website.

12. KPIs

To be covered at the next meeting. National Grid agreed to provide a short paper detailing the proposals.

13. New Grid Code Amendments

Reactive Power from Embedded Generation (E/09 & CAP169)

TI is to publish the Report to the Authority imminently

14. Working Group Reports

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Compliance Working Group

John Greasley (JG) gave a brief update on the Compliance Working informing the Panel that the Working Group has come to an end. The initial work carried out by the Working Group on the technical performance notes (D08) was approved by Ofgem and are available in the Grid Code, further Grid Code Amendments are to be proposed. The draft Working Group Report is to be circulated in due course.

Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS)

Tom Ireland (TI) gave a brief update on the GIS working group which is concerned with the ownership boundary at the Transmission Owner/User interface on a GIS switchboard, he informed the group that four options were identified which are to be explored further, as below.

- No change
- Move standard boundary position for all
- Allow user choice between two standard boundaries
- Single party builds all GIS assets then transferred to current ownership assets

The Working Group is to report back to the February GCRP and the CUSC Panel with the completion of the revised TOR.

Frequency Response

National Grid reported that the Working Group have not been able to quantify the overall costs for new plants meeting the Grid Code requirements for Frequency Response. Several scenarios have been identified and are currently being looked at. The members of the Panel were informed that another source of frequency response provider is being engaged (the Dutch inter-connector BritNed). National Grid is to amend the TOR before the next Working Group which is scheduled to take place on the 2nd December 2009, for the inclusion of world wide comparisons.

E3C - Small Embedded Generators Frequency Obligations

This working group is investigating the performance requirement of Small Embedded Generators. To identify the capabilities of future plant to meet the frequency obligations in the Grid Code. The Working Group members have sent out letters to their respective plants to obtain current data. It was highlighted that the letters were distributed at different times and therefore responses may vary in time scales when receiving feedback. To date some feedback had been received with a positive response.

The Panel had questioned why letters were not sent out to the Medium Power Station, National Grid is to seek Clarity whether Medium Power Stations have different obligations to that of the Small Power Station. National Grid is to send Barbara Vest (BV) and Guy Nicholson (GN) a note detailing all current contacts of all the DNO members to enable them to facilitate a quicker response.

Members of the panel were informed that the Protection settings were being reviewed as a two stage protection setting rather than a performance obligation. The lower MW threshold was also being considered to what generation it should apply to eg (between 1-5MW). National Grid requested support from the panel members.

Members of the Panel were informed the most likely approach to be adopted was to implement the protection arrangements proposed as part of a review of ER G59 rather than establishing a performance requirement. The lower threshold of 5MW would be reviewed when sufficient feedback from Generators who had been contacted by the DNOs

E3C – OC6.6 (Low Frequency Demand Disconnection (LFDD))

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The Panel members were informed that a Report to the Authority is currently being drafted.

PNS from Intermittent Generation

The panel were informed how the current arrangements for the provision of BM and OC2 Data would be amended to facilitate the provision of intermittent generation. The working group were looking at ways to develop proposals to change the Grid Code to accommodate the changes. It is expected a Report to the Grid Code Panel will be submitted Feb 2010. National Grid is to confirm whether the minimum fault levels are being considered.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4th February 2010 at National Grid House, Warwick commencing at 10:00am.