

Stage 02: Industry Consultation

Grid Code

B/11 Provisions for Electronic Communication of System Warnings between NGET and Users

What stage is this document at?

01	Working Group Report
02	Industry Consultation
03	Report to the Authority

This proposal seeks to modify the Grid Code to in relation to the notification and delivery of National Electricity Transmission System Warning messages to Users in order to allow such messages to be delivered via electronic means

This document is open for Industry Consultation. Any interested party is able to make a response in line with the guidance set out in Section 5 of this document.

Published on: 05 May 2011
Length of Consultation: XX Working Days
Responses by: xx June 2011



High Impact:
None identified



Medium Impact:
None identified



Low Impact:
Generators, Distribution Network Operators other Users in receipt of National Electricity Transmission System Warning messages

B/11B/11 Industry

Consultation

05 May 2011

Version 1.0

Page 1 of 8

Contents

1	Executive Summary	3
2	Purpose & Introduction	4
3	Description of Proposed Modification and its Effects	6
4	Impacts & Assessment	7
5	Responses	8

About this document

This Industry Consultation outlines the information required for interested parties to form an understanding of a defect within the Grid Code and the proposed solutions.

To modify the Grid Code a Modification Proposal must be taken to the Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP). This Modification Proposal will outline the background to the issue, how to address it, any impacts it may have on the industry and a recommendation for the GCRP to proceed to a Working Group or to an Industry Consultation.

The GCRP, based on the Modification Proposal, will determine if any further work or debate is required. If the group feels that the issue could benefit from further examination it will be progressed to a Working Group. Terms of Reference will be created to outline the purpose and scope of the Working Group, as well as any timelines for reporting back to the GCRP. The Working Group will then meet to discuss the issue and produce a Working Group Report. This Working Group Report is then presented to the GCRP to determine if the Terms of Reference have been met and that a robust solution has been developed to meet the defect within the Grid Code.

If the GCRP feels that the issue has already been investigated thoroughly and a robust solution has been developed, the Modification Proposal will progress to an Industry Consultation. Grid Code Industry Consultations last approximately one month but timescales can alter based on the complexity of the issue.

Following the conclusion of the Industry Consultation, a Report to the Authority is produced which takes into account any responses to the Industry Consultation and puts forward recommendations to Ofgem on how to address the defect within the Grid Code. The Authority then considers the issue and the proposed solutions to make a determination.



Any Questions?

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B/11B/11 Industry
Consultation

05 May 2011

Version 1.0

Page 2 of 8

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper proposes a change to the Grid Code in relation to the notification and delivery of **National Electricity Transmission System Warning** messages to Users.
- 1.2 This is currently achieved via a combination of telephone and facsimile notification.
- 1.3 Currently, the Grid Code specifically requires that, in certain circumstances, confirmation of **National Electricity Transmission System Warning** messages will be delivered by facsimile.
- 1.4 To provide the necessary flexibility to allow for the use of electronic communication of **National Electricity Transmission System Warning** messages, it is proposed that specific Grid Code OC7 requirements for notification of **National Electricity Transmission System Warnings** via fax are removed.

Introduction

- 2.1 As National Electricity Transmission System Operator (NETSO), National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) is required to send **National Electricity Transmission System Warning** messages to applicable Users as and when appropriate.
- 2.2 This is currently achieved via a combination of telephone and facsimile notifications, traditionally delivered via the National Grid Operational Broadcast System (OBS).
- 2.3 The OBS system has reached the end of its serviceable life, and limitations of the system have resulted in the need to revert to manual telephone and facsimile processes.
- 2.4 National Grid is currently exploring options to replace the OBS.
- 2.5 Currently, the Grid Code specifically requires system warning messages to be delivered by facsimile.
- 2.6 To provide the necessary flexibility to allow for a modern design for the future OBS replacement, including options for electronic communications facilities, it is proposed that the specific Grid Code requirement for facsimile notification of **National Electricity Transmission System Warnings** is removed.

Summary of Current Grid Code Requirements

- 2.7 The Grid Code (OC7.4.8.3) places the following requirements on NGET and Users in respect of electronic data communication of National Electricity Transmission System Warning messages:

OC7.4.8.3

...

- (c) **National Electricity Transmission System Warnings** will be issued by fax, to the facsimile number(s) and locations agreed between **NGET** and **Users**, or by such electronic data transmission facilities as have been agreed. In the case of **Generators** with **Gensets** this will normally be at their **Trading Points** (if they have notified **NGET** that they have a **Trading Point**)
- (d) **Users** may at times be informed by telephone or other means of **National Electricity Transmission System Warnings** and in these circumstances confirmation will be sent to those **Users** so notified, by fax as soon as possible.

The Issue

- 2.8 The current wording of the Grid Code in **OC7.4.8.3 (d)** explicitly states that confirmation of **National Electricity Transmission System Warnings** initially made by telephone will be sent to applicable users “by fax as soon as possible”.
- 2.9 Additionally, it could be inferred from **OC7.4.8.3 (c)** that the primary form of **National Electricity Transmission System Warnings** should be via fax.
- 2.10 Specific Grid Code requirements for Facsimile messages preclude the option to develop a modern communication system to replace the OBS that includes electronic communication facilities.

3 Description of Proposed Modification and its Effects

Proposed Modification

- 3.1 It is proposed to remove specific references to faxes in OC 7.4.8.3 as follows:

OC7.4.8.3

....

- (c) **National Electricity Transmission System Warnings** will be issued ~~by fax, to the facsimile number(s) and locations agreed between NGET and Users, or~~ by such ~~electronic~~ data transmission facilities as have been agreed ~~between NGET and Users~~. In the case of **Generators** with **Gensets** this will normally be at their **Trading Points** (if they have notified **NGET** that they have a **Trading Point**)
- (d) **Users** may at times be informed by telephone ~~or other means~~ of **National Electricity Transmission System Warnings** and in these circumstances confirmation will be sent to those **Users** so notified ~~by such data transmission facilities as have been agreed between NGET and Users~~ as soon as possible.

4 Impacts & Assessment

Impact on National Electricity Transmission System (NETS)

- 4.1 The proposed modification will not impact the National Electricity Transmission System other than to increase the flexibility of future communication facilities for the delivery of **National Electricity Transmission System Warnings**.

Impact on Grid Code Users

- 4.2 The proposed modification will provide greater flexibility for the design of future communication facilities for the delivery of **National Electricity Transmission System Warnings**. The specific form of future communications will depend on the systems developed, and agreement if Users.

Impact on Greenhouse Gas emissions

- 4.3 The proposed modification will have little impact on Greenhouse Gas emissions, but provides an opportunity to develop electronic forms of communication in lieu of faxes, thereby reducing paper usage.

Assessment against Grid Code Objectives

- 4.4 Of the Grid Code Objectives:
- (i) to permit the development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system for the transmission of electricity;
 - (ii) to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity (and without limiting the foregoing, to facilitate the national electricity transmission system being made available to persons authorised to supply or generate electricity on terms which neither prevent nor restrict competition in the supply or generation of electricity) ; and
 - (iii) subject to sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii), to promote the security and efficiency of the electricity generation, transmission and distribution systems in the national electricity transmission system operator area taken as a whole.

National Grid considers that the modification supports the objective of paragraph 3 through the opportunity to develop more efficient communication facilities in respect of **National Transmission System Warnings**.

Impact on Core Industry Documents

- 4.5 The proposed modification does not impact on any core industry documents

Impact on Other Industry Documents

- 4.6 The proposed modification does not impact on any other industry documents

5 Responses

- 5.1 This section will contain a summary of responses received during the Industry Consultation and will be completed as part of the Report to the Authority.
- 5.2 Views are invited upon the proposals outlined in this report, which should be received by xx June 2011.
- 5.3 Your formal responses may be:-

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Any Questions?

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