

Special Actions

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Special Actions: Background

- There is currently significant **uncertainty** of the purpose of Special Actions amongst generators, and the process that supports them
- In light of issues raised, National Grid took an action at GCRP to review the Special Action process as a Development Issue, and communicate **recommendations** back to GCRP and the wider User community
- This presentation attempts to highlight the **issues** with the current Special Actions process, and introduce proposed revisions.
- No external code changes are proposed; just revision of **internal procedures** which if adopted will affect the way in which National Grid interacts with users in respect of Special Actions
- Your **views and input** are welcome

Special Actions: Issues

- Currently National Grid Operationally procedures **require**:
 - **All** generator Post Fault Actions (PFAs) to be agreed as “Special Actions” even where these are **in line** with normal Run Down Rates
 - All Special Actions, and therefore (as a result of above) **all generator PFAs** to be instructed by **Emergency Instruction**, even where action is in line with RDR
- There is an **administrative burden** (for National Grid and Users) to manage the notification and agreement process of “Special Actions” which seems unwarranted for the vast majority that are no different to normal RDR

Special Actions: Proposals

- Where Post Fault Actions are expected to be within normal run down rates: **no Special Action will be agreed.**
- Such actions will be instructed by a normal **Bid Offer Acceptance (BOA)**
- If a planned Post Fault action on which **system security depends** ceases to be available (eg relevant dynamic parameters unexpectedly change), alternative means to secure the system will be sought and implemented **as soon as is reasonably practicable**
- In the unlikely event that a Post Fault Action becomes required to be **used** (i.e. critical fault occurs) and is not deliverable as anticipated (eg because RDR has changed), **Emergency Instruction(s)** will be issued.
NB This is extremely unlikely as critical fault would have to follow unexpected change in RDR in a timescale too short for mitigating actions to be taken
- Agreement of Special Actions will be reserved for those actions outside normal parameters (i.e. “Truly” **Special**)
- “Truly” Special Actions will continue to be delivered by **Emergency Instruction**

Special Actions: Proposals

Potential Concerns?

- **Current process of agreeing Special Actions for all Post Fault Actions confirms their viability and ensures system security**

This is not a robust argument. Most Special Actions are agreed as “Drops to SEL” where SEL is a dynamic parameter that can change, thereby negating agreement.

- **We should not plan to use Els**

Under proposals, we would not plan to use Els; we would instead be utilising the best available data from generators (eg submitted Run Down Rate), just as we would for example, use best available circuit rating data. If this data changes adversely, we should take alternative mitigating action as soon as is reasonably practicable

Only in the unlikely event that a critical RDR parameter change coincides with the need to use a specific action (i.e. a critical fault occurs) would an Emergency Instruction be required. (Much as would potentially be the case if circuit downrating coincided with a critical parallel fault)

- **Why change?**

The current process does not guarantee that a specific action is available. Since most of the current Special Actions are in line with submitted parameters, the bureaucracy of agreeing and communicating “so-called” is unnecessarily burdensome on National Grid and Users alike.

Special Actions: Summary of Changes

Now	Problem	Proposal	Improvement
Special Action agreed with generators for all identified generator actions required post fault to secure transmission faults, even where these actions are in line with normally submitted BM parameters	Most 'Special Actions' no better than standard dynamics Internal requirement to agree creates problem if no agreement, even if RDR is no better than normal	In planning timescales, if normal submitted BM parameters are deemed sufficient to secure transmission faults, no Special Action will be agreed	Less bureaucracy No need to gain agreement for actions anticipated to be in line with normal parameters
Since all post fault generator actions required to secure the transmission system are treated as Special Actions, all actions are continually notified to generators in timescales require by OC2.	Generators burdened with notifications of 'nothing Special'	Only generator post fault actions identified as likely to be outside normal parameters at planning stage will be agreed as Special Actions, reducing the notification to generators required by OC2.	Agreement only sought for actions which are truly special.
All post fault generator actions required to secure the transmission system are instructed as Emergency Instructions in the event that the fault occurs, even where the actions are in line with submitted data	Concern over purpose of Special Actions, and barrier to agreement	Post Fault Actions within normal run down rate will be dispatched by BOA. If anticipated Run Down Rate is not available when required, Emergency Instruction will be used. Emergency Instruction will continue to be utilised to dispatch the reduced set of truly Special Actions	BOAs used where suitable EIs reserved for "True Special Actions" EI available as backstop in unlikely event that anticipated RDR becomes unavailable, and action required to be called upon before mitigating measures can be employed.

Special Actions: Recommendation

Agreement of the GCRP is sought for National Grid to revise internal procedures to:

- Reserve agreement of Special Actions for generator PFAs outside anticipated RDR only
- Instruct PFAs in line with RDRs via BOA