

Grid Code Review Panel
GC0071: Request to Add a Formal Member representing Renewable Generators to the GCRP

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GCRP Ref: pp13/29

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Summary

It is forecast that the level of renewable energy will rise to 28.5% in 2020 and increase to 41.5% in 2032. With the increasing penetration of renewable generation, especially onshore and offshore wind generation, it is increasingly likely that there will be a significant impact on the development and operation of the GB transmission system. This trend necessitates the importance of capturing and securing the interests of, and contribution from, renewable generators to make sure the development of the Grid Code is fit for purpose. It is therefore strongly recommended that a new formal member representing renewable generators should be added to the GCRP.

Users Impacted

High

Renewable Generators especially onshore/offshore Wind Farm Generators

Medium

Offshore Transmission Operator

Low

Description & Background

ENSG's Gone Green scenario assumes a generation mix that will meet the CO₂ and renewable targets. In this generation mix wind generation will reach 25GW of capacity by 2020 (17GW of this being offshore) and 49GW by 2032 (37GW of this being offshore). The level of renewable energy will rise to 28.5% in 2020 and increase to 41.5% in 2032. It is therefore necessary and important that renewable generators are sufficiently represented in the GCRP. The high level penetration of renewable especially wind generators will have a significant impact on the design and operation of transmission system and electricity market. The impact is likely to be unprecedented and to fundamentally reshape the structure and character of the GB transmission system. It is therefore important to consider in detail the impacts of renewable generation when the industry is developing a fit for purpose and future-proof Grid Code.

The current Constitution and Rules of the GCRP stipulate generator membership mainly based on the total Registered Capacity of Power Stations and only includes one member representing generators with Novel Units. Although the current arrangement of membership to a certain extent represents the interest from renewable generators in that many of the current membership exhibit a varied generation portfolio, it does not sufficiently address the needs from renewable generators. A dedicated membership for renewable generation would provide a strong incentive to engage wider community of renewable generation developers in a direct and timely fashion. It would also facilitate the development of Grid Code to reflect the change of industry. Therefore we strongly propose that a new formal member representing renewable generators should be added to the GCRP.

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Proposed Solution

We propose to revise the Constitution and Rule of the GCRP and add a formal membership category of Renewable Generators to the GCRP.

Assessment against Grid Code Objectives

The proposed change will facilitate the following Grid Code Objectives:

(i) to permit the development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, coordinated and economical system for the transmission of electricity;

The proposed change will bring a formal membership from Renewable Generators to the GCRP and facilitate the development of the Grid Code, in particular facilitating a Grid Code which takes the specific requirements and impacts of renewable generation into account therefore meeting the above objective.

(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);

The proposed change will provide a platform for renewable generators to review and assess the development of Grid Code in a timely manner, and for their options to be properly addressed in order to promote competition in the generation market.

(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; and

(iv) to efficiently discharge the obligations imposed upon the licensee by this license and to comply with the Electricity Regulation and any relevant legally binding decisions of the European Commission and/or the Agency.

The proposed change will also provide an opportunity for Renewable Generators to be formally and properly engaged in the development of Grid Code to be compliant with the European Network Code.

Impact & Assessment

Impact on the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS)

No

Impact on Greenhouse Gas Emissions

No

Impact on core industry documents

No

Impact on other industry documents

No

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Supporting Documentation

Have you attached any supporting documentation [NO]

If Yes, please provide the title of the attachment: N/A

Recommendation

The Grid Code Review Panel is invited to:

[Note the issue for information only]

[Consider the issue and provide guidance/clarification]

[Progress this issue to a Workgroup for further analysis and discussion]
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[Progress this issue to Industry Consultation]
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Document Guidance

This proforma is used to raise an issue at the Grid Code Review Panel, as well as providing an initial assessment. An issue can be anything that a party would like to raise and does not have to result in a modification to the Grid Code or creation of a Working Group.

Guidance has been provided in square brackets within the document but please contact National Grid, The Code Administrator, with any questions or queries about the proforma at grid.code@nationalgrid.com.