

Grid Code Consultation B/07 and its consequential Impact on the STC**STC Committee – August 2007****Overview of Grid Code Consultation B/07**

At the November 2005 GCRP meeting, the GCRP agreed that a Grid Code Working Group should be formed to review the Planning Code data exchange processes that facilitate GB SQSS compliance assessment undertaken by the National Grid, SP Transmission (SPT) and Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd (SHETL) and the P2/6 compliance assessments undertaken by the Distribution Network Operators.

The Grid Code Working Group finalised its recommendations in its report presented to the GCRP in February 2007 and the GCRP agreed that National Grid should consult on the recommendations contained within the report.

The consultation closed in April 2007 with respondents putting forward a number of additional changes to the proposals. These changes were collated by National Grid and discussed amongst a number of Network Operators at an Industry Seminar where a set of further amendments to the legal text were agreed. The final legal text has now been drawn up and is currently being consulted upon with Authorised Electricity Operators for a second time.

Further consultation on the final legal text has taken place with SPT and SHETL to examine the impact of the revised proposals on the STC and on the TOs internal GB SQSS compliance assessment process. The TOs have confirmed that they are content that the changes would not frustrate their internal GB SQSS compliance assessment processes and agreed that the impacts on the STC should be further examined. This paper details the potential impacts upon the STC, proposes two methods of proceeding and invites the STC Committee to recommend its preferred approach.

Overview of the changes and their impact on the STC

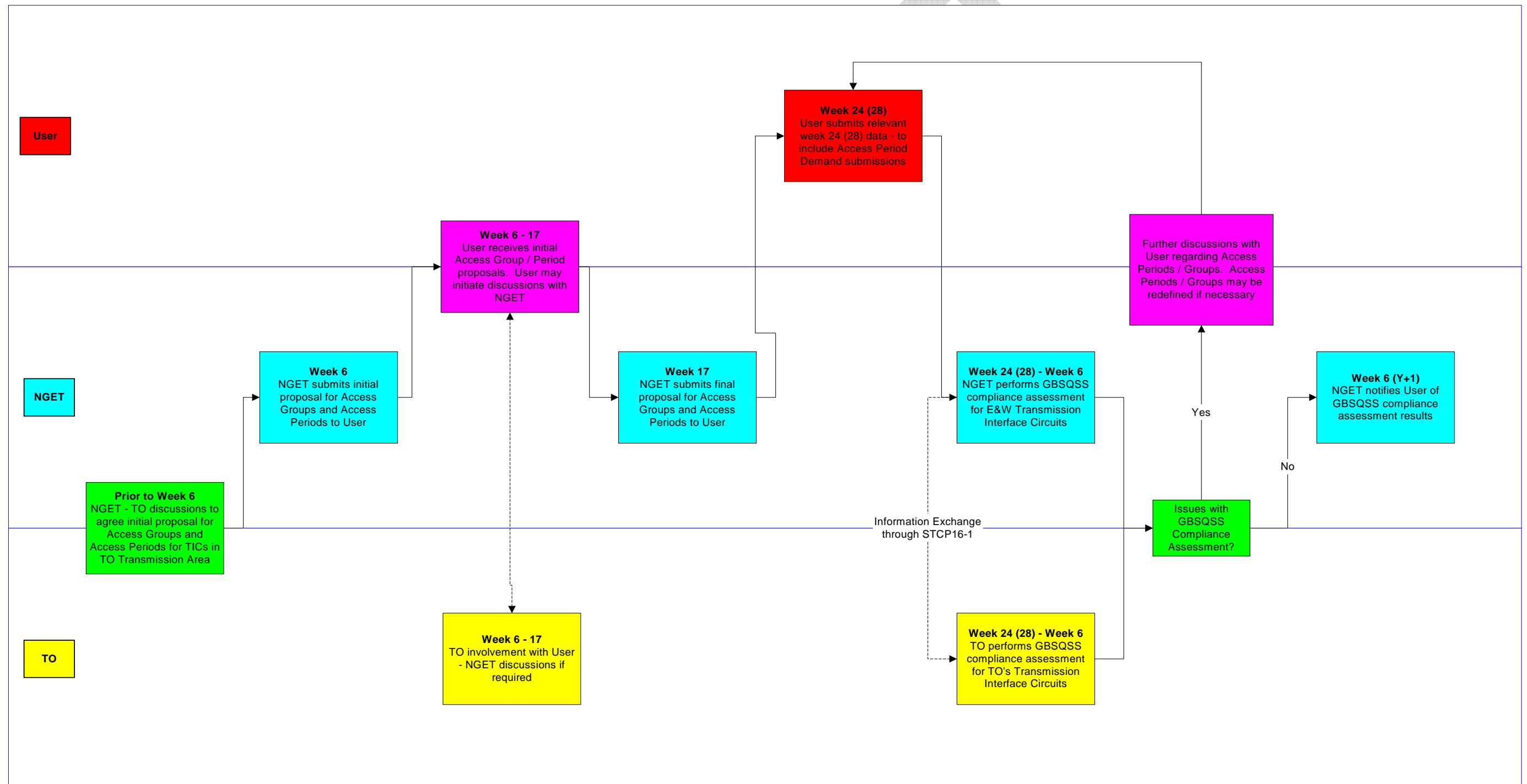
The key changes to the Grid Code Planning Code Data Exchanges are as follows:

- Introduction of new Grid Code terms (Access Group, Access Period and Transmission Interface Circuit) and associated provisions such that more robust data can be provided by DNOs to National Grid that can then be used to demonstrate that assets are maintainable in accordance with the GB SQSS. Such data is provided by means of an iterative process between National Grid and Users where, for Transmission Interface Circuits in Scotland input from each relevant TO would facilitate the overall process greatly.
- The fundamental principle behind the assessment of Transmission Interface Circuits against the Licence Standards is that the respective networks need to be coherently modelled. To facilitate this, the existing Single Line Diagram provisions within the Grid Code have been strengthened to ensure that National Grid, and in Scotland the TOs are able to assess compliance using a Single Line Diagram that accurately represents the planned network configuration during each assessment period.

- Replace the existing Grid Code provisions that concern Demand Transfers (PC.A.4.5) with a process based around the Single Line Diagram that describes actions that would be taken by a Network Operator post fault to reconfigure their network.
- Insert a new PC.7 clause which will recognise that data exchanged through the Planning Code is not only used to establish whether Connection Sites can meet the demand normally supplied from them but also to establish whether they can be maintained in accordance with various security standards. PC.7 also recognises that this process is necessarily an iterative one that relies on a significant dialogue between the parties involved in the process. Again in each TO's Transmission Area the involvement of the TO in such dialogue would be beneficial.
- Introduce new obligations in PC.A.8 to expand the data set National Grid will provide to a Network Operator should the Network Operator request such data in order to model the impact of the GB Transmission System upon its distribution system. This may again require input from the TOs for information on the GB Transmission System in each TO's Transmission Area.
- New Grid Code provisions (DRC5.5) are proposed to be introduced to clarify the process following the submission of erroneous data.
- To amend existing Grid Code Schedules and introduce further Grid Code Schedules within the Data Registration Code which reflect the amended/new Grid Code provisions.

Should B/07 be approved, a number of new data items are proposed to be gathered from Users. However, the main impact on TOs and hence the STC is the new Planning Liaison process. This is heavily reliant on discussions between parties and the submission and potentially resubmission of data. Clearly then for the process to function efficiently in Scotland TO involvement will be crucial. An overview of the Planning Liaison process, including where input is likely to be required from the TOs is as follows:

Grid Code Consultation B/07 Process and Impact upon TOs



Conclusions and Recommendations

There is clearly benefit in the TOs being involved in the build up to or during any discussions National Grid may have with Users where the User's network is sited within SPT's or SHETL's Transmission Area. It is noted that at present there appears nothing within the codes (Grid Code or STC) that prevents this from occurring informally. The existing Schedule 3 provisions allow National Grid to disclose information received through the Planning Code – Appendix A to the TOs regarding Users in the TO's Transmission Area and there is no restriction on the information that a TO may provide to National Grid. Therefore one option is to do nothing and to rely on the incentives on all parties to co-operate to allow the processes to function efficiently.

The second and recommended option however is to record the likely input required from National Grid and each TO in a new STCP. This approach will have the advantage that the framework surrounding discussions between National Grid and the TOs, and potentially Users, will be clearly set out. This will

- Allow for a framework into which TOs can fully explore issues with any User Data used in connection with GB SQSS compliance assessments.
- Allow the Grid Code based National Grid – User interaction through the Planning liaison process to be discharged more effectively for Transmission Interface Circuits in Scotland.
- Allow all parties to have a clearer understanding of the processes

The STC Committee are invited to recommend a way forward on the issue. Should the STC Committee decide to take forward the recommendation to draft a new STCP it is further recommended that a STC Working Group be established to take this work forward.