

STC Committee Meeting

Minutes and Actions Arising from Meeting No. 37 Held on 21st August 2007 Various via Teleconference

Present:

David McMenemy	Committee Chairman
Lilian Macleod	Committee Secretary
Bec Thornton	National Grid Electricity Transmission Limited (NGET) Representative
Layton Jones	National Grid Electricity Transmission Limited (NGET) Representative
David Osborne	Scottish Hydro-Electric Transmission Limited (SHETL) Representative
Kenny Stott	Scottish Hydro-Electric Transmission Limited (SHETL) Representative
Joe Dunn	SP Transmission Limited (SPT) Representative
Diyar Kadar	SP Transmission Limited (SPT) Representative
Dipen Ghadia	Authority Representative

In Attendance:

Mark Duffield (part)	National Grid Electricity Transmission Limited (NGET)
Andy Wainwright (part)	National Grid Electricity Transmission Limited (NGET)

Apologies:

Bali Virk	National Grid Electricity Transmission Limited (NGET)
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1. Introductions/Apologies for Absence

926. Apologies of absence were received from Bali Virk (NGET).

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

927. The draft minutes from the STC Committee Meeting held on 17th July 2007 were APPROVED subject to minor amendments and will be available from the STC website.

Action: Committee Secretary

3. Review of Actions

928. All the outstanding actions from the previous meetings have been completed or were the subject of agenda items, except for:

- Minute 567 (PLD and TOGA Interface)

The Committee NOTED that a meeting had taken place to discuss the possible amendments to STCP11-1 (Outage Planning). It was noted that further discussion was required to address the issue identified.

SPT to confirm with their outage teams regarding how the issue will be progressed in the future by the STC Parties.

Action: SPT

The Committee AGREED that the issue would be taken off the agenda until such time that there was further development to be discussed by the Committee.

Action: Committee Secretary

- Minute 915 (CAP146 – Responsibilities and liabilities associated with Third Party Works and Modifications made by Modification Affected Users)

The Committee NOTED that the proposed teleconference meeting to discuss the current process Third Party Works arrangement and the implication of CAP146 on the STC would be postponed.

STC Committee Meeting

The teleconference would be rescheduled at such time that a decision had been made on the original CAP146 amendment proposal and the alternative amendments by the Authority.

- Minute 918 (Grid Code Rated MWs)

The Committee NOTED that the first Grid Code Rated MW Working Group took place on 19th June 2007. The Committee NOTED that the issue and any enduring solution identified may have implications on each Transmission Owner's investment plans and associated Price Control allowance. National Grid will circulate the minutes from the first meeting for reference purposes.

Action: National Grid

The Committee NOTED that the issue of Generating Units exceeding their Rated MW affected both the operational and planning environment and as such it could possible have implications for both the GB System Operator and Transmission Owners.

The Committee AGREED that the issue should be discussed by the JPC. National Grid will inform the JPC of the issues being discussed by the Grid Code Working Group, requesting that the JPC review the issue providing any appropriate comments which could form part of the Working Group discussions.

- Minute 922 (STC Review)

The Committee NOTED that SPT internal review of the STC was currently ongoing. The findings of which would be presented to the STC Committee in due course.

4. New Amendment Proposals

929. There were no new Amendment Proposals.

5. Working Group Reports

930. There were no Working Group Reports.

6. Proposed Amendment Reports

931. The Committee NOTED that an extraordinary meeting of the Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP) took place on Tuesday, 31st July 2007. At the meeting it was agreed that as an interim solution, National Grid would progress an amendment to the Grid Code such that it refers to the most relevant version of the STC.

932. The Committee NOTED that the anticipated timeline for the submission of the associated Report to the Authority, outlining the proposed Grid Code amendment, to the Authority for determination is the end of October 2007.

933. The Committee DISCUSSED the proposed Amendment Report for CA023 (Exchange of Best View Investment Planning Data outside the Boundary of Influence). The discussion focused on the most appropriate implementation date for the proposal.

934. The Committee AGREED that given the interaction between CA023 and the associated Grid Code amendment, it would be necessary to have two implementation dates. In the event of the Authority approving the Grid Code Amendment and CA023 Amendment Proposal, it would be recommended that the STC be modified coincidentally with the Grid Code after the latter of the Authority's decisions. In the event of the Grid Code Amendment not be approved and the Authority approve only the CA023 Amendment Proposal, it would be recommended that the STC be modified 5 Business Days after the Authority's decision.

935. The Committee AGREED that the Amendment Report would be revised to reflect the Committee decisions regarding the implementation date. The revised Amendment Report would be submitted to the Authority by 22nd August 2007.

STC Committee Meeting

Action: National Grid, SPT and SHETL/Committee Secretary

936. The Committee NOTED that an enduring solution to the interaction between the STC and Grid Code would be necessary. The Committee NOTED that the GCRP had requested that a joint STC/Grid Code Working Group would be established to discuss, propose and agree an enduring solution.
937. National Grid indicated that the proposed interim solution of referring to the relevant version of the STC would mean that Grid Code changes would be required in tandem with every relevant change to the STC. This would be very cumbersome administratively because of the potential frequency of STC changes as a relatively young Code and the fact that the governance regimes do not align and do not provide for concurrent changes. National Grid believes that the interim proposal is not a sustainable solution longer term. Therefore it is important to identify and implement an enduring solution to the interaction between the STC and Grid Code, which would alleviate Users concerns regarding this matter and minimise any governance issues between the two Codes.
938. The Committee were INFORMED that any associated code changes would be progressed through the applicable code governance arrangements. The Committee NOTED that draft terms of reference for the group were not yet available and that National Grid was awaiting confirmation regarding the Working Group nominees.
939. Committee Members raised concerns regarding the remit of the Working Group querying whether it could impose any associated STC changes. The Committee discussed whether it would be more appropriate for the Working Group to solely focus on identifying an enduring solution for the Grid Code with the Committee inputting into the Working Group discussions. The STC Committee would be responsible for developing and progressing any associated STC changes.
940. A teleconference would be agreed between National Grid and SPT to discuss the remit of the Working Group and to address any concerns.

Action: National Grid and SPT

941. The Committee NOTED that the Proposed Amendment Reports for CA024 (Clarification of Construction Planning Assumption Data Requirements) and CA026 (Exchange of Data Amongst Relevant Parties in schedules 5, 6, 7, 11 and 13) would require revising such that the interaction between the Grid Code and the STC was highlighted and the proposed implementation date reflected the agreed position for CA023. The Committee AGREED that the revised Proposed Amendment Reports would be circulated to Committee Members for comments/approval prior to the circulation of the proposals to the industry for comment.

Action: National Grid, SPT and SHETL/Committee Secretary

942. The Committee AGREED that the consultation period for CA024 and CA026 would be 10 business days, in accordance with Section B, Paragraph 7.2.5.9 of the STC.
943. The STC Committee Chairperson requested a further one month extension for CA024 (Clarification of Construction Planning Assumption Data Requirements) and CA026 (Exchange of Data Amongst Relevant Parties in schedules 5, 6, 7, 11 and 13) such that there was sufficient time for the completion of the consultation process and to produce and approve the Amendment Reports which would be submitted to the Authority for approval.
944. Ofgem AGREED to a further one month extension for CA024 and CA026, the progression of which has been delayed to allow the development of the proposed Grid Code change.

7. Amendment Reports

945. There were no Amendment Reports.

8. Pending Authority Decisions

946. There were no pending Authority Decisions.

9. Authority Decisions

947. The Committee NOTED that CA025 (Amendment to STC regarding obligations in Connection Site Specification Submissions) had been approved by the Authority for on 23rd July 2007 with an associated implementation date of 30th July 2007.

10. STC Procedures

948. The Committee NOTED that National Grid had replied to SPT comments regarding PA048 (Alignment of STC and STCP16-1 Obligations regarding User Works). A teleconference would be agreed between National Grid and SPT to discuss the proposals and address any concerns.

Action: National Grid and SPT

949. The Committee NOTED that feedback was still outstanding from the JPC regarding the proposed changes to STCP16-1. As previously agreed the STC Committee was awaiting the JPC feedback prior to the formal signing off of the proposed by the STC Committee. STC Parties agreed to contact their JPC representative in order to progress the JPC response.

Action: National Grid, SPT and SHETL

950. The Committee AGREED to the proposed changes as outlined by PA049 (Amendment to STCP19-3 regarding obligations in respect of Connection Site Specifications), subject to the incorporation of minor comments received from SPT. National Grid will circulate a revised final version of STCP19-3 to the Committee for review/approval. Subject to any further comments, the STC Committee will formally approve the changes to STCP19-3 by e-mail.

Action: National Grid, SPTL & SHETL

951. The Committee AGREED that when all STC Parties are satisfied with the proposed STCP, it will be formally signed off and officially incorporated into Schedule 2 of the STC. The signing of the STCP, by STC Parties, will be facilitated by fax. The Committee AGREED that subject to the relevant approval being obtained from all STC Parties, the formally signing off the new version of STCP19-3 would take place on 29th August 2007.

11. Date of Submission to National Grid of TO's Outage Proposals for the following Financial Year

952. The Committee discussed the interaction between the Grid Code (OC2.4.1.3.3.(b)) and STCP11-1 (Paragraph 3.2.2.2) provisions regarding the timing of week 28 outage notification for non-embedded customers.
953. The Committee were INFORMED that Section C, Part 2 (Outage Planning), paragraph 3.7 is currently worded to oblige each Transmission Owner to submit outage plans to NGET for the following Financial Year by the end of Week 28 at the latest. STCP11-1 (Outage Planning) also reflects this. OC2.4.1.3 of the Grid Code obliges NGET to provide each Network Operator and each Non-Embedded Customer in writing with details of proposed outages in Year 1 ahead by the end of week 28, which may, in NGET's reasonable judgement, affect the performance of its User System or the Non-Embedded Customer Apparatus of the Grid Supply Point.
954. The Committee discussed the feasibility of bringing forward the date by which the Transmission Owners are obliged to submit their outage plans to National Grid e.g. Week 24. National Grid indicated their preference incorporating an earlier date into the STC such that it allows sufficient time for National Grid to complete the relevant

STC Committee Meeting

studies and produce the outage plans for the relevant non embedded customer and network operator. SPT and SHETL expressed concerns with the codification of an earlier date due to the associated consequential implications on their business activities.

955. The Committee NOTED that good progress had already been made and continued to be made between the STC Parties regarding the submission of the Outage Plan within the applicable timescales. A teleconference will be arranged between the STC Parties to discuss the issue.

Action: National Grid, SPT and SHETL

12. New Definitions for the Compliance Process

956. The Committee NOTED associated consequential changes to STC which are required due to the recent implementation of CA025 (Amendment to STC Regarding Obligations in Connection Site Specification). The Committee NOTED that new definitions would be required to be incorporated within Section of J of the STC to reflect the terminology utilised in CA025. Furthermore Section G would be required to be amended such that the applicable provision refers to the correct Section D, Part Two paragraph.

957. SPT and SHETL are to review the proposals; comments are to be provided to National Grid by 24th August 2007.

Action: SPT and SHETL

958. The formal Amendment Proposal will be submitted to September's STC Committee meeting for discussion/review.

Action: National Grid

13. Amendment to Consultation Period

959. STC Committee acknowledged that in some instances the maximum allowable consultation period for STC Amendments, may not provide sufficient time for non STC parties to assess the implications of the proposal and respond formally to the consultation.

960. The Committee NOTED the draft proposal which would extend the allowable consultation period for STC Amendment proposals and the associated changes to the overall timescale provisions for processing an STC Amendment through the Assessment and Report Phase of the STC governance arrangements.

961. SPT and SHETL are to review the proposals; comments are to be provided to National Grid by 31st August 2007.

Action: SPT and SHETL

962. The formal Amendment Proposal will be submitted to September's STC Committee meeting for discussion/review.

Action: National Grid

14. Black Start

963. The Committee NOTED that the latest Grid Code Black Start Working Group meeting took place on 25th July 2007, with the next meeting scheduled on 23rd October 2007. It was reported that there are no implications for the STC as yet. The Committee will continue to receive any updates at future STC Committee meetings.

964. The Committee NOTED that the Working Group was due to report back to the GCRP at November 2007 meeting.

15. Offshore Transmission

965. Ofgem INFORMED the Committee that the second consultation document regarding Offshore Transmission was published on 26th July 2007. The Committee NOTED that respondents have until 5th September 2007 to respond to the consultation. The Committee NOTED that each STC Party would be responding individually to the consultation document.
966. Ofgem informed the Committee that Ofgem would be issuing an invitation for the establishment of a STC Working Group which would be tasked with reviewing how the Code would be impacted by the introduction of the Offshore Transmission regime. Ofgem would circulate the Terms of Reference for the Working Group when they were available.

Action: Ofgem and Committee Secretary

967. The Committee NOTED that a meeting had been arranged, between the STC Parties, to discuss the issues regarding Offshore Transmission on the STC.

16. Consequential STC Implications of Grid Code Consultation B/07

968. The Committee received an update regarding any consequential STC implications arising as a result of Grid Code Consultation B/07 (Improved Planning Code Data Exchange for Compliance Assessments Connection). The Committee NOTED that the likely implementation date of the proposals, subject to the Authority approval, would be 1st January 2009.
969. The Committee NOTED that there was clear benefit in the TO being involved in the build up to or during any discussion National Grid may have with Users where the User's network is sited within SPT's or SHETL's Transmission Area. It was noted that at present there appears nothing within the codes (Grid Code and STC) that prevents this from occurring informally. Therefore one option would be to do nothing and rely on the incentives on all parties to co-operate to allow the processes to function efficiently.
970. The second option 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 will be clearly set out.
971. The Committee AGREED to the establishment of a sub-group which would be tasked with the development of the relevant STCP. All STC Parties are to provide confirmation of their sub-group nominees.

Action: National Grid, SPT and SHETL

17. Reports from Sub-Committees

Charging User Group

972. The Committee NOTED that the next meeting of the ChUG was scheduled to take place on 12th September 2007.

JPC

973. The Committee NOTED the minutes from July's meeting of the JPC. The Committee NOTED that the next meeting of the JPC was scheduled to take place on 26th October 2007.

Safety Standing Group

974. Safety Standing Group is due to meet 17th September 2007 to discuss the specifics of the feasibility of merging OC8A and OC8B.

18. Impact of Other Code Modifications

975. The Committee NOTED the update on the latest developments/topics of discussion from the other codes.

19. Publications

976. There has been no new data, identified by any of the STC Parties, which should be categorised as confidential.

20. Any Other Business

977. The Committee were INFORMED of a proposal being taken forward by National Grid regarding the Connection Site Specification proforma. SPT raised concerns regarding the proposals given the possible associated implication on their associated business activities. SPTL to forward note on what has been raised internally.

Action: SPT

978. National Grid and SHETL to reply as to what their own business and/or STC representatives understand is being proposed and why.

Action: National Grid and SHETL

21. Date of Next Meeting

979. The next meeting of the STC Committee will be held on Tuesday, 18th September 2007 at 10am. The location of the meeting will be confirmed closer to the actual meeting date.