Outage Change Management

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Issue

Campbell McDonald raised concerns about the late notice of transmission system outages and the late change in transmission system outage durations at the September and November GCRPs this year representing the concerns of a number of Large Generators. They are looking for:

- Less change
- Improved notification of change
- A review of whether the codes are reasonable
- A review to determine whether there are any changes which would allow greater engagement

This issue particularly affects generators with non-standard connection agreements, where the planned outage of local transmission equipment limits or prevents the generator's ability to generate. Late changes mean that generators are not able to efficiently co-ordinate prospective maintenance work.

There are two possible issues underlying these aspirations:

- Planning of outages before plan freeze at year ahead could be improved, resulting in less change within year
- Within year change management processes could be improved

Governance

Large Generators connect both to the Transmission System and the Distribution Network. The issue is primarily concerned with co-ordination of Transmission System outages. The issue is relevant in Scotland, Offshore and in England and Wales.

In this context this issue is being brought to the STC Modification Panel as the most appropriate governance body.

Proposal

Pending discussion at the STC Modification Panel the proposal is to set up a working group to review STC processes and working practices.

Appendix: Extract from September GCRP minutes

GCRP minutes can be found at:
http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Codes/gridcode/reviewpanelinfo/2013/
November's minutes are yet to be published.

3271. CMD explained that he has experienced a problem with Notification of outages, by email and late notification. Recently SSE Generation has had 3 outages changed at late notice, one of which is a 4 week outage of a large power station at 2 weeks notice. CMD noted that these stations are connected by a variation to the design standards meaning they can be instructed off due to outages without notification or compensation. CMD explained that the process appears to be compliant with OC2, but the coordination of outages is the main issue, and how can a 4 week outage not be coordinated further ahead for example at year ahead as Generator outages cannot be coordinated at 2 weeks notice?

3272. RW noted that these outages were all known and planned at year ahead, but were subject to very late changes. IP suggested that this is a coordination issue between SSE Generation and the host TO. NS stated that SHE Transmission have to be mindful of maintaining separation between the businesses so discussions need to take place between SHE Transmission and the SO.

3273. AR suggested that these outages came through as requests meaning the Generator did not have to accept them. CMD noted that the issue is that the presentation to the Generator is late. AR noted that these outages were subject to different circumstances; the double circuit outage was rearranged as part of a whole programme of work due to complications the previous year whereas the single circuit outages were late notice. AR acknowledged that visibility of the process is not great. CMD added that he would have rejected the requests but was told that the BCA says you cannot reject, AR suggested that it was only if you accept the outages that the provisions of the BCA come into force.

3274. IP suggested that it sounds as though, if you are not comfortable you can say you do not want the outage but if you do not accept then they will have to happen at some point, but that gives the option to coordinate. AR added that there are the means to have a tri-partite discussion on outages. AR noted that the Scottish regional manager within NG Market Operations is aware of this and we will note the concerns.

3275. JN asked whether the issue is that the TSO is not recognising the Generators' costs. NS the issue is where there are outages requested by the TO that are not approved then they are not in the plan and the generator cannot see them. RL queried whether the request submissions can be copied to the generator to mitigate this problem? AR noted that the only method of submitting Outage requests is via TOGA. NS noted that it would be good if the Generators were aware of the request. GS suggested setting up a meeting to discuss these issues with the relevant parties

3276. ACTION AR set up a meeting between SO and TO to look at how to improve this area.

Name	Role	Initials	Company
Campbell McDonald	Large Generator (>3GW)	CMD	SSE Generation
Robert Wilson	Presenter	RW	National Grid
Ian Pashley	Chair	IP	National Grid
Neil Sandison	Network Operator (Scotland)	NS	SSE
Audrey Ramsay	NGET Member	AR	National Grid
John Norbury	Large Generator (>3GW)	JN	RWE
Graham Stein	NGET Member	GS	National Grid