

STC Section K in Operational Timescales

Summary of Agreed Position Following Experts Teleconference 9th July 2013

Following the presentation of the paper by Transmission Capital at the 26th June STC Modification Panel, National Grid requested a further teleconference so that an operational representative could take part.

Teleconference Notes

The following people took part:

Mike Lee (ML)	Transmission Capital (OFTO)
Stuart Mitchell	SP TO
David Phillips (DP)	NGET (NETSO)
Brian Taylor (BT)	NGET (NETSO)
David Lyon	Blue Transmission (OFTO)
Neil Sandison	SSE TO

Background

During the discussions at the 26th June STC Modification Panel, all parties were in agreement that there should be a mechanism to allow an OFTO system to continue to operate in a degraded condition, provided this was not detrimental to other Users.

ML explained that the OFTO was required to make its system available to NETSO via the Services Capability Specification (SCS) in Section C of the STC, just as an onshore TO would. It was also noted that the Operational Capability Limitation Record (OCLR) system under STCP4-4 was used on a daily basis by TOs to record similar reductions in system capability and there was no reason why it could not be used in this case. It was also confirmed that the onshore TOs preferred to use an established process rather than create a new one.

As a new process would inevitably involve an STC modification with a delay of 6 months or so, ML suggested that if a new process was considered necessary then one option was to use the STCP 4-4 process as an interim measure pending the establishment of a revised process via the STC Modification Panel. This would then at least provide some clarity to those OFTO projects closing in the next few months.

DP thought that this may be a viable option, but thought it necessary to discuss further with Network Operations (Wokingham); as he was not sure whether their preference would be to use the existing process or require a revised process. It was agreed that a short teleconference would be arranged including Network Ops to determine the way forward.

Teleconference

A short teleconference was held on Tuesday 9th July.

ML explained the background to the issue and the possible long and short term solutions. All those present discussed the options and their preferences for the various options. In

general the TOs (onshore and offshore) confirmed their preference to use the established STCP4-4 process.

BT confirmed that Network Operations would be comfortable with using the OCLR process in STCP 4-4 to manage SVC unavailability, just as they would use it to manage any other shortfall in technical capability of a TO's asset.

ML questioned whether NETSO would need to enhance its own internal processes to ensure that technical compliance issues were given sufficient visibility. BT thought that its own internal Electricity Compliance group would be able to manage this process, ensuring the required groups in NETSO were kept informed.

It was agreed that the OCLR process would be used to manage shortfalls in Section K capability in operational timescales. It was also agreed that if shortcomings in this process were evident in the future; then any party could raise a modification through the established process.

Conclusion

The STC Modification Panel is requested to note that the expert group agreed:

1. Shortfalls in Section K capability in operational timescales should be treated in the same way as other TO technical non conformances.
2. The OCLR process in STCP4-4 should be the process to manage such shortfalls.
3. If the OCLR process is subsequently found to be wanting, then any party may raise a modification through the normal industry processes.

The STC Modification Panel is requested to endorse the above and note it in the minutes of the meeting.