

Outage Change Management Update



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Outage Change Management

And the Effect on Generators with Non Standard Connections

- Raised at September and November 2013 GCRP meetings
- We took the issue to the STC Mod Panel in December 2013

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Industry-information/Electricity-codes/STC/Panel-information/Meetings/2013/18th-December/>

- Group formed to investigate the issue, with two meetings held on 21 January and 24 April 2014

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Industry-information/Electricity-codes/STC/Modifications/PM077/>

- We sought the views of Generators with non standard connections through a survey in March / April 2014
- We've worked on addressing Generator's issues and a draft report on the work we'd done was sent to the Generators who responded to our survey on 4 September 2014 to seek their feedback
- This feedback helped shape the final report on the table

TOR – Consider and report on the following

- With regard to generators with non standard connections, whether:
 - There can be less change in the transmission outage plan that affects these generators
 - There can be improved notification of any changes to these generators
 - Outages affecting these generators can be planned further in advance in the interest of efficiency and costs to these generators
 - It is efficient to wait till an outage is analysed and assessed as viable by the System Operator before communicating the outage to these generators
- Whether the general outage management process can be improved
- Review the outage management process sections of the code to determine whether they are reasonable and whether there are any changes which would allow greater engagement with generators that have non standard connections

Can there be less Change in the Transmission Outage Plan?

- The Scottish TO's have already put in place a number of improvements to their working practices:
- SPT Improvements
 - SPT have put in place a number of KPI's and key Early Warning Indicators to monitor outages, reduce the number of outage changes within year and actively manage outages across operational management, project teams and contractors.
- SHE Transmission Improvements
 - SHE Transmission have put in place improvements in their long term outage planning. As part of RIIO-T1 commitments and Network Access Policy, SHE Transmission has produced outage plans showing all the projects for the RIIO-T1 period. This includes the Strategic Wider Works, Connections and Radials projects. The outage plans contain a week 6 format report, with detailed outage schedules and visual representation diagrams.
- The NAP, which the Scottish TO's are required to work to, is driving better outage planning this year and in the coming years

Can there be improved notification of changes?

- **We've identified and addressed a number of inconsistencies in the notification process:**
 - **We've included the "Work Involved" field in the Year Ahead TOGA reports**
 - **We've audited the recipients of the reports and corrected some discrepancies in generator contact information**

Can outages can be planned further in advance?

- **There is an incentive on TO's to invest efficiently. In practice, this means that final investment decisions may be made closer to the time when the assets are needed and consequently, outages planned beyond the year ahead stage are subject to greater uncertainty**

Is it efficient to wait till an outage is assessed as viable by the SO before communicating it to generators?

- **In “Current Year” timescales, we’ll give generators with non standard connections in Scotland visibility of TO outage requests via email on a trial basis**
- **Depending on subsequent feedback from generators and analysis of our resource commitments, this service may subsequently be reduced or extended**

Whether the general outage management process can be improved?

- In addition to the other actions delivered:
 - NGET's Scotland Delivery team is proactively informing affected generators of all outages 3 weeks ahead of real time
 - Where concerns or issues are raised, NGET Current Year Scotland team will set up tri-party conference calls with all affected parties (SO, TO & Generator)
 - New generators are encouraged to register in TOGA as soon as possible to ensure they receive outage notification reports that may affect them

Should the code change?

- **STCP 11-1 and 11-2 have been reviewed and no improvements have been identified. These benefits to generators with non standard connections can be realised by improvements in working practices within the current frameworks**

Survey Feedback

- **Visibility of outage detail so generators can understand works involved and associated risks?**
- **SPT and SHE Transmission have agreed to start submitting this information, which will be reported in the “Work Involved” field in the OC2 reports. (It will take time before it works through as this information will not be entered retrospectively)**

Survey Feedback

- **Clarity over the duration of equipment outages so that the impact can be established (switching time / duration of outage)**
- **This information is all in the standard TOGA reports. We'll offer training courses to efficiently extract the information that the different generation companies require from the reports**

Survey Feedback

- Opportunity for generators to proactively notify their preferred periods to take outages. This may be driven by low wind forecasts or their own scheduled maintenance
- SO and TO's were open on this

Survey Feedback

- **Improve detail and clarity of information provided, possibly by letting generators have diagrams so they can interpret which equipment is where and whether it affects the output of the generator**
- **We've included generic information in the report about where information is available (bilateral agreements, SRS, operational diagrams)**
- **Some generators have fed back that they do not have all this information; NGET's Electricity Customer team is working at getting this information for them**
- **Should this be the case for any other generators, we encourage them to get in touch with their point of contact in NGET's Electricity Customer Team so that we can get the diagrams for them**

Summary and Outstanding Issues

- Much of the work done has been welcomed by generators
- We've scheduled a round table meeting (on 18th Nov in Glasgow), to which Ofgem and generators with non standard connections have been invited, to close out the work completed and capture any outstanding issues
- We'll review the "Current Year" communication of pending outages trial after it has been in place for a year
- The use of PLDs needs to be reviewed to establish if it is working efficiently