

Minutes of Distribution Code Review Panel Meeting – 15th Dec 2015

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| <u>Present:</u> | James Brennan (JB) | Chairman |
| | Keith Moore (KM) | Secretary |
| | Paul O'Halloran (POH) | DSO Representative |
| | Mary O'Mahony (MOM) | DSO Representative |
| | David Cashman (DC) | TSO Representative |
| | Stephen Walsh (SW) | ESB Networks |
| | Keith Buckley (KB) | ESB Networks |
| | Brian Tapley (BT) | ESB Networks |
| | Michael O'Hara (MOH) | ETCI Representative |
| | Catherine Joyce-O'Caollai (CJ) | Major Customers Representative |
| | Ger Beatty (GB) | Synchronous Generators Ireland |
| | Peter Kavanagh (PK) | ISEA Representative |
| | Sean Doolin (SD) | PES Representative/ Independent Suppliers Representative |

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| <u>Phone:</u> | Nigel Morris (NM) | CER Representative |
| | Ciaran Donnelly (CD) | Embedded Generators Representative |

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| <u>Apologies:</u> | Derek Hynes (DH) (Alternate Present) | DSO Representative |
| | Tony Hearne (TH) (Alternate Present) | DSO Representative |

1. Introduction of new DCRP Chairman by current Chairman and round table introductions

Round table introductions for new attendees.

Brian Tapley was introduced as new Chairman of DCRP due to commence role at next DCRP meeting

2. New DCRP member proposal – Member introduction to the Panel

Peter Kavanagh introduced himself to the panel as the nominated representative of ISEA (Irish Solar Energy Association). ISEA have applied to become a member of the DCRP.

3. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the last DCRP meeting (18th Sept 2015) were accepted by all. These minutes will be published in the coming weeks.

4. Update on the implementation of approved modifications #22, #23 and #24

KM provided an update:

- Wind Farm customers have been requested to apply for extension to existing temporary derogations expiring at the end of the year or apply for permanent derogation applications to these temp derogations if compliance is not deemed to be possible for the customer.
- Over 170 derogation applications received since beginning of Sept 2015.

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- Assessment by the SOs will be completed over the next few months with submission of completed assessments to CER for decision in Q1 2016

5. CER decision on Distribution Code Modification Proposal #28 [not formally submitted] (Distribution Code Modification Implementation Process)

NM advised that CER were unable to give an update at this time.

KM advised that this proposal had been on the agenda for a number of meetings and that a decision was required as soon as possible to progress other modifications and issues that are related to this proposal.

NM advised that a decision will be made in January 2016 for discussion at the next meeting in March.

6. Approval of Distribution Code Modifications:

a) Modification Proposal #35 – Power Factor requirements for Type C / D WFPS connections

NM advised that approval is being considered by CER management and that it is the intention of CER to approve in early January 2016.

b) Modification Proposal #36 – Power Park Modules

NM advised that CER had requested the Solar industry to input to the modification but had received no comments. As a result, time limit has passed and CER plan to approve this modification in early January.

PK agreed that it was a sensible modification to include PPM in the Distribution Code and accepted the requirement for its inclusion. However, unlike the wind industry which has a relatively small amount of equipment manufacturers, there are likely to be a larger number of equipment manufacturers in the solar industry that need to be comply with the Distribution Code. Whilst no manufacturer to date had identified compliance issues to date some manufacturers may identify compliance issues in the future.

7. Proposed Distribution Code Modifications

New

a) Modification Proposal #37 – ‘Bumpless Transfer’

DC advised that this modification is linked somewhat to modification #36 on Power Park Modules.

This modification has already been adopted by the Grid Code and WFPSs are already implementing this on the system.

The proposal will be to include the text change in the modification in the PPM section once approved at a future date via a future modification

This affects Type As and Bs >5MW and currently there is no intention to extend this in the future.

Panel agreed to submit modification to CER for approval

b) Modification Proposal #38 – Maintenance

MOM advised that there was no explicit requirement in the Distribution Code for DSO/User to maintain their assets. The intention of this modification was to rectify

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this and to explicitly state the responsibility of the DSO/User to maintain their assets.

GB questioned why there was no mention of the frequency of maintenance required.

MOM and MOH explained that maintenance frequency depends on the type of equipment and installation and it was decided that this level of detail was not appropriate for inclusion in the D Code and that the legislation wording was used in the modification.

It was suggested to add the word 'national' in the text relating to European standards i.e. national and European standards.

MOM agreed to change this.

Panel agreed to submit modification to CER for approval

c) Modification Proposal #39 – Management Procedures

MOM advised that it is proposed to change title of DOC11.6 from existing 'DOC11.6 Safety Rules' to 'DOC 11.6 Safety Procedures'

It is also proposed to add a new part bullet DOC11.6.4 The User's Safety Procedures shall apply to the Users 'Authorised Persons' at the Users Plant or Equipment at the interface.

Panel agreed to submit modification to CER for approval

d) Modification Proposal #40 – Authorised Persons

MOM advised that it is proposed to change section DOC 11.4.3 Authorised Persons

It was suggested to add the word 'national' in the text relating to European standards i.e. national and European standards.

MOM agreed to change this.

GB asked who would keep a record/register of the authorised person list for each plant. There could be issues where an incident occurs on a particular site and someone other the registered Authorised Person for that site needs to operate plant. This person may be authorised for other sites but not the site in question.

It was explained that it is the Users responsibility to inform DSO who is nominated as an authorised person within each plant/installation.

CJ also advised that IBEC safety board want to consider this modification further in January before accepting.

MOM, GB and CJ agreed to discuss offline.

MOM requested GB and CJ to formalise issues in writing. This was agreed.

Modification to be added to the next DCRP meeting once discussions have taken place

e) Modification Proposal #34a,b,c,d – Volt Freq FRT for all generators

SW advised that this mod was previously presented at the last DCRP meeting and it was decided to split out parts of the original mod into 4 different mods.

#34a is in relation to Higher and Lower Frequency limits for fault ride-through for all generators.

#34b is in relation to Higher and Lower Rate of Change of Frequency limits for fault ride-through for all generators.

#34c is in relation to Higher and Lower Voltage limits for fault ride-through for all generators.

#34d is in relation to definition/glossary of generator operating modes.

SW advised that DSO did not wish for retrospection to apply.

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DC agreed with the text of the modification; however, also advised that TSO wish for retrospection to apply and was concerned about including in the D Code without retrospection being the default position. It was also pointed out that modification proposal #28 was impacting on decisions such as this.

NM advised that CER wished to see a Cost Benefit Analysis of the impact of such a change on customers and on the system. Only then could a decision be made to apply retrospectively.

GB advised that if the quantum of generators is small then it may not be a problem

DC advised that a study is required in order to assess the impact to the Transmission network

SW agreed on behalf of ESNB to assess the quantum of generators on the system that are not compliant with what is proposed by the modification.

SW to send output of his assessment of quantum to DC. DC will consider the quantum of non-compliance that would cause a system stability issue and the degree of cost for depending on the level of non-compliance. Generator reps to consider the cost of complying. Once this is found a cost-benefit decision can be made as to whether retrospection should apply.

Panel agreed to submit modification to CER for approval. However in addition it was agreed that the issue of retrospection in relation to this modification would be reviewed once SW advised of the quantum impacting the network and CER had made a decision in relation to mod #28.

SW agreed to check RfG wording in relation to $\leq 100\text{kW}$ for consistency with ENCs.

8. Any Other Business / Items for discussion at next meeting

Class Derogation

CD advised that he intended to propose a Class Derogation mod which would effectively allow a class of customer to be derogated from a particular section(s) of the D Code. Example: mod impacting hundreds of customers. Instead of each customer applying for a derogation individually and creating a huge workload for both customer and SOs the class derogation would allow a panel member to apply for a derogation on the customers behalf e.g. all wind farms etc.

It was agreed to discuss offline pending a formal proposal to the DCRP in March 2016.

Solar applications

DC was concerned with the amount of solar applications being received. To date over 250 applications have been received, totalling over 1GW.

Intention is to reduce the control level to $< 5\text{MW}$ in the future.

PK advised that while 1GW of applications for connection have been made, this does not automatically mean 1GW of generation will connect to the system.

9. New DCRP member proposal – Consideration of new member application

ISEA requested to become a member of the DCRP.

Peter Kavanagh was nominated by ISEA to be their representative at the DCRP

The Panel members voted to propose ISEA (represented by Peter Kavanagh) to become a member of the DCRP to represent the Solar Industry as per section 5.1(i) of the DCRP Constitution.

The proposal will be submitted to CER for approval

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10. Next Meeting Dates:

- The following dates were proposed for the 2016 meetings of the DCRP:
 - Tuesday 8th March
 - Tuesday 7th June
 - Tuesday 6th September
 - Tuesday 6th December

- Next meeting invite will be issued in the coming weeks

**Keith Moore,
Secretary,
DCRP**

18th Dec 2015