Grid Code Review Panel

Proposals to Improve the Clarity of the Planning Code and Data Registration Code for the DNO/NEC/NGET Planning Interface

1. Background

In Autumn 2004, Ofgem launched a formal investigation into EDF Energy's compliance with their licence, and also formally sought information from NGET under the terms of their licence. The investigation covered on four issues, but only compliance with ER P2/5 is relevant here.

Ofgem concluded that there had been no licence infringement, but nevertheless they had some concerns that there were issues of differing interpretation between NGET and DNOs in the capacity of the interface and hence P2/5 compliance.

2. Issues for GCRP

Ofgem have written to the Chairman of the DCRP expressing its wish to seek a mechanism by which Ofgem can assure itself that companies are P2/5 and/or SQSS compliant at the interface. It is expected that Ofgem will follow up by writing along the same lines to all licensees.

A joint DNO/NGET workshop was held at the ENA on 14 September to consider these issues. The unanimous view of all the network licensees is that this issue is best dealt with by improving the clarity of information transferred as part of the annual DNO submission of planning data to NGET. In particular the Grid Code drafting should be modified to ensure clarity and sufficiency of data exchange between parties.

3. Proposed Way Forward

Given Ofgem's wish for improved clarity in relation to the capability and security of networks at the interface between NGET and DNOs, it appears that the practical way to achieve this is via improving the clarity and scope of the data transferred across the planning interface. Consideration should be given to the production of guidance to cover the data to be provided under the data submission, the process of data exchange and the usage of the data provided.

As the Grid Code's Planning Code and Data Registration Code provide the formal requirements for data interchange, it is therefore appropriate to review these provisions and update them to address the consistency and interpretation issues above.

It is recommended that a GCRP Working Group is convened to deliver proposed revisions to the Grid Code in accordance with the attached draft terms of reference.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that GCRP

- Agree the Terms of Reference attached

- Form a WG to undertake the review.

Grid Code Working Group

Determination of investment needs at NGET/NEC/DNO interface

Terms of Reference

Objectives

The objective of the Group is to recommend the modifications to the Planning Code and the Data Registration Code required to ensure both DNO and NGET planning obligations are met at the interface by the data exchange requirements within the Grid Code.

Membership

The Group will comprise;

Chairman (NGET)

Secretary (NGET)

DNO representatives

NGET representatives

NEC representatives

Scope of work

1. Review scope of existing data exchange requirements of the Grid Code for determining the investment needs to meet their planning requirements e.g. assessment against security standards, P2/5 and SQSS

2. Consider adequacy of existing requirements of the Grid Code, in particular, but not necessarily limited to, the treatment of the following areas;
   - summer and seasonal peak load levels, and the appropriate statistical factors governing the forecasting of these quantities

   - treatment of interconnected GSPs and format of data provision
     - maintenance demand,
     - maintenance windows,
     - transfer capacity.

3. Determine what additional data exchange or process clarification is necessary to meet the Objectives

4. Recommend the changes that are required to the Grid Code

Deliverables

The Group will produce:

- a report on the development and resolution of the issues in the scope of work,

- draft legal text of the necessary Grid Code changes

- consider what   guidance associated with the DRC Wk24 submissions should be produced and its appropriate format

all of the above to be ready for wider industry consultation.

Timescales

The Group will complete its work for the 23 February 2006 GCRP.